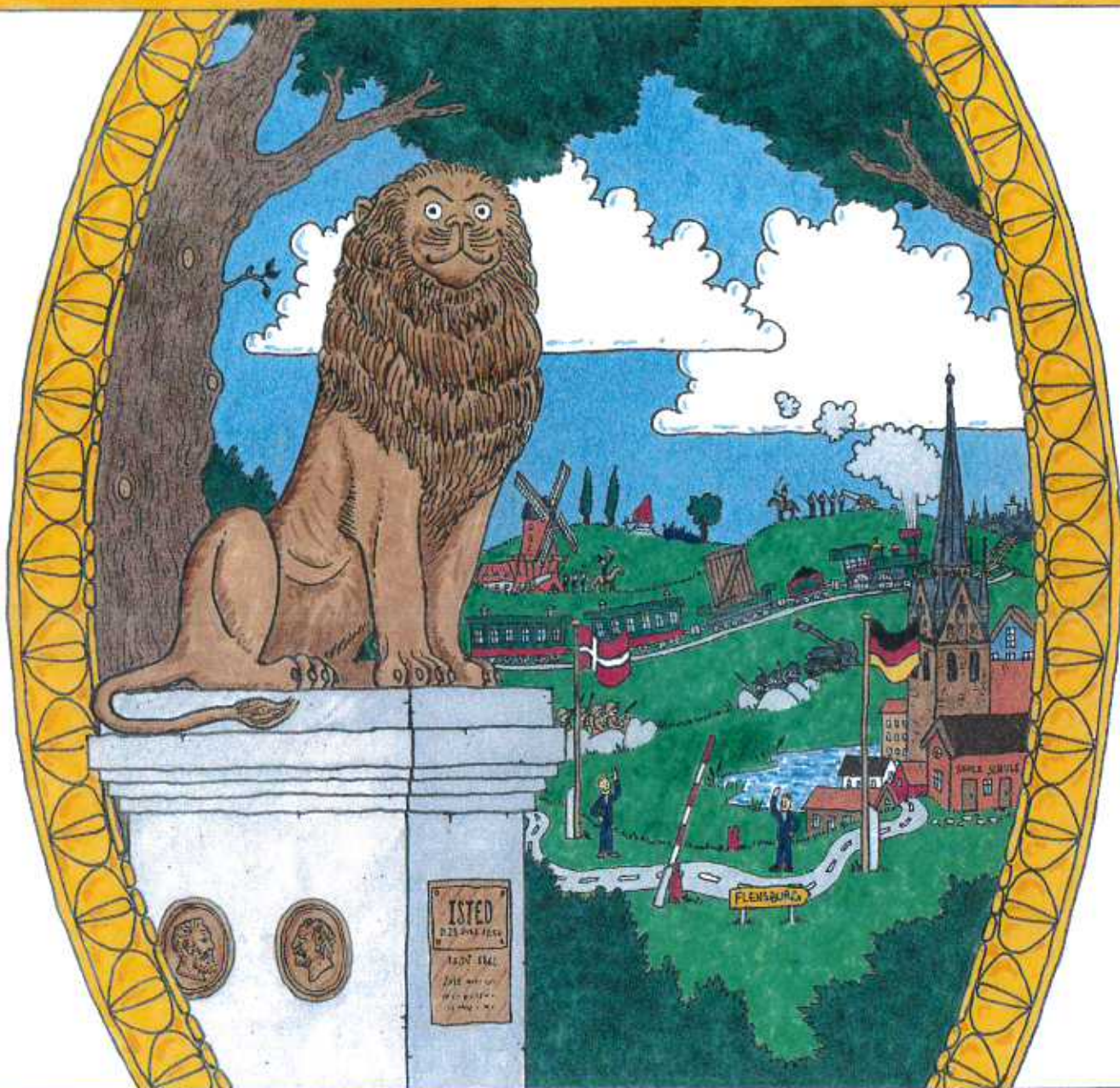


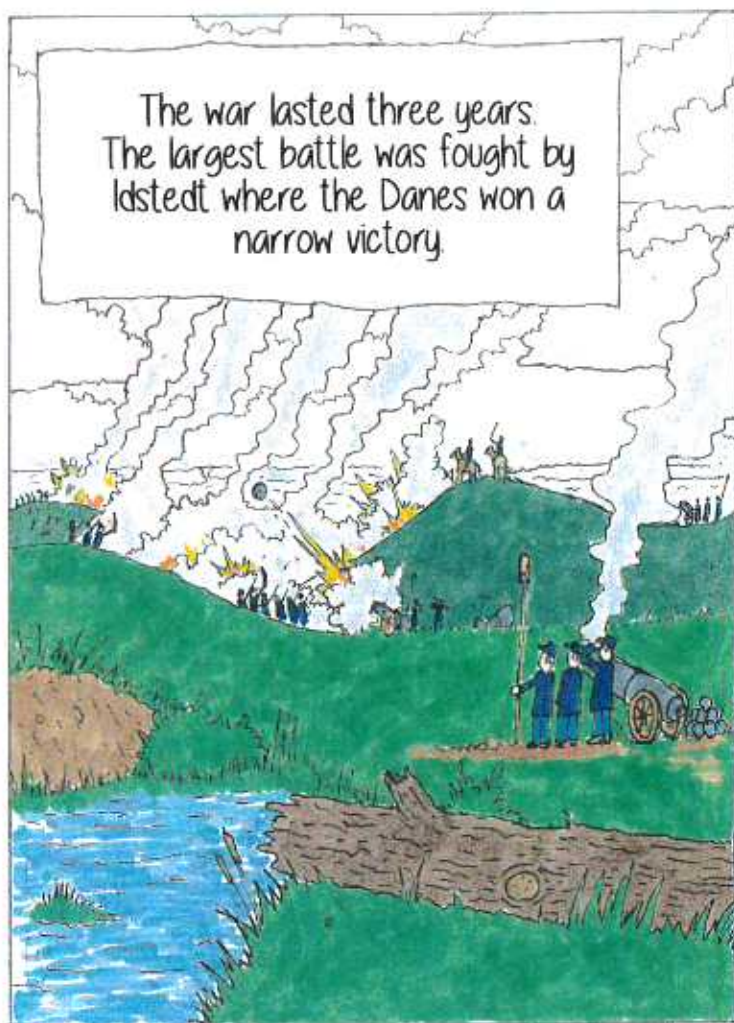
The Odyssey of the



Idstedt Lion



In 1848, the 1st War of Schleswig broke out. Schleswig-Holstein rebelled, supported by the German Confederation.



The war lasted three years. The largest battle was fought by Idstedt where the Danes won a narrow victory.

Denmark won the war in 1850, and the rebellion was broken.



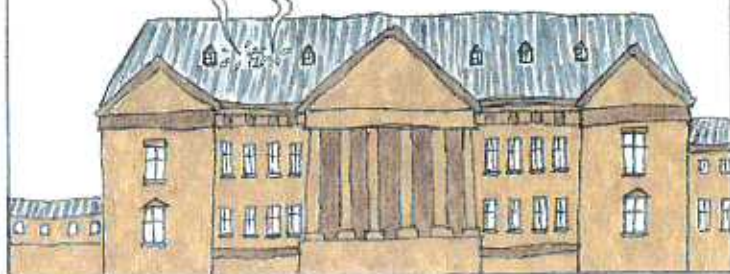
It was decided to erect a monument, even though the problems were far from solved ...

... but the conflict is still not over yet!

