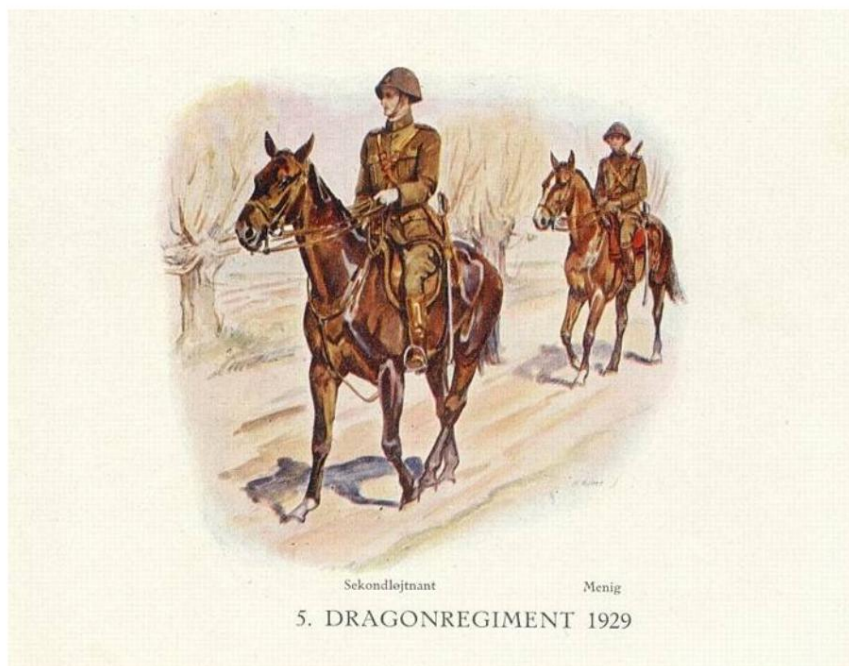


About Danish cavalry 1932-1940, Part 1

1932 - 1936

After the 1932 scheme, the Danish Army's cavalry consisted of the Gardehusar regiment and the Jutland Dragoon Regiment established in 1932, which was formed by merging the 3rd and 5th Dragoon Regiments.

A cavalry regiment consisted of: regimental staff, 3 cavalry squadrons (Gardehusarregimentet)/4 cavalry squadrons (Jewish Dragoon Regiment), 3 cyclist squadrons (Gardehusarregimentet)/2 cyclist squadrons (Jewish Dragoon Regiment), 1 machine gun platoon and 1 armored car company.



Second lieutenant and private from the 5th Dragoon Regiment, 1929.

From Historical report on the 5th Dragoon Regiment.

*Published on the occasion of the regiment's 250th anniversary
by Lieutenant Colonel E. Leschly, Randers 1929.*

The two dragoons are wearing Uniform 1923.

The second lieutenant wears Coat 1923, with falling collar. Since then, the coat was introduced in 1923 with lapels, in the style of the traditional English officer's uniform.

The second lieutenant's horse apparently does not wear the blanket, while the private's horse wears a red blanket.

Organization

The cavalry regiments' military organization was as follows (Source 2):

The regimental staff included the liaison group, which was partly mounted and partly transported on lorries.

- The liaison group consisted of: 4 telephone teams, 2 signal teams, 1 flag team, 1 carrier pigeon team as well as trumpeters, horseman, bicycle and motorcycle orderlies.

A *cavalry* squadron consisted of: command group, 4 saber divisions (of 3 troops) and 1 recoilless rifle division (of 2 recoilless rifle sections of 2 recoilless rifle squads).

- The command group consisted of: 1 driver, 1 telephone team, 1 signal team, 2 trumpeters (referred to as reserve trumpeters) and 5 orderlies, of which 1 was on a motorcycle and 1 was on a (ordinary) bicycle.

- The saber divisions. A platoon consisted of: 1 driver and 7 carbineers, of which 2 were horsemen. Two troops were assembled in a group, under a group leader and with 1 group hand horse leader.
- The recoil rating. A recoilless rifle squad consisted of: 1 recoilless rifleman, 2 assistants, 1 orderly, 1 orderly, 1 horse keeper, 1 ammunition horse driver and 1 ammunition horse. Two troops were assembled in a recoilless rifle section, under a section leader and with a section hand horse leader.

