

# Danish Infantry of the Line and Light Infantry 1803-1814

## The Perry Achievement

Alan Perry has designed a series of metal figures of Danish-Norwegian infantry from the Napoleonic era.

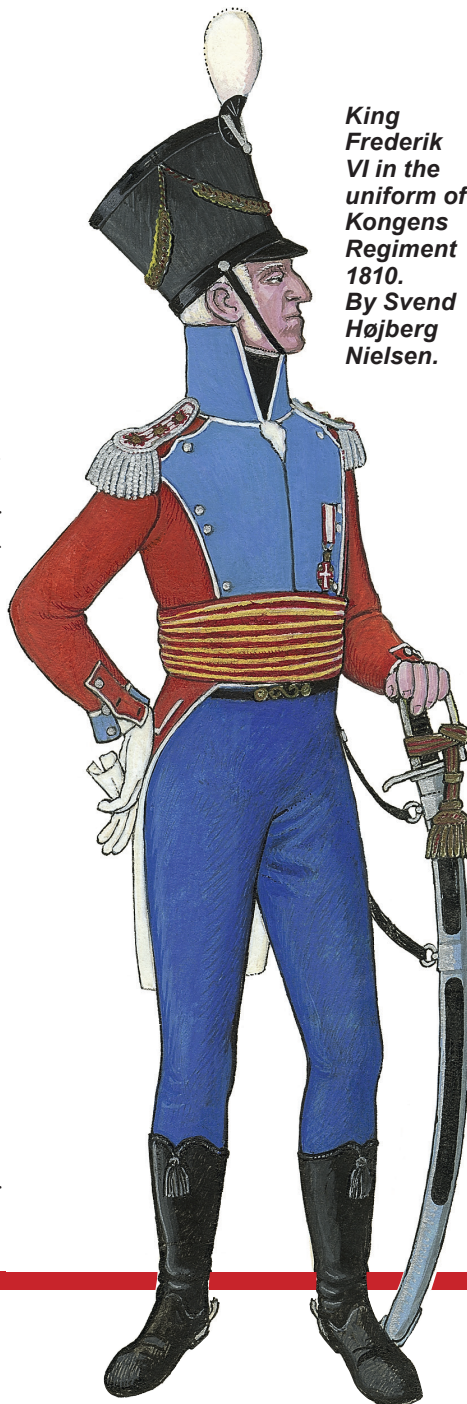
### 1. Welcome in the Field!

Alan and Michael Perry, who are impressively keen on sculpturing and favouring 28 mm figures for wargaming and display, manage Perry Miniatures. Their company offers a wide range of high-quality metal and plastic figures from a number of historical conflicts. A glance at the website of Perry Miniatures:

<https://www.perry-miniatures.com/index.php> bears evidence to the volume of production and the considerable and accurate details prevailing throughout their entire range.

In March 2016 a new series of Danish-Norwegian infantry slipped out of the moulds and took the stage. Alan Perry has designed this collection of metal figures of foot soldiers from the Napoleonic era.

We take great pleasure in presenting these attractive figures and seize the opportunity to provide information on the challenges met and the organisation applicable to the Danish Army in the years from 1803 to 1814, and also offering facts on uniforms and illustrations to assist the figure painters in their delicate work.



*King  
Frederik  
VI in the  
uniform of  
Kongens  
Regiment  
1810.  
By Svend  
Højberg  
Nielsen.*

**By Hans Chr. Wolter**

This article has benefitted considerably from very qualified assistance from Mr. Jørgen K. Larsen and Mr. Ole Thureholm.



*Danish troops in Zeeland in 1813. Troopers of the Hussar Regiment and musketeers of Holstenske Infantry Regiment in service dress. Painting by Christian Würgler Hansen.*

We are equally pleased to observe that, during the genesis of these figures, insight into the nature of the Danish army and advisory support has been provided by Jørgen K. Larsen, David Wilson, and Torstein Snorrason.

### 2. The Danish-Norwegian Army in Conflict

Denmark-Norway's entry into the second "Armed Neutrality" came to an end in 1801, when Great Britain launched its first assault on the Danish navy off Copenhagen.

When, in June 1803, France occupied Hanover, the Danish Crown Prince lined up an army of around 16,000 men around the city of Rendsburg, but military action was not taken. Again





brigade commanders, had set sails and on arrival started the attack 15th August, by capturing a Danish frigate under way to Norway. On 16th August they landed and bombarded the Danish capital into surrender 5th September. Prior to the bombardment - on 29th August 1807 - British troops defeated Danish militia in the battle of Koege. This battle was titled "The Clogs Battle", as Danish militiamen poorly equipped threw away their wooden clogs when fleeing. As a result, Denmark-Norway was forced into a close alliance with France, which cost Denmark the loss of Norway as a consequence of the Treaty of Kiel on 15th January 1814.

