# About Danish cavalry 1932-1940, Part 2 - Supplement

## The cycling squadron

The cycling squadron is organized as follows:



Recoil gunner, Guard Hussar Regiment. From Source 2.

- Staff
- Command division (command group and liaison group) 4 cyclist platoons
- (platoon and 3 groups)
- Train (fencing and baggage training).

The cyclist squad is approx. 190 men, all of whom (but not motorcyclists and training staff) are equipped with bicycles.

# Staff and train

| Staff   | train   |
|---|---|
|   |   |
| 1 squadron commander                                    | Workshop van with trailer (9 bicycles) 1 second-in-     |
| command   | Fencing wagon 1   |
| command officer   | Ammunition truck 1                                      |
| motor vehicle driver (+ passenger motor vehicle, small) | Medical van   |
| 1 doctor  | Kitchen wagon   |
| 1 sack cook driver (canteen soldier)                    | Baggage   |
| wagon 1 motorcycle driver (+ sidecar machine)           |   |
|   | In addition, vehicle commanders, motor vehicle drivers, |

### The division of command



Bicycle M.1903/30. From Source 1.

### **Command group**

1 platoon leader 2 bicycle orderlies 2 observers 2 rangers (no. 1 with rangefinder) 3 motor orderlies (+ solo motorcycles) 1 motorcycle driver (+ sidecar machine)

### **Connection group**

1 group leader 7 liaison people

- 1 telephone
- team 1 signal team

### The squadron's signal equipment



Signal team with signal station. From Source 4.

### **Telephone equipment**

- 1 field telephone
- E 4 drum bags, with cable drum C 2
- deployment poles (with sheath) 2 sets of
- climbing equipment.

### Other signaling equipment

- 2 sets of electrical signal equipment (for 2 signal stations) 2 sets
- of signal flags 2 letter pigeons (with 2 depeche books and 20
- depeche holders) 4 signal pistols (with various signal cartridges).
- •

Although the picture does not depict soldiers from the cavalry, it gives a good impression of the signal team in action. Leaning against the earthwork, to the left of the signal apparatus, a rolled up signal flag can be seen.

### The cyclist divisions (1st - 4th division)

| Sharing strap                             | 3 cyclist rifle groups, each with   |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1 platoon leader<br>1 second in command 2 | 1 group leader and 9 men:           |
| platoon orderlies                         | • 1 gunner                          |
|   | <ul> <li>1 helper 2</li> </ul>      |
| Apart from the platoon leader and gunner, | <ul> <li>supply officers</li> </ul> |

Apart from the platoon leader and gunner, everyone is equipped with a cavalry carbine 1889.

- 1 group orderly 1 tripod
- carrier 3 carbineers

# Ammunition

Lygte Sadeirer Sadel Forgaffeirer Rekvisittaske M. 1930 Hoanata Bagagebærer med Trefodsbærestel Pumpe Øverste Baggaffelre Forgaffel Nederste Baggaffeire LFrihjulsnav Pedaler Kædehjul forskærm Forhjul

The tripod's bicycle. From Source 1.

For the carbines, each man carries 2 cartridge bags of 30 cartridges each. However, the squad leader only has 1 cartridge bag of 30 cartridges, of which 20 can be armor cartridges.

The shooter carries 2 recoilless rifle magazines of 20 cartridges each, in a 2-magazine pouch in the waist belt.

For the recoilless rifle, the helper, supplies and carbine shooter carry 10 recoilless rifle magazines of 20 rounds in a 10-magazine bag, on the bicycle's front ammunition carrier.

At "ready for battle", an additional 2-magazine bag is issued to the gunner, a 10-magazine bag to the helper, supply and carbine gunner, while the group leader and group orderly receive two 10-magazine bags.

# Match



Hussars with tripod guns. From Source 3.

The cyclist company fights on foot, according to the same principles as the infantry.

Regarding the bicycles, the company can operate with movable or immovable bicycles. In the former case

fight with approx. half strength, while the rest is ready for bicycles and handcycles.

With moveable bikes, the group forms:

### Team 1

Group leader, gunner and helper

### Team 2

Supplies 1 and 2

Leave the following at the bikes: **Team 3** 

Tripod carrier, group ordinance and carbine shooter



Group (from the infantry) advances under cover of smoke screen. From Source 5.

With immovable bikes, the group forms:

#### Team 1

Group leader, gunner, helper and supplies

#### Team 2

Tripod Bearer, Group Ordnance and Carbine Gunner 1 and 2 Carbine Gunner 3 are left behind to guard the bikes.

#### Duties of the handcycle driver

In platoon framework, the second-in-command commands the mobile handcycles (platoon handcycle driver) and directs the resupply of ammunition, exchanging full magazine pouches from the bicycles with empty ones brought back from the groups. He also ensures resupply from the company's fencing wagon or ammunition wagon. Furthermore, he is ready to - on the command "Bicycles forward!" - to move forward with personnel, bicycles and handcycles.

In a company setting, the command officer is a squadron handcycle operator with similar tasks as the platoon handcycle operator.

### Sources

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- 5. *The Defense Book* by Colonel T. Andersen, Gyldendal, Copenhagen 1941.
- 6. *Field equipment for Individuals,* Ministry of War, Copenhagen 1936, with correction sheets up to August 1941.

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