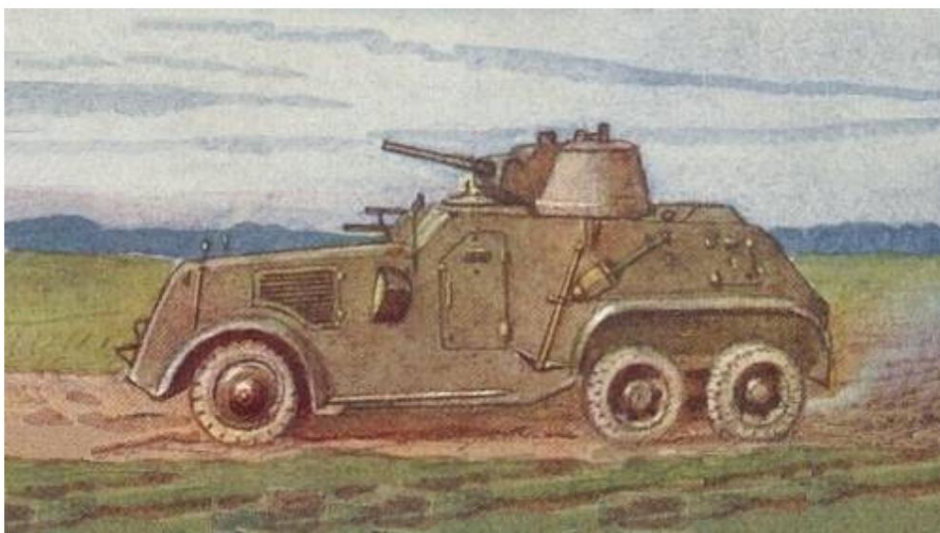
If a recoilless rifle call was given to a saber platoon, the platoon was divided into 1 recoilless rifle group and 1 marksman group.

A *cyclist squadron* consisted of: command group and 4 platoons (of 2 machine gun groups and 1 recoilless gun group).

- The command group consisted of: 1 driver, 2 rangers, 2 observers, 1 telephone team, 1 signal team, 1 reserve trumpeter and 7 orderlies, of which 4 were on motorbikes.
- The cyclist divisions. A group consisted of: 1 driver, 1 gunner, 2 aides, 2 supplymen, 2 carbineers and 1 tripod carrier.

A *machine gun platoon* consisted of: platoon platoon and 3 machine gun sections (each 2 machine gun platoons).

- The platoon consisted of: 1 driver, 1 platoon hand horse driver, 1 platoon orderly, 2 rangers, 1 reserve horse driver, 1 reserve horse and 1 motor orderly.
- The machine gun section consisted of: 1 driver, 1 section orderly and 2 machine gun squads. The machine gun squad consisted of: 1 gunner, 2 helpers, 1 supply, 1 tripod carrier, 1 horse holder, 1 ammunition horse driver and 1 ammunition horse.



Experimental armored car (FP) 7 or 8, approx. 1936.

Drawing by Rasmus Christiansen, reproduced from Source 1.

An *armored car company* consisted of: command group and a number of armored car divisions (each 3-4 armored cars).

Up through the 1930s, tests were carried out with various armored vehicles. The subject is dealt with in Part 3.

For larger exercises, armored car companies were set up consisting of the actual experimental armored cars and various armored car dummies, mounted on trucks.



The tank company in 1935, photographed at Bådsmadsstrædes Kaserne 1).

Even if the rendering is not the best, the image nevertheless gives an impression of the somewhat improvised form of the company.

In the front (right in the picture) the command vehicle (Morris Minor) can be seen, followed by the 1st platoon with the experimental armored vehicles FP 1 and FP 2 and an unidentified vehicle. The company's 2nd platoon, consisting of so-called training armored vehicles, is led by a passenger car and an unidentified "armored" vehicle. This is followed by the motorcyclist division consisting of sidecar machines of different types.