**I**n February 1808, Denmark was forced by France and Russia to declare war on Sweden, Britain's last remaining ally in the Baltic, but no serious campaigns were launched between the two. However, a Swedish army attacked ▶



*Jyske Infanteri-regiment, musketeer 1808. By Christian Würgler Hansen.*

in October 1805, a Danish Army was assembled in Holstein with the same purpose - to observe movements of the French forces.

**D**enmark-Norway remained neutral until 1807, but French forces had approached the border to Holstein. This occurred after the defeat of the Prussian army in 1806 - leading to small scale skirmishing between Danish and French forces. The Russian army was defeated in 1807, which forced Denmark to deploy most of its army and direct its focus on the Holstein border. In August the French diplomat Talleyrand informed the Danish Crown Prince that, if Denmark did not resist an English attack or in any way allied with

Britain, France would attack Jutland.

Consequently, and without warning, on August 7th an English envoy arrived, demanding Denmark to hand over its entire high sea fleet to Britain - in return for the promise "That Denmark would be considered "friendly" and have its fleet returned, when war ended". But as Denmark in no way could be defended, without its fleet, this was impossible. Denmark was caught in a hopeless situation, and Great Britain offered no alternative.

**S**imultaneously (30th of July) a British expeditionary force under command of General Lord Cathcart, and with the future Duke of Wellington, Arthur Wellesley, as one of his



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Norway, but was repulsed.

Under French command in 1809, Danish and Dutch units amounting to around 8,000 men engaged successfully in Swedish Pomerania opposing the uprising led by Ferdinand von Schill, who strived to liberate Germany from French domination.

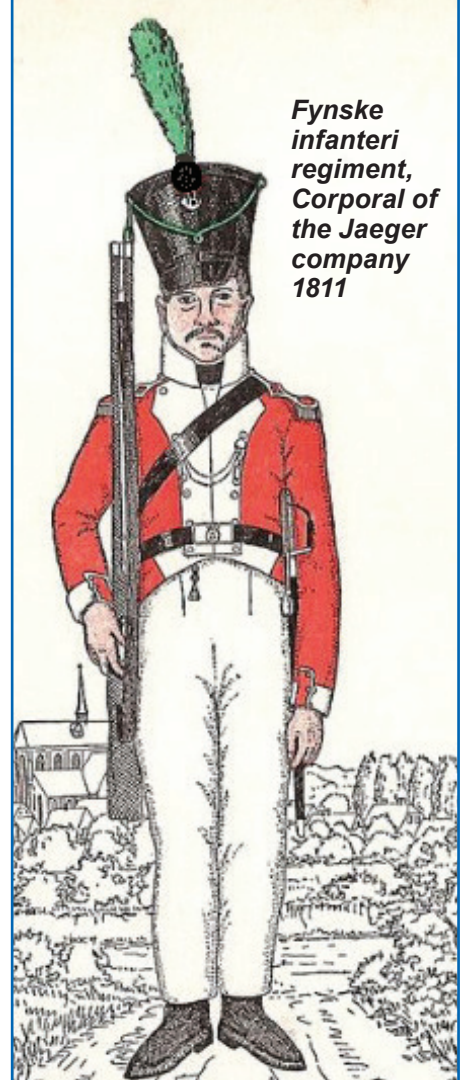
In 1811, the Danes attempted to recapture the Danish island of Anholt from British occupation, but suffered major losses from their futile attack against very strong defences.

In 1812 Sweden and Russia, now allies prepared for large forces to invade Zealand to force Denmark to cede Norway to Sweden, and Denmark also gathered large forces to repel them. Only Napoleon's invasion of Russia rendered such plans for invasion impossible.

A very spectacular campaign unfolded in the autumn of 1813 when a Danish division-sized auxiliary corps of around 12,500 men was incorporated into the French XIII Army Corps supporting Napoleon's operations to the north on-

posing the Prussians, the Russians and the Swedes supported by some British, King's German Legion and Hanoverian troops. The campaign unfolded as an advance to a fortified line by Schwerin-Wismar and then continuous retreat to a new fortified line around Ratzeburg in September, leading to a series of Danish counterattacks and skirmishes during October-November.