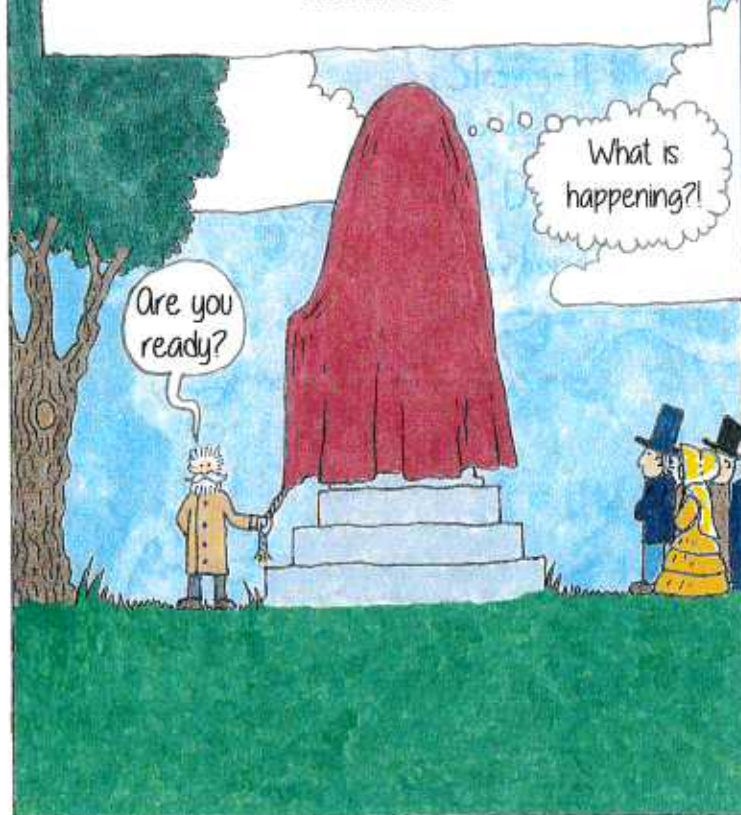
It doesn't matter!
The victory must be celebrated!

Is it really such a good idea? I mean...

Nonsense! It can't go wrong!



The Schleswig-born sculptor Herman Wilhelm Bissen should craft the victory monument.



And on the 25th of June, the Isted Lion was unveiled at the Cemetery of Flensburg.



The Lion was celebrated with speeches, feasts, and patriotic poems...



... but not everyone was equally enthused about him.



Denmark attempted to divide Schleswig and Holstein, which was a great deal of annoyance for the German Confederation. On the 1st of February 1864, the 2nd War of Schleswig broke out.



This time, Prussia and Austria won over Denmark. Schleswig and Holstein (and Lauenburg) now became part of the German Confederation.



Flensburg was occupied on the 22nd of February, and angry locals decided to act on the Lion.



Down with the Lion!
Enough with the
Danish supremacy!

Ouch!
Stop! I am
innocent!



STOP! In the name of the law!

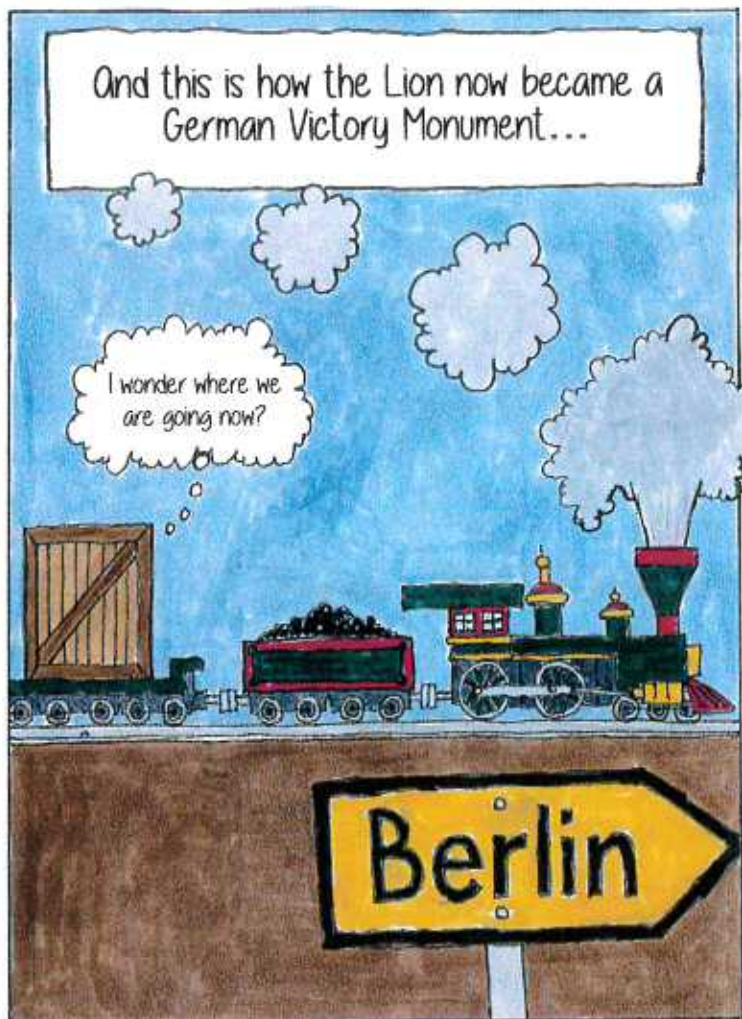
The Lion shall not be destroyed — we are taking him with us!