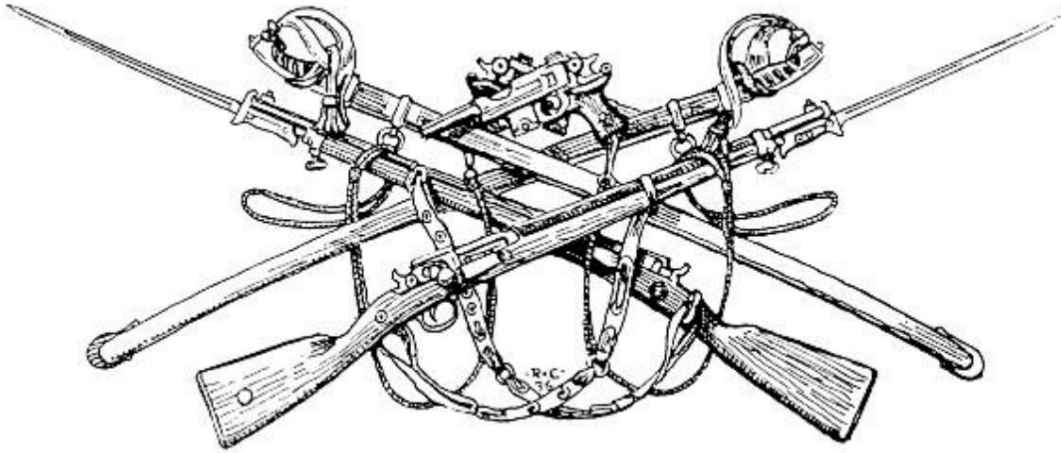
The armored car company.
From Source 10.

Although the date is given as 1938, the picture basically shows the same vehicles as the previous picture; however, the photo was taken elsewhere. Anyone have a suggestion for the location?

Armament

- *Rider's saber 1894* - All mounted, except a few specialists.
- *Knife 1923* - Unmounted officers etc. and commanders of the officiant group etc
- *Pistol 1910/21* - Officers etc. and commanders of the officiant group etc
- *Cavalry carbine 1889 with guard bayonet* - Non-pistol-armed commanders and privates, except some specialists.

- *Rifle 1889 with cleaver or knife bayonet* - Non-pistol-armed personnel on motor vehicles.
- *Machine gun M.1929* - 6 per machine gun division; 8 per cyclist squad; all in recoil receiver foot M.1932.
- *Recoil rifle M.1924* - 4 per cavalry squadron; 4 per cycling squadron.



The small arms of the cavalry.

Vignette by Rasmus Kristiansen and reproduced from Source 1.

The vignette shows: Rider's carbine Model 1889, with bayonet Model 1915; pistol 1910/21 and saber Model 1894, with scabbard Model 1898.

Match



Hussar or dragoon, at a gallop.

Drawn by Ove Meier,
from the cut sheet Danmarks Hær og Flåde.

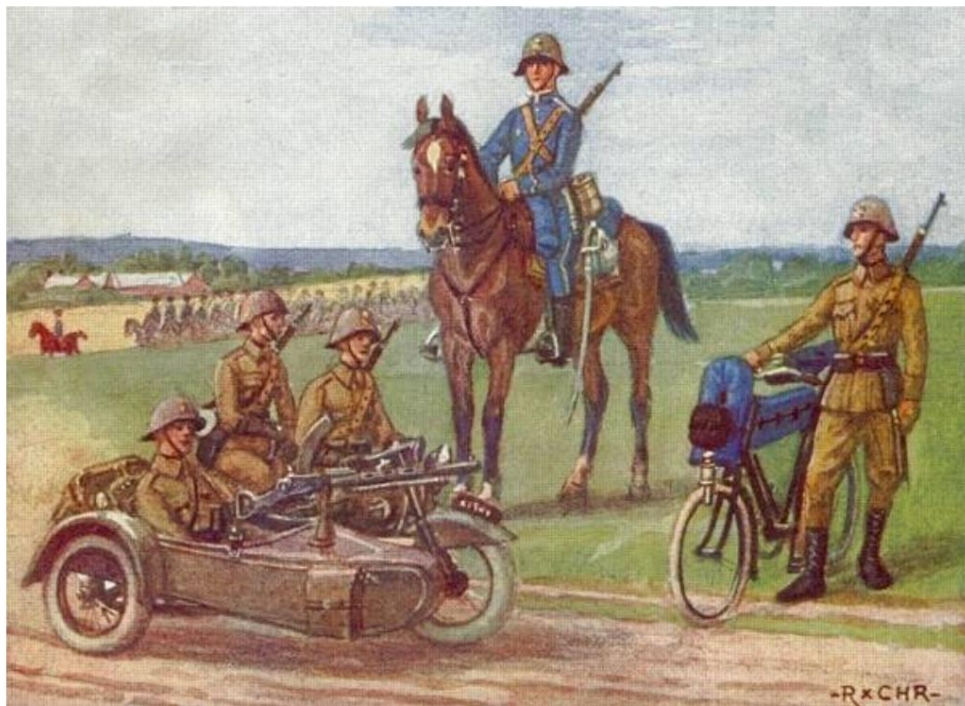
Actual mounted attacks were only intended to be carried out by smaller forces. The formation was then closed order (in line) or scattered order (swarm line). The swarm line consisted of two links, with a distance of two horse lengths between both the links and the individual riders in the links.