When the emperor met his final defeat at Leipzig on 16-18th October, the French corps retreated to Hamburg and left the Danish Auxiliary Corps alone to face the advancing allied army of around 43,000 men under the command of Karl Johan (crown prince of Sweden and former marshal Bernadotte of France). The Danish army now performed a well-led and well-executed fighting retreat. The Danish victory at Boden 4th December, the check of the advance of the pursuing Swedish cavalry at Bornhøved on 7th December, and the striking Danish victory at Sehestedt on 10th December followed, which proved the marked quality of the Danish Auxiliary Corps. With modest losses the corps took a position in fortified Rendsburg, while the hostile occupation of Holstein and part of Schleswig became a reality, and a truce was agreed to. Norway as a result had to be



*Fynske infanteri regiment, Corporal of the Jaeger company 1811*

*Coastal Militia, 2. Jyske Infanteriregiment, Artillerist. By Christian Würgler Hansen.*



ceded to Sweden. Denmark now joined the allies.

But the Norwegians would not accept this, and another Swedish invasion followed. The Norwegians showed the same fighting abilities as in 1808-1809, and the Swedish force suffered from insufficient general leadership and indecision. But in the end they had to agree on a truce and to a union with Sweden.

### 3. The Danish Auxiliary Corps. Ordre de Bataille, August 1813

General of the Infantry Prince Frederik of Hessen (Commander-in-Chief)

Major, First Quartermaster J. Carl Bardenfleth (Chief of Staff)

Major, Division Quartermaster F. Løvenørn Bardenfleth (Deputy Chief)

Captain, Division Adjutant F.C.E. Scholten

Adjutants: Captains L.C.C. Liljencrone, C.F. Malthe Friis, A.F. Krohn og

C. Michaelsen

### Avantgarde

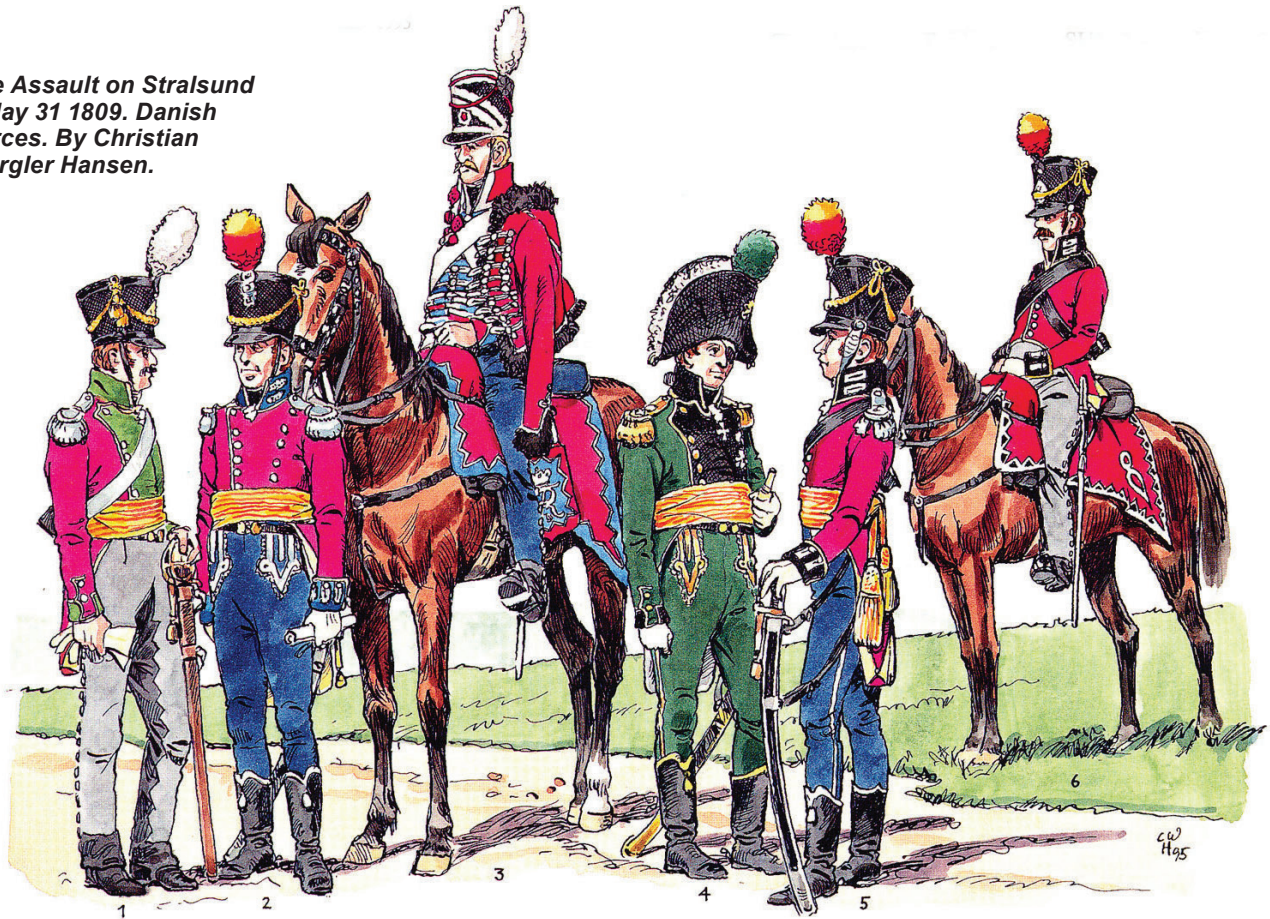
Staff: Colonel of the Infantry S. Waldeck (Commander). Substituted early by the French General de Brigade C.F.A. baron l'Allemand (Commander)