Pooh!



And this is how the Lion now became a German Victory Monument...

I wonder where we are going now?



1868

King Wilhelm! Where shall we place the Lion from Flensburg?

Hm... I've got an idea!

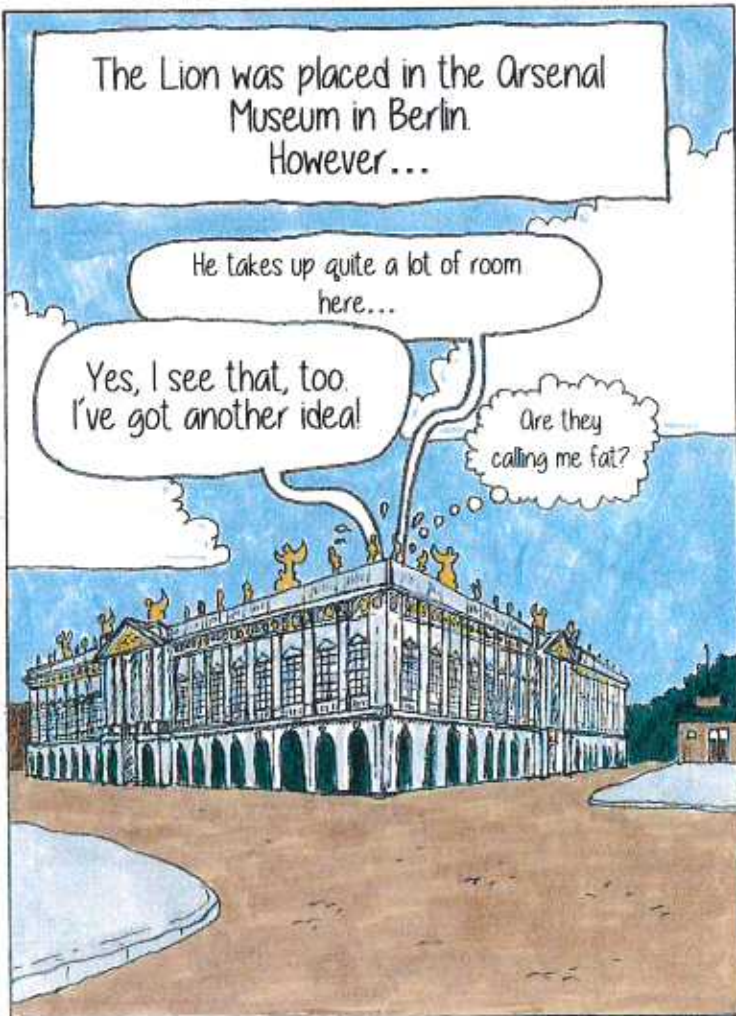


The Lion was placed in the Arsenal Museum in Berlin. However...

He takes up quite a lot of room here...

Yes, I see that, too. I've got another idea!

Are they calling me fat?



So in 1878, the Lion moved to the cadet corps in Lichterfelde.

Can't I get any peace, just for one moment!

Here, he should serve as inspiration for the soldiers for the years to come...

It is actually quite nice here.

No!

Oh!

The 1st World War broke out in 1914...

What on earth is happening?

... and was over in 1918.

We lost a world war...

What shall now become of our country?

After the war, there were attempts to solve some of the border conflicts. In Schleswig, a vote was held on which country the area should be part of.

Alright, the People have spoken! Northern Schleswig is Danish...

And the rest is German.

Flensburg

The home of the Lion was discussed at this occasion as well...

... if we want the Idstedt Lion back to Flensburg? No, thank you! It would be a provocation and lead to tensions between Germans and Danes...

The 2nd World War broke out in 1939...

Now again?!