On foot, the cavalry fought according to the same principles as the infantry, although special consideration had to be given to both horses and bicycles.

The hand horses were led (kept) by 2 men per troop, and half of the hand horse drivers could be used for protection. If the hand horses were not to be movable (= could be brought forward to the dismounted riders), they could be held by 1 man per troop.

The drawing shows the saber attached to the belt with two saber straps; saber scabbard Model 1898 was provided with only one

carrier ring.



Guard Hussars, approx. 1936.

Drawing by Rasmus Christiansen, reproduced from Source 1.

The handcycles, when they had to be movable, were led by the groups' 2nd team (a group's crew was divided into eights and twos, so that one could easily lead the group). Once the bikes were in place, the crew could be used for security or sent forward to the battle line. Should the bicycles not be movable, they could be left behind with individual carbine shooters as guards.

Uniforms, equipment and material

The uniforms of the period were the cavalry's light blue Uniform 1911 and the khaki (tan) unit uniform Model 1923.

The rider carries his cloak rolled up, over the saddlebags; similarly with the cyclist, who however has the cape in front of the handlebars.

The rider carries his mantel sack (= luggage bag) on the back of the saddle, while the cyclist's is attached to the bar.



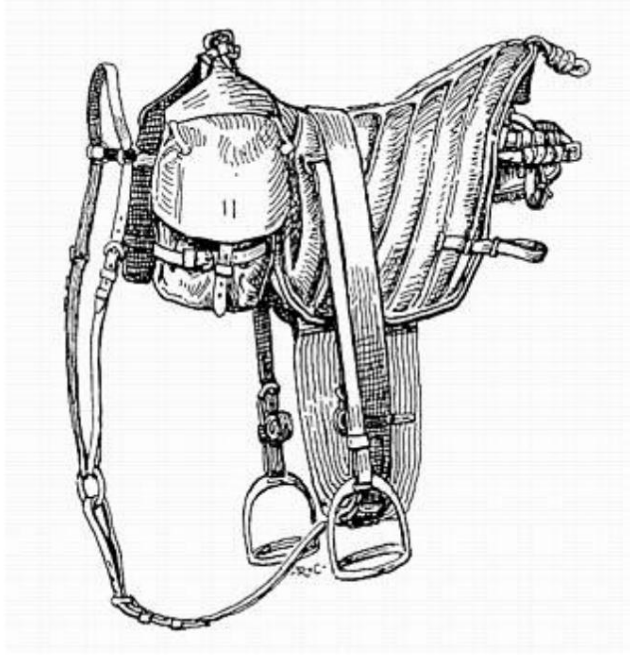
Horseman (hussars).
From Source 4.



Horseman (hussars).
From Source 5.

The right picture shows (behind the hussar's right arm) an infantry spade, in a sheath, on which was sewn a sword pouch (= holder for the bayonet).

A fodder sack is also carried on the horse - probably the one seen in the left picture, by the saber mount. The bag/pouch on the opposite side is probably for spare horseshoes. From 1892, the rider had to carry a front shoe and a back shoe in reserve, and be able to put one on in the field.



Rider's saddle.
Vignette by Rasmus Christiansen,
reproduced from Source 5.



Hussars in field equipment, 1910.
Drawing by Rasmus Christiansen,
reproduced from Source 1.

