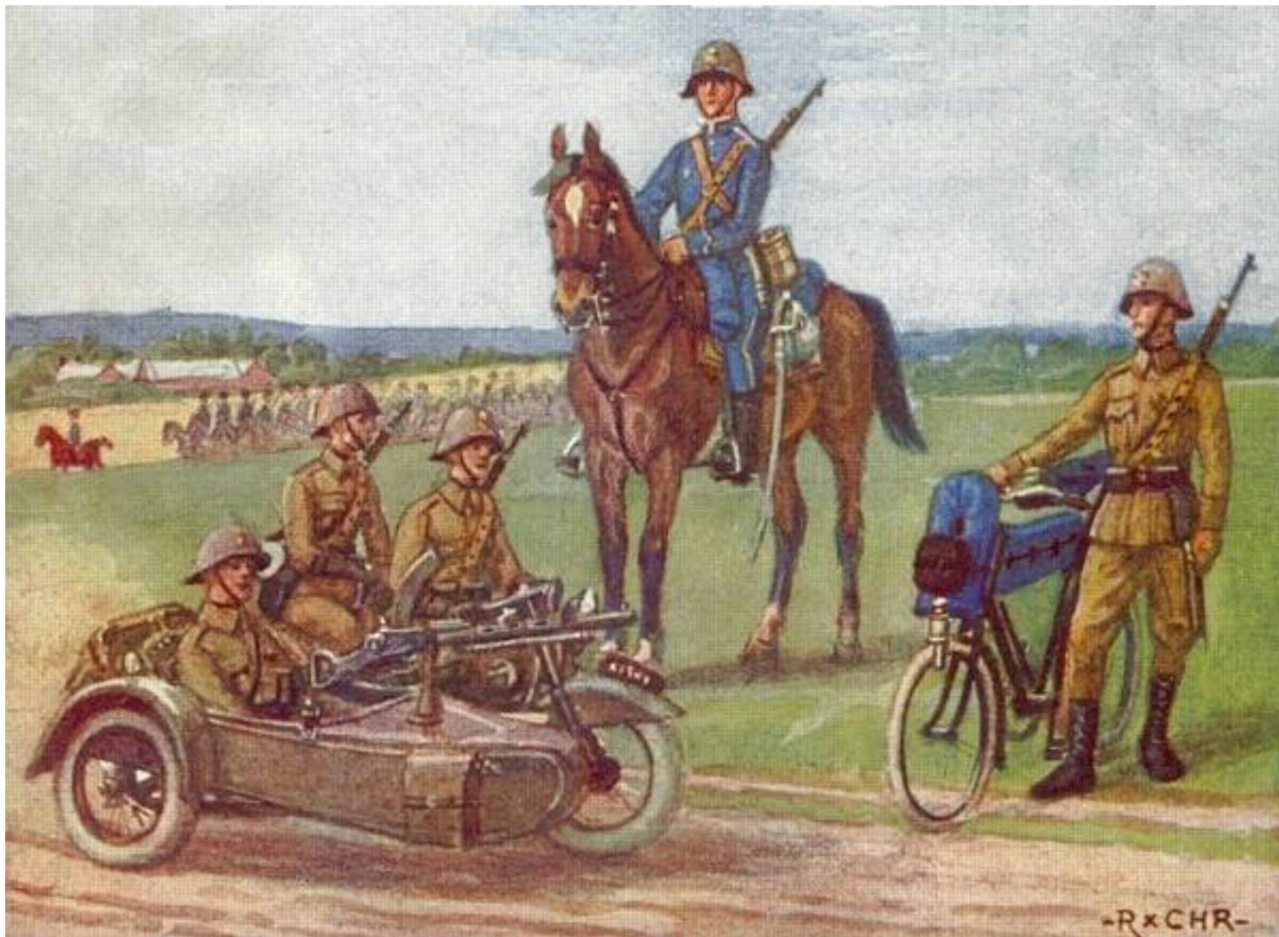


About Danish cavalry 1932-1940

Preface

In the *Gardehusarregimentet 1912-1937* [1](#)) there is the following descriptive description:

"On 23 March 1932, the King ratified the law on the organization of the army, which was to bring about the most thorough reorganization in a long time - most of all for the cavalry.



Guard Hussars, approx. 1936, designed by Rasmus Christiansen.

The concept of cavalry, as it had hitherto been understood, was abolished by this army law, and the word cavalry henceforth became a designation for light troops, that is, troops possessed of great mobility by means of various fast means of transport: armored automobiles, motor cars, motorcycles, bicycles and horses. This reorganization of the cavalry was necessary and in accordance with the development within the army in other countries. It was a consequence partly of the triumph of the petrol engine and partly of the strong development of automatic weapons, and with sadness in his heart the old cavalryman witnessed this development, which transformed the glorious cavalry squadrons into cyclist squadrons, armored car squadrons and the like.

To the old cavalryman, who had been brought up in the days of the raiders, when the offensive horsemanship was the rule, when the light squadrons were equipped only with saber and carbine and mounted on the most beautiful, noble and bravest animals on earth, it was more and more a heartache to have to fight on foot, to see more and more being loaded onto the horse, first recoilless rifle with associated ammunition, then machine gun and even more ammunition as well as made, and finally finally to see his beloved horse partially replaced by bicycles, automobiles and similar mechanized furnishings. This rapid development has taken place during approx. 30 years, and it has been a difficult time for the riders whose service time has just fallen in these years..."

Contents

In my description of the Danish cavalry of the period, I have put the main emphasis on organization, uniforming, equipment and equipment. For practical reasons, the description is arranged in four parts, each of which is roughly delimited in terms of time, but which does have certain overlaps:

[Part 1: 1932-1936 - The 1932 scheme](#)

[Part 2: 1937-1939 - the 1937 scheme + Supplement on the Motorcycle Squads + Supplement on the cycling squadrons](#)

[Part 3: Armored vehicles - The period's Danish experiments with armored vehicles](#)

[Part 4: 1939-1940 - the 1937 scheme in practice + Pictures from the Jutland Dragoon Regiment + Article by master of the arts Frits Berg Alten.](#)

That the description can perhaps be perceived as favoring the Guards Hussar Regiment is due solely to the fact that the regimental histories from here are the most detailed.

Per Finsted

Notes:

1) The *Guards Hussar Regiment 1912-1937, with a summary of the regiment's history from 1762-1912* by Colonel Alf Giersing, Det Hoffenbergske Etablissement, Copenhagen 1937. The illustration is reproduced from the cover of the book.