First Lieutenant T.G. Høegh (Adjutant)

Second Lieutenant J. Unzer (Adjutant)



**The Assault on Stralsund  
– May 31 1809. Danish  
Forces. By Christian  
Würgler Hansen.**

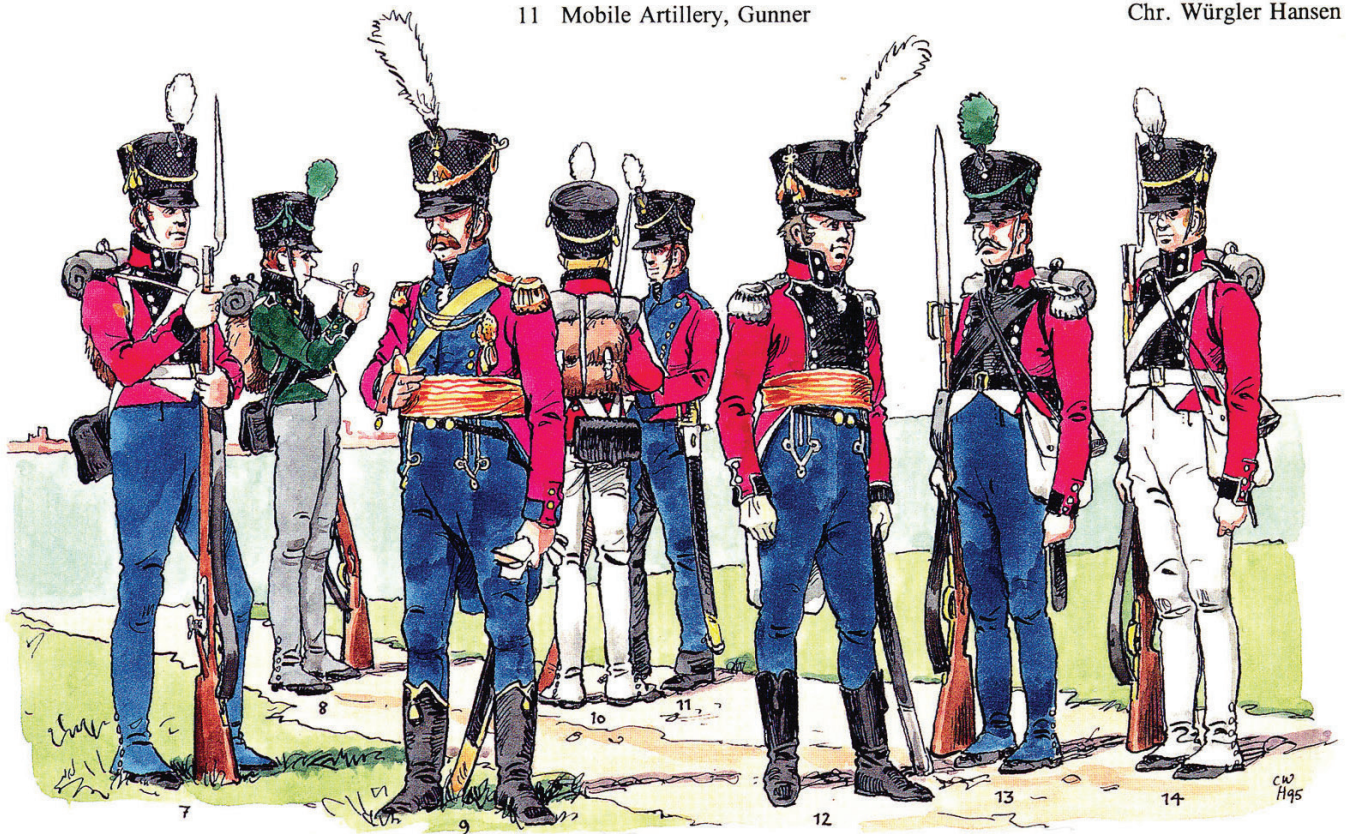


- 1 Holstenske Rytterregiment, Officer
- 2 Quartermaster of Division
- 3 Hussar
- 4 General von Ewald (Commanding Officer Slesvigske Jægerkorps)
- 5 Corps of Guides, Officer
- 6 Corps of Guides, Guide

- 7 Oldenborgske Infanteriregiment, Private
- 8 Holstenske Skarpskytte Korps, Private
- 9 Horse Artillery, Officer
- 10 Oldenborgske Infanteriregiment, Private
- 11 Mobile Artillery, Gunner

- 12 Holstenske Infanteriregiment, Officer
- 13 Oldenborgske Infanteriregiment, Rifle NCO
- 14 Holstenske Infanteriregiment, Private

Chr. Würgler Hansen





# Danish Infantry of the Line and Light Infantry 1803-1814

Slesvigske Jægerkorps II (Lieutenant Colonel L.J. Wasmer)\*

Holstenske Skarpskyttekorps I (Lieutenant Colonel J. Leschley)

Holstenske Skarpskyttekorps II (Major C.F.V. Wilcken)

Husarregimentet 2nd Squadron (Major C.L. Späth)

Husarregimentet 6th Squadron (Major E.L. Berger)

3-pdr Mounted Battery (Captain G.A.N. Gerstenberg)\*\*

## 1st Brigade

Staff: Major General of the Infantry G.L. Count von der Schulenburg (Commander)

Captain, Quartermaster of Division H.C. Rømeling (Adjutant)

Staff Captain C.F. Trepka (Adjutant)  
Second Lieutenant M. Engelsted (Adjutant)

Oldenborgske Infanteriregiment I (Colonel C.F. Abercron)

Oldenborgske Infanteriregiment II (Lieutenant Colonel A.N. Brackel)

Oldenborgske Infanteriregiment IV (Major P.U. Scharffenberg)

Oldenborgske Infanteriregiment III Jaeger company (Captain F. Schou)

Holstenske Infanteriregiment IV (Major C.F.W. Lejonstjerna)

Dronningens Livregiment I (Colonel F.E.H. Cronhelm)

Dronningens Livregiment II Jaeger

Company (Captain Flitner)

Holstenske Regiment Ryttere (Lieutenant Colonel J.C. Harboe)

6-pdr Foot Battery (Captain F.V.P.G. Koye)\*\*

## 2nd Brigade

Staff: Major General of the Cavalry J.C. Lasson (Chief)

Captain, Adjutant of Division C. Ewald (Adjutant)

First Lieutenant W. Lobedanz (Adjutant)

First Lieutenant J.F. Lasson (Adjutant)  
Fynske Infanteriregiment I (Colonel F.J.C. Castonier)

Fynske Infanteriregiment II (Major G.E. Michaelsen)

Slesvigske Infanteriregiment I (Lieutenant Colonel E.V.L. Schaumberg)

Slesvigske Infanteriregiment II (Lieutenant Colonel N.P.S. Schreibvogel)

*3die Jydske Infanteriregiment 1813.  
By Christian Würgler Hansen.*





Holstenske Infanteriregiment III  
(Lieutenant Colonel F.P.V. Moltke)  
Jyske Regiment lette Dragoner  
(Colonel N. Engelsted)\*\*  
3-pdr Mounted Battery (Captain  
V.C. Gønner)  
6-pdr Foot Battery (Captain G. Blicher)

\* Three companies were soon detached for guard duty in Travemünde, but returned to the avant-garde in December.

\*\* 3-pdr Mounted Battery (Gerstenberg) received 6 French 6-pdr guns M1808 and 2 24-pdr howitzers instead of 8 3-pdr guns. The Battery kept its 2 Danish 10-pdr howitzers as well. Gerstenberg and Koye exchanged command of batteries from the start. Both batteries then formed part of the Avantgarde.

\*\*\* Jyske Regiment lette Dragoner (Colonel N. Engelsted), was exchanged



## Danish Infantry of the Line 1803

Unit	Facing	Lace	Buttons	Comments
Danske Livregiment til Fods	Straw-coloured	None	White	a
Norske Livregiment til Fods	Straw-coloured	White	White	a
Kongens Regiment	Light blue	None	White	b
Kronprinsens Regiment	Light blue	White	White	c
Dronningens Livregiment til Fods	Light blue	None	Yellow	
Arveprins Frederiks Regiment	Yellow	None	White	d
Fynske Infanteriregiment	White	None	White	
1. Jyske Infanteriregiment	Black	White	Yellow	
2. Jyske Infanteriregiment	White	None	Yellow	
3. Jyske Infanteriregiment	Black	White	White	
Oldenborgske Infanteriregiment	Black	None	White	e
Slesvigske Infanteriregiment	Light Blue	White	Yellow	
Holstenske Infanteriregiment	Black	White	White	f
Marine regimentet	Dark Blue	White	Yellow	g
Københavns Infanteriregiment	Dark Blue	Straw-coloured	Yellow	h

### Comments regarding Danish Infantry of the Line 1803

a Shoulder pads were straw-coloured for Danske Livregiment til Fods and black with white lace for Norske Livregiment til Fods.

b On 13th March 1808, the name was changed to Kronens Regiment.

c On 13th March 1808, the name was changed to Kongens Regiment.

d In 1803, white laces were ordered, and in 1808, new regulations meant that the facing was to be green. In 1806, the name was changed to Prins Christian Frederiks Regiment.

e The collar was red with broad black pad.

f The collar was red with broad black pad and white lace.

g Marineregimentet was in 1803, amalgamated from the former Marinecorpset, Sjællandske Infanteriregiment and 2 companies of "Sjællandske Jager Grenadiers". These were foreign enlisted soldiers, still serving on contracts. After several cases of bad conduct and a high desertion rate, the regiment was disbanded in 1811.

h In 1808 the regiment was formed with two battalions of volunteers from Copenhagen and served as a permanent garrison regiment in the capital. From 1811 white laces were ordered and a 3rd Battalion formed from the disbanded "Marineregimentet" was added, which was named "Sø-bataljonen" and allowed to wear buttons with anchor motif.

with the 2nd and 3rd Squadrons of the Polish 17th Uhlans (Colonel Brezchffa), and served as French Division Cavalry until the beginning of December, while the two squadrons of uhlands served with the Avantgarde until the end of hostilities. On December 6th the Jyske Regiment lette Dragoner clashed with Cossacks, but managed to break through to Rendsburg. They did not participate in the Battle of Sehestedt.

### Changes occurring

End of August were added:

Fynske Regiment lette Dragoner (Lieutenant Colonel J.V.C. Bibow)

Sailors Company; to be used as sappers and pontoneers (Navy Captain F. C. Holsten)

End of November were added:

3. Jyske Infanteriregiment I (Captain C.F. Kirchheiner)

Opening of December – during retreat – were added:

Major General V. Sames command ▶



# Danish Infantry of the Line and Light Infantry 1803-1814

Slesvigske Infanteriregiment III, Light company (Captain A. Mushardt)

Altonaiske Jærgergrenaderkompagni, 1 company (Captain C.A. Rathlev)

Slesvigske Jægerkorps II, 3 companies, which had been detached to Travemünde, re-joined the Corps (Lieutenant Colonel L.J. Wasmer)

French/Danish combined artillery detachment (Captain Krabbe)

Further addition during the retreat:

Hertuginde Louise Augustas Livjægerkorps, 1 company (First Lieutenant J.J.J Wernich)

In sum end of November:

14 battalions and 3 companies

5 independent companies of light infantry

12 squadrons

4 batteries with 40 cannons

Artillery Detachment "Krabbe" (without guns, helped operate the artillery in the Corps)

Sailors' company (helped the gun crews operate the guns during the battle of Sehestedt)

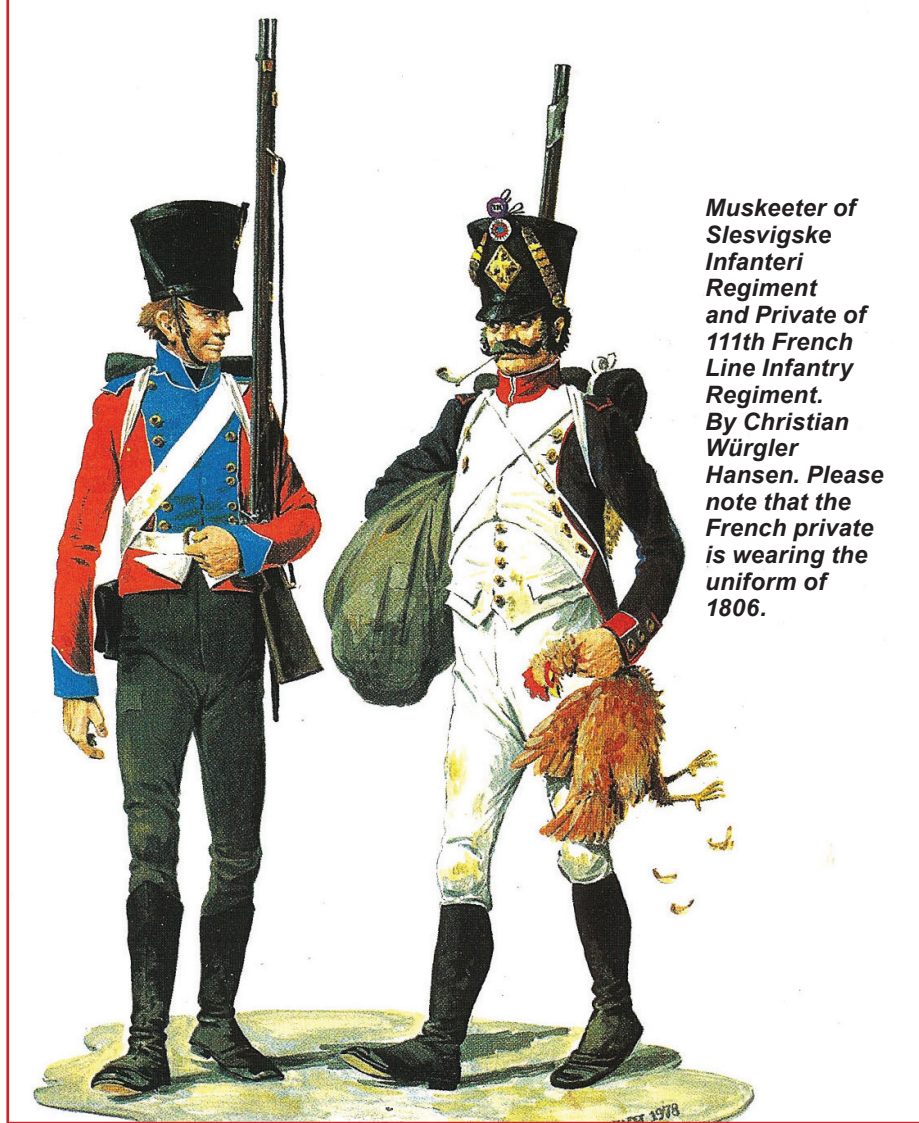
## 4. Organisation and Uniforms of Danish Infantry of the Line and Light Infantry

Below, the Danish army is addressed, but in principle the organisation and types of uniforms apply to Norwegian as well as to Danish units.

### Danish Infantry of the Line

The Danish army was reorganised in June 1803. Each infantry regiment of the line consisted of 2 battalions – each with 5 companies. The 1st battalion mustered

4 musketeer companies and 1 grenadier company, while the 2nd battalion had 4 musketeer companies and 1 light infantry company (Regimental Jaegers). Until 1808, each battalion also commanded 2 3-pdr cannons. A brigade comprised 2 regiments, and normally the uniforms



*Musketeer of Slesvigske Infanteri Regiment and Private of 111th French Line Infantry Regiment. By Christian Würgler Hansen. Please note that the French private is wearing the uniform of 1806.*



*Holstenske Infanteriregiment 1812-1814. Musketeer company. By Christian Würgler Hansen.*

*Oberst/Colonel*

*Kaptajn/Captain Sergent/Sergeant*



## Danish Jaegers and “Sharpshooters”/light Infantry Dark green uniform 1801

Unit	Shoulder pads	Lace	Buttons	Metal stable
Sjællandske Jægerkorps	Dark green	White	White	In silver
Slesvigske Jægerkorps	Dark green	Yellow	Yellow	In gold
1. Sjællandske Bataljon Let Infanteri	Dark green	None	White	White
2. Sjællandske Bataljon Let Infanteri	Black	White	White	White
Slevigsk-Holstenske Bataljon Let Infanteri	Dark green	None	Yellow	In gold

## Danish Jaegers and “Sharpshooters”/light Infantry Dark grey uniform 1810

Unit	Collar and Cuff	Lace	Buttons
Sjællandske Jægerkorps	Light green	White	White
Slesvigske Jægerkorps	Dark green	White	Yellow
Sjællandske Skarpskyttekorps	Light green	White	White
Jyske Skarpskyttekorps	Light green	White	White
Holstenske Skarpskyttekorps	Dark green	White	Yellow

*Jaegers and sharpshooters were organised in 4 company battalions (called a “Corps”), and were normally fighting in skirmish order with the battalions deployed in 2 ranks.*

for these two used the same facings with one of the two regiments applying white lacing, but this was in reality often left undone.