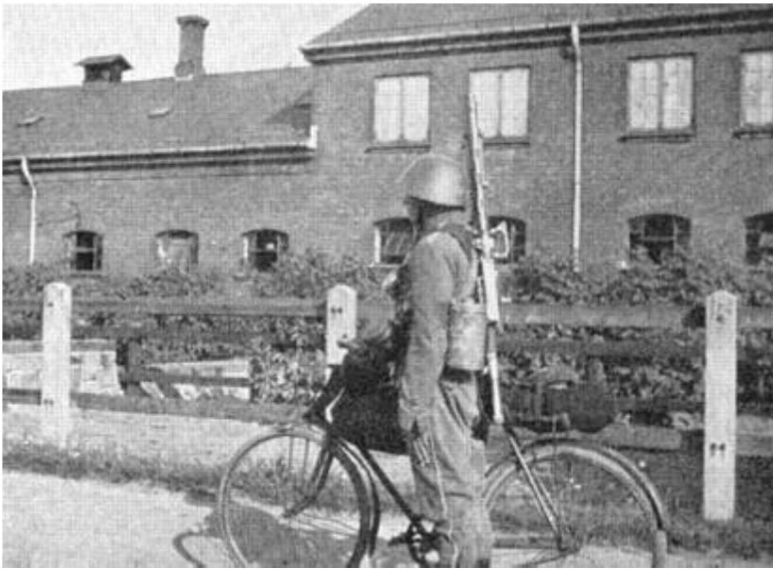


Recoil gunner from the Guard Hussar Regiment.
Vignette by Rasmus Christiansen, reproduced from Source 1.

Private riders used saddle Model 1872 (Hungarian), while officers used saddle Model 1924; the latter was nicknamed the *Suitcase*. Exactly which type is shown in the vignette is not clear from the sources. The saddle is equipped with a strap (a. in the drawing) for the saber, which from 1905 was carried on the horse when the rider was mounted.

The rider carbine (from 1913 rider carbine Model 1889) was worn slung over the back, often worn together with a so-called pad leather (both on horseback and on a bicycle and motorcycle).

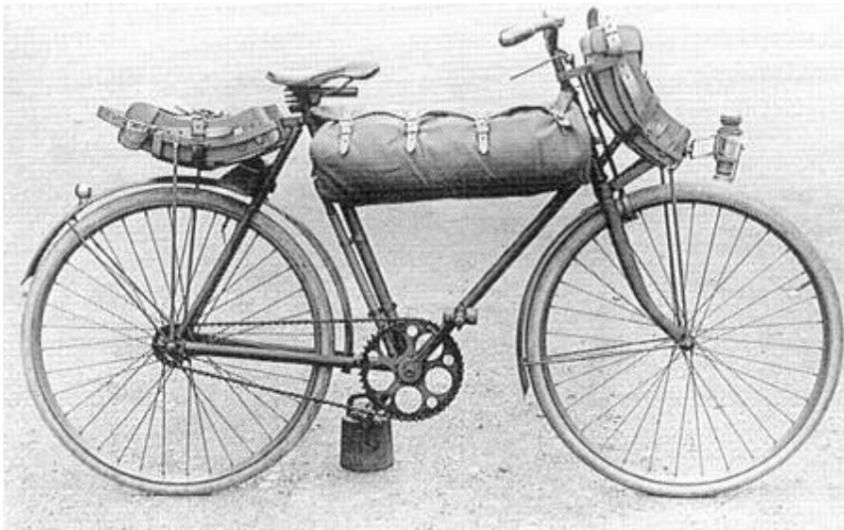
The recoil rifle is shown here with the special small round foot plate at the muzzle, which - in contrast to the recoil rifle's high support leg - allows the shooter to take an extremely low shooting position, thereby creating a very small target.



*Recoil gunner from a biker squad.
From Source 6.*



*Tripod carrier from a cyclist squadron.
From Source 7.*



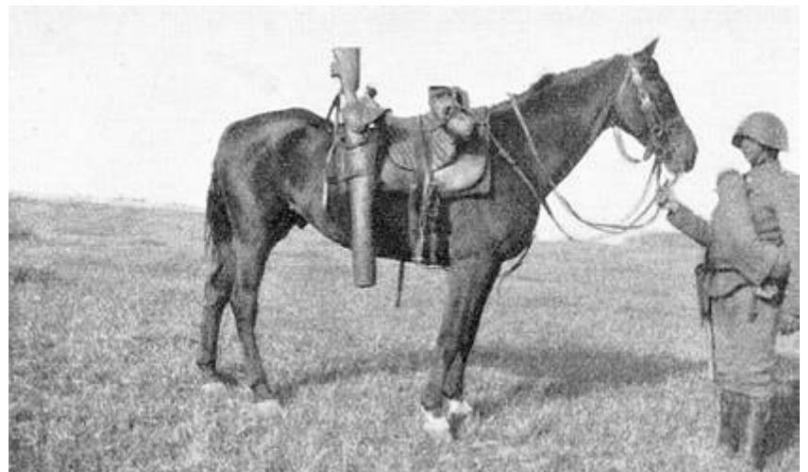
Bicycle M.1903, with magazine bags and mantle sack. From Source 5.

