

About Danish infantry 1932-1941, Skytskompagniet, of the 3

Mortar divisions

Sharing strap

- 1 platoon leader
- 1 second-in-command 1
- carriage driver 1 telephone team (1 team leader and 3 telephone operators) 1 range finder 1 protractor 2
- bicycle orderlies 8 security and liaison people 1
- caretaker
-
-

3 mortar groups, each with

- 1 group leader and 12 privates:
- 1 mortar gunner
- 3 assistants 4
- supply men 2
- cartmen 2 horse-drawn carriages
- 2 horses
- 1 mortar cart M.1931 1
- grenade cart M.1931
- 1 81 mm infantry mortar M.1931, with accessories

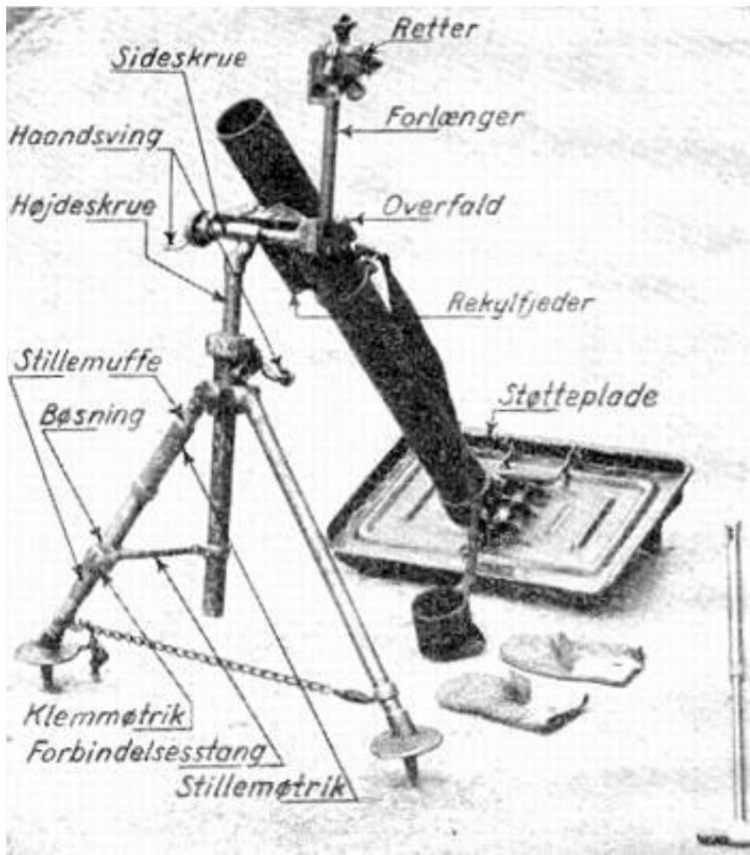
Ammunition

Each man has 40 8 mm cartridges, cart drivers and cart men however 80.

At each group there are 150 mortar shells:

- 16 ammunition boxes (each 3 grenades) in the mortar tank 34
- ammunition boxes (each 3 grenades) in the grenade tank

81 mm infantry mortar M.1931



81 mm infantry mortar M.1931. From Source 2.

The mortar is of French construction (Stokes-Brandt) and has a range of approx. 3 km.

The main parts weigh (approx):

- mortar tube 18 kg
- support plate 21 kg
- stand 18 kg.

The mortar includes:

- gunner's bag, helper's bag and various means of guidance
- correct M.1931 (= scope) direction sticks and direction pegs
-

The directional sticks are 1.2 m and painted in yellow and black belts.

The stick all the way up in the picture is an eraser.

The mortar's normal rate of fire is 18 rounds/min.; highest rate of fire during effect firing is 30 shots/min..



81 mm brisantgranat M.1931.

The weight of the grenade is approx. 3.2 kg and has an effect within 50 m of the place where it jumps.

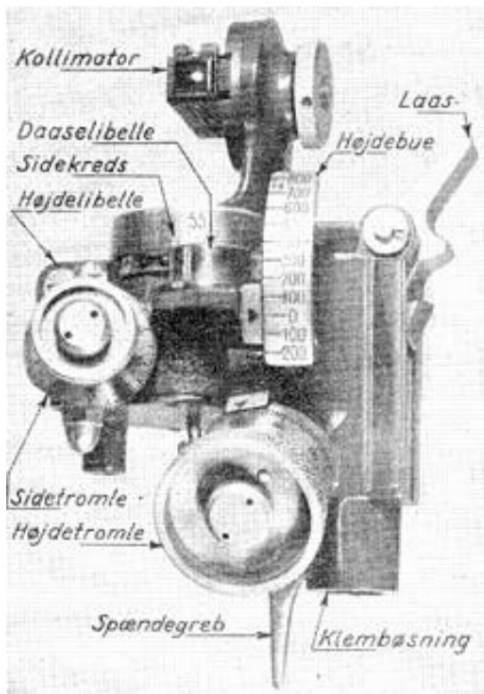
The ammunition is carried in ammunition boxes, each containing 3 complete rounds.

The pictures of the ammunition are from Source 2.

| Ld. | | | X max. m | Begyndelses- hastighed m/Sek. |
|-----|----------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 0 | Ladningspatron | | 495 | 70 |
| 1 | — | + 1 Tillægselement | 970 | 100 |
| 2 | — | + 2 — | 1375 | 127 |
| 3 | — | + 3 — | 1865 | 149 |
| 4 | — | + 4 — | 2260 | 170 |
| 5 | — | + 5 — | 2590 | 184 |
| 6 | — | + 6 — | 2850 | 198 |

Ballistic information about the mortar.

From Source 3.



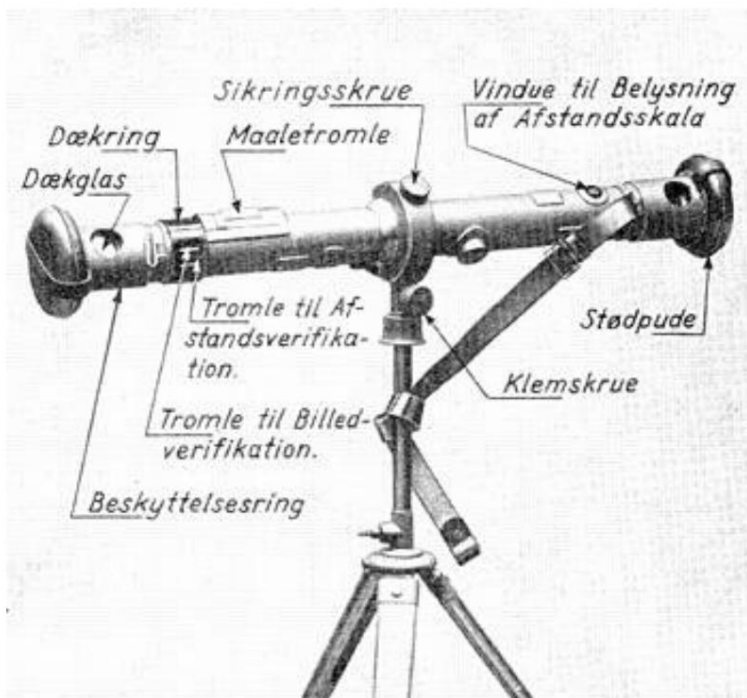
Courts M.1931. From Source 2.

Means of orientation

The mortar can be attached to the mortar (see the above picture of the mortar) or to a straightening stand as shown in the machine gun division's *Retter M.1930* in Part 2. The stand for the mortar is assumed to be similar to

In the mortar group, the mortar gunner carries 1 dish; the protractor in the dividing strap also carries 1 dish and associated stand.

Distance meter



Distance meter M.1915.
From Source 2.

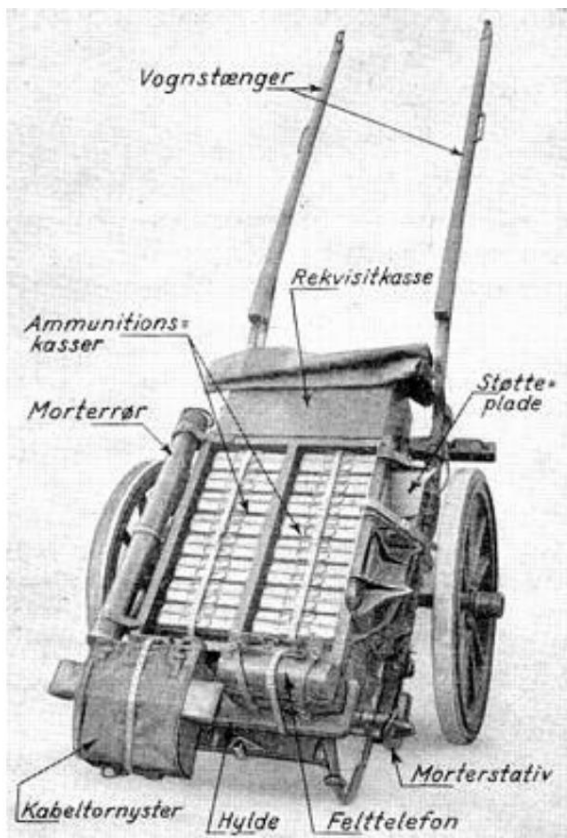


Distance meter M.1915.

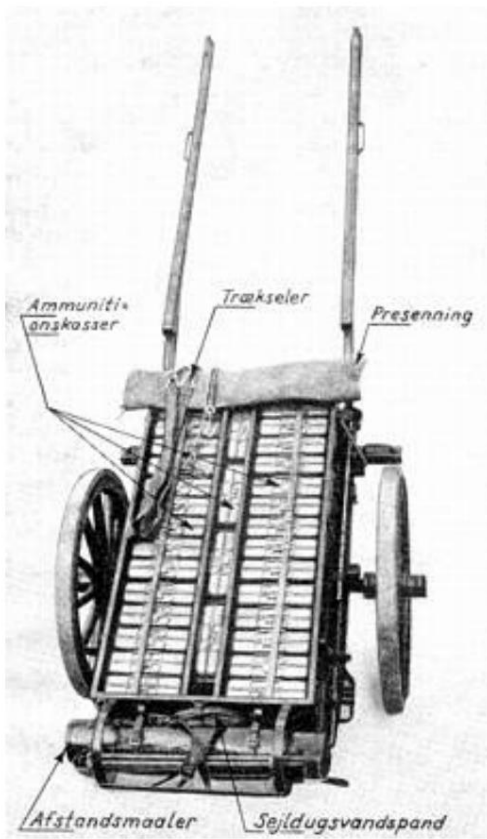
From Source 8.

On the left side of the range finder is the guide for the range finder.

81 mm cart material M.1931



Morterkarre M.1931



Grenade Karre M.1931

The mortar group's tank equipment consisted of *Mortar tank M.1931* and *Grenade tank M.1931*. The images are from Source 2.

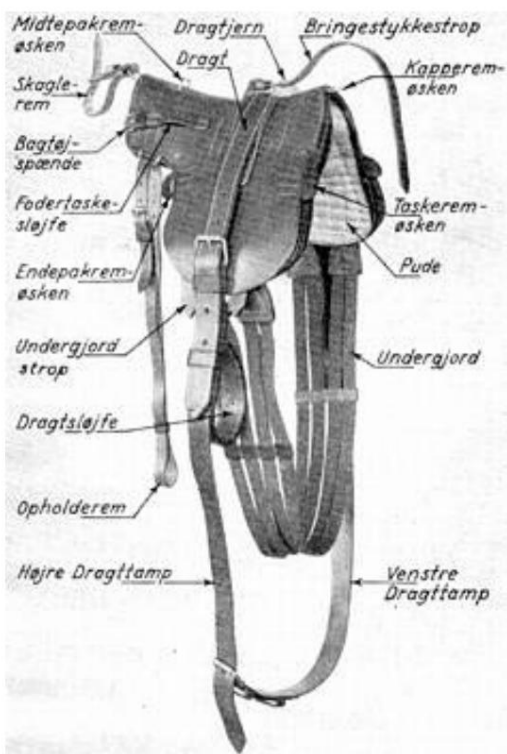