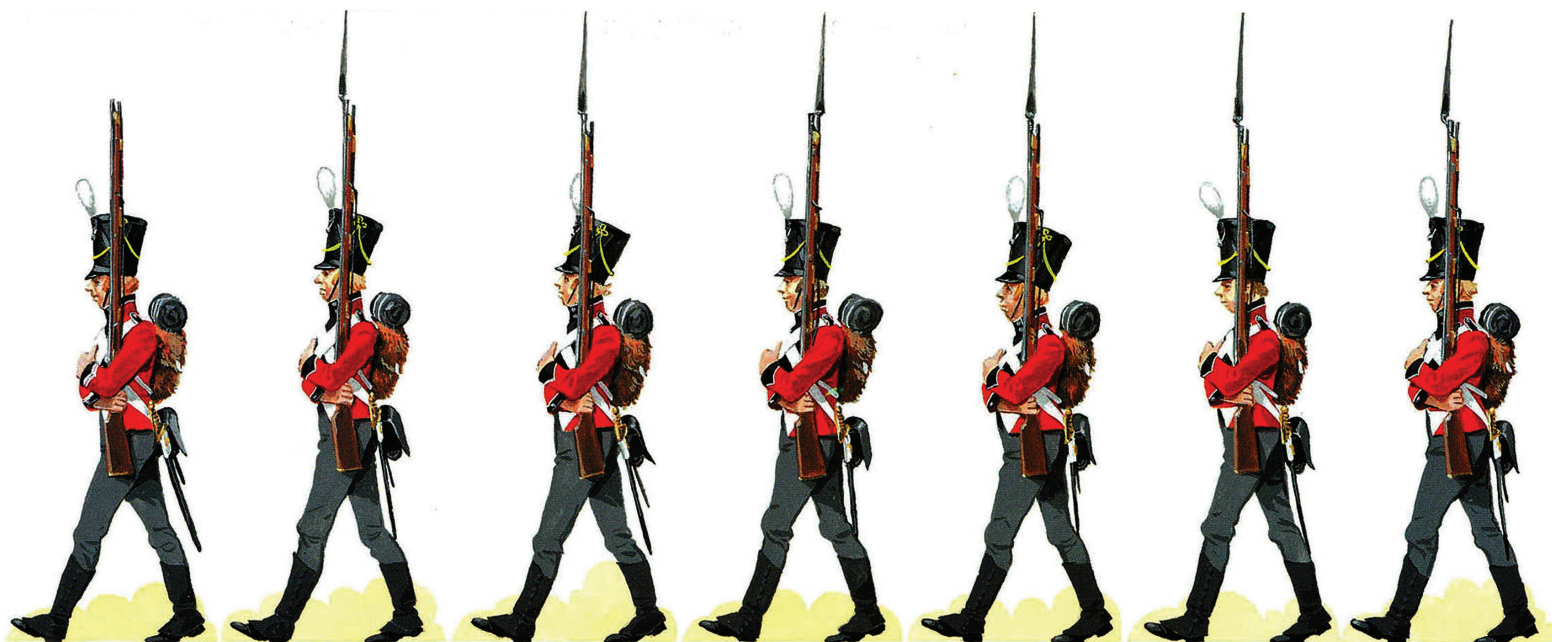
Usually the battalions of the infantry were fighting in line with the battalions deployed in 3 ranks.

After the Danish defeat to Britain in 1807, the militia was abolished, and the youngest parts of the troops were formed into so-called reserve battalions. Thus, in 1808, each regiment – apart from the Marine Regiment (Marinekorpsset), and the newly formed “Københavns Infante-



*Holstenske Infanteri-regiment, regimental drum major 1810. By Johannes Senn.*

ri Regiment” – received 2 such reserve battalions. Each of these comprised 4 musketeer companies and 1 light (Jaeger) company. In April 1808, all of these battalions had received uniforms with facings for their respective regiments. *To be continued.* ■



*Korporal/Corporal*