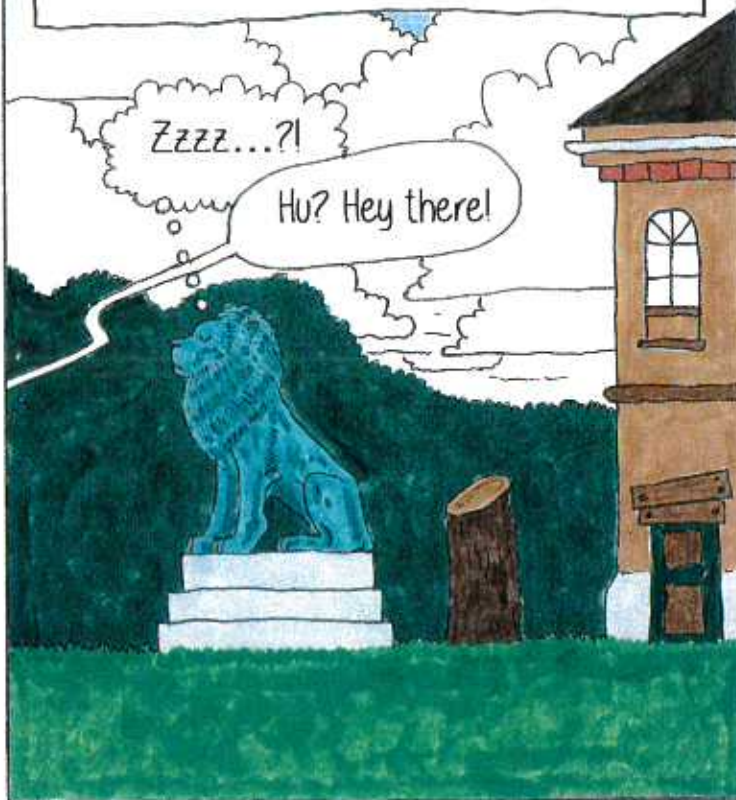
... and was over in 1945.

We lost another world war...

What will become of us...?

In the same year, the Lion was discovered by the Danish journalist Henrik V. Ringsted...

Zzzz...?!
Hu? Hey there!



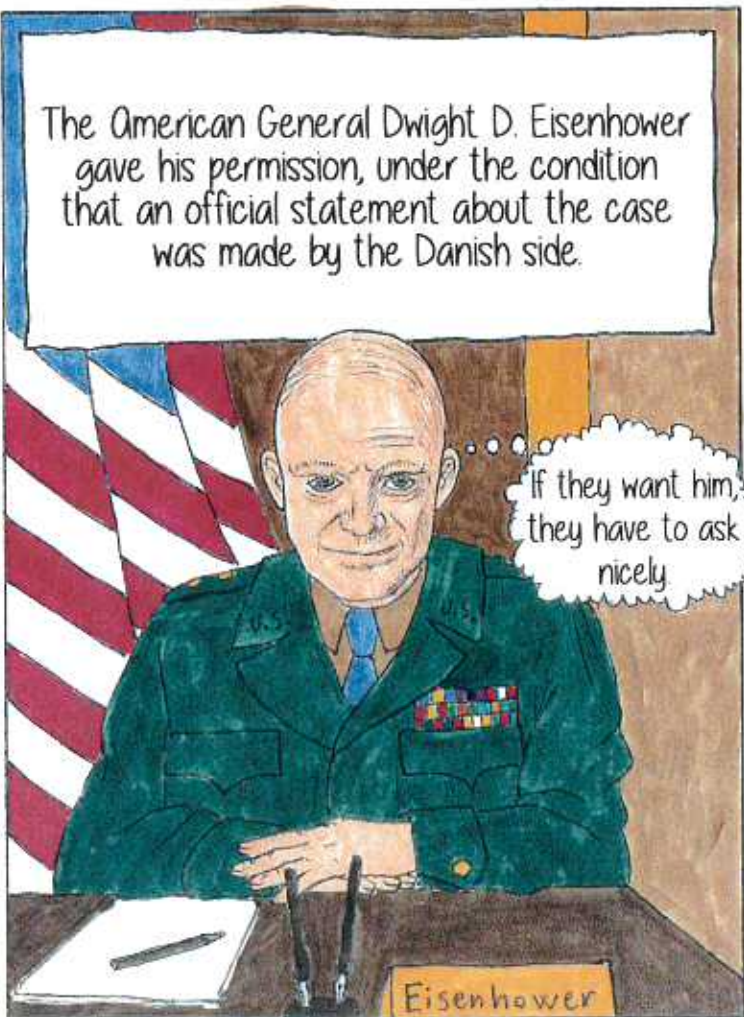
Idstedt Lion! How come you are standing here? You surely need to come back home!

Back home to Flensburg?



The American General Dwight D. Eisenhower gave his permission, under the condition that an official statement about the case was made by the Danish side.

If they want him, they have to ask nicely.



The Danish Foreign Minister John Christmas Møller acted fast.

"I cannot imagine anything else that would make the American people more popular in Denmark than the restoration of the Idstedt-Lion at his rightful place."



American Troops transported the Lion to Denmark.

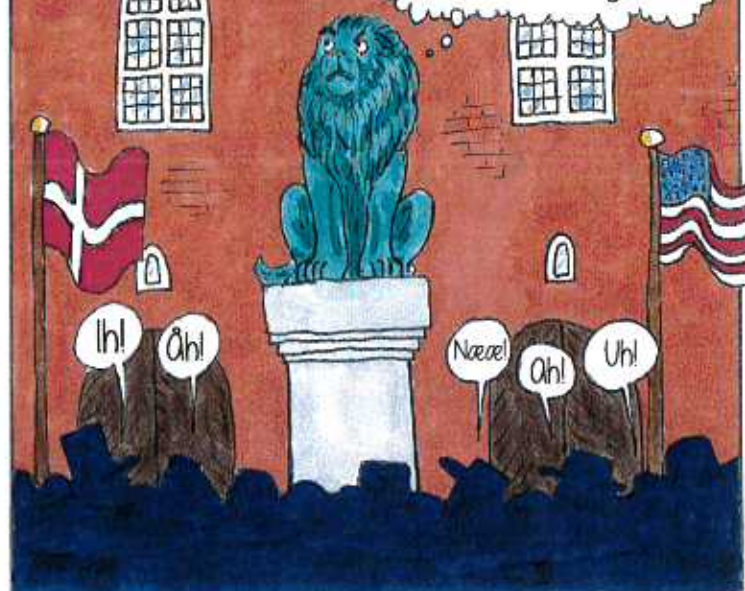
Operation "Lion" — all goes to plan — Over!

God Heavens!



... where he was placed close to the Arsenal Museum in Copenhagen.

This is definitely not Flensburg...



The first couple years, the Lion was guarded as one feared vandalism against the monument.

Really. After all, I am both Danish AND German. Why should someone be after me?



Still, there was no agreement about the placement of the Lion, which was discussed...

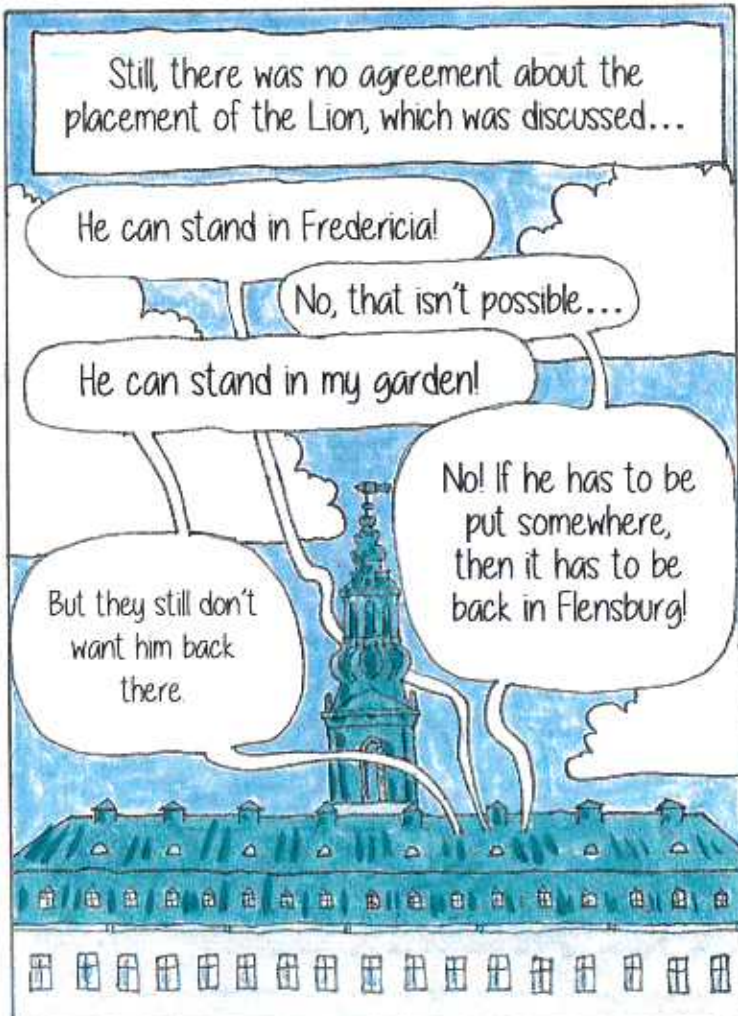
He can stand in Fredericia!

No, that isn't possible...

He can stand in my garden!

But they still don't want him back there.

No! If he has to be put somewhere, then it has to be back in Flensburg!



In the border region, too, the discussion went on for many years to come ...

Shouldn't you get the ldstedt Lion back to Flensburg?

Yeh, but there are still people who think that it is too rude — a Danish victory monument, you know ...

Oh, well, but it rather belongs to you than in Copenhagen!

Well ...

De forlader
nu Danmark

Velkommen
im
Deutschland

However, a solution couldn't be found...

Sigh... I wonder if I ever will return home?

So, the Lion stayed. In 2009, however, something happened...

Yes hello? Yes, I'm calling from Flensburg! We have come to a conclusion - is it possible to get the ldstedt Lion back home?

The Lion was renovated thoroughly

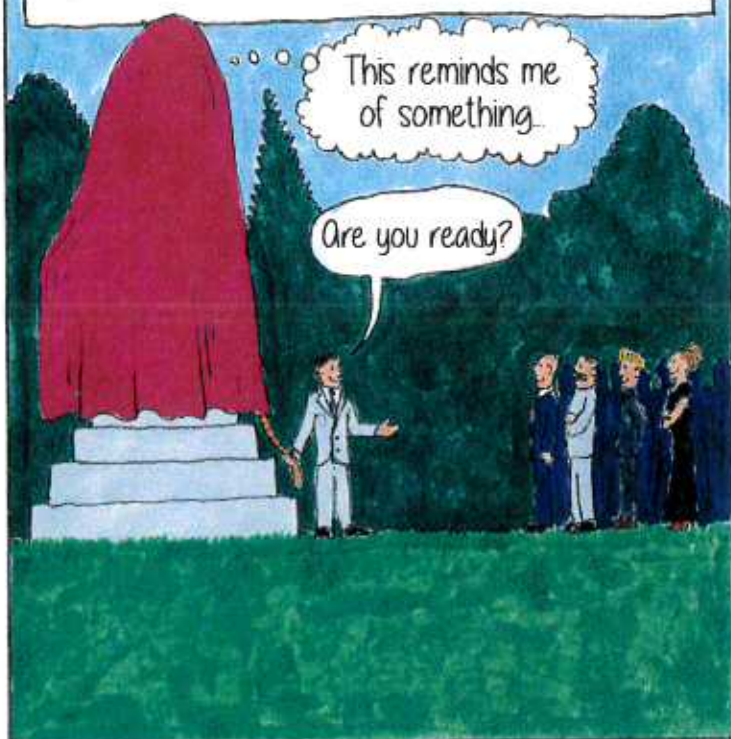
No, NOW it has definitely gone too far

FLENSBURGER RATHAUS

... after which he again took on a lengthy trip, probably for the last time.



In 2011, the Lion was again unveiled on the cemetery of Flensburg. This time, though, both the Danes and the Germans were part of the dedication...



The Idstedt Lion had finally returned home — now with a new meaning. The socle says:

"Re-erected in 2011 as a symbol of friendship and trust between Danes and Germans"