In addition to the mentioned model, there was also Cykel M. 1903/30, but judging by other illustrations in Source 4, there was no significant difference in the appearance of the two types.

Furthermore, Bicycle M.1915 was found, but I don't know what it looked like.



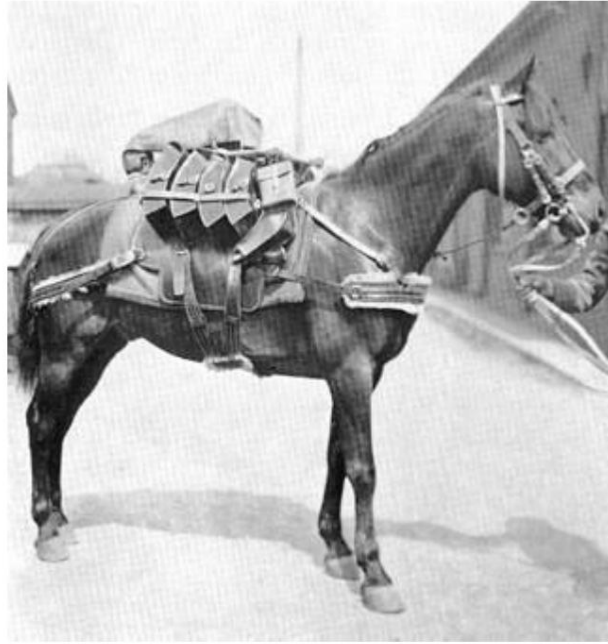
Mounted recoilless rifle shooter.



Secluded recoilless rifleman.



Ammunition horse driver and ammunition horse, Guard Hussar Regiment.
From Source 6.



Ammunition horse.
From Source 3.

Both ammunition mounts are fitted with a Model 1932 recoil pad.



Nimbus motorcycle, with recoilless rifle armed sidecar.
From Source 1.

1,520 pieces were carried on an ammunition horse. 8 mm cartridges, of which 80 were armor cartridges and 40 light track cartridges.

From 1934, trials were carried out with motorcycle divisions. In the same year, a motorcyclist group was established at the Gardehusar regiment and in the summer of 1936 the regiment formed a motorcyclist division as part of the Cyclisteskadronen; likewise, the tank company also got a motorcyclist division.

During the autumn exercises of the same year, a motorcyclist squadron consisting of 2 motorcyclist divisions - the Jutland Dragoon regiment's division and the Gardehusarregiment's division was formed.

Sources

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2. *Memory book for use in the field, during exercises and war games* by HH Jørgensen, N. Olaf Møllers Forlag, Copenhagen 1936.
3. *The Guards Hussar Regiment through 200 years*, Næstved 1962.
4. *The Defense Book* by Colonel T. Andersen, Gyldendal, Copenhagen 1941.
5. *Gardehusarkasernen on 29 August 1943* by Anders D. Henriksen, Forlaget Devantier, Næstved 1993, ISBN 87-984530-0-9.
6. *Denmark's Army, Volumes I and II*, Society for the publication of cultural writings, Copenhagen 1934-1935.
7. *Jutland Dragoons 1679-1979*, Holstebro 1979.
8. *Soldiers on 9 April 1940* by Kay Søren Nielsen, Tøjhusmuseet, Copenhagen 1990, ISBN 87-7233-847-4.
9. *Field equipment for Individuals*, Ministry of War, Copenhagen 1936, with correction sheets up to August 1941.
10. *The automobile in the army 1908-1983* by Frank Pedersen, 1983.

Per Finsted



The Jutland Dragoon Regiment pays homage to King Christian X, during the royal review at Tjele, 1937.
From Source 7.

Notes:

1) From *Plywood armored cars and tanks in moving cars* by H. Chr. Jensen, Hjemmeværnsbladet, No. 9, 1973. The title alludes to training armored vehicles (built in plywood on truck chassis) and FP 4 and FP 5, which were transported around the country for display at e.g. animal sightings, in precisely moving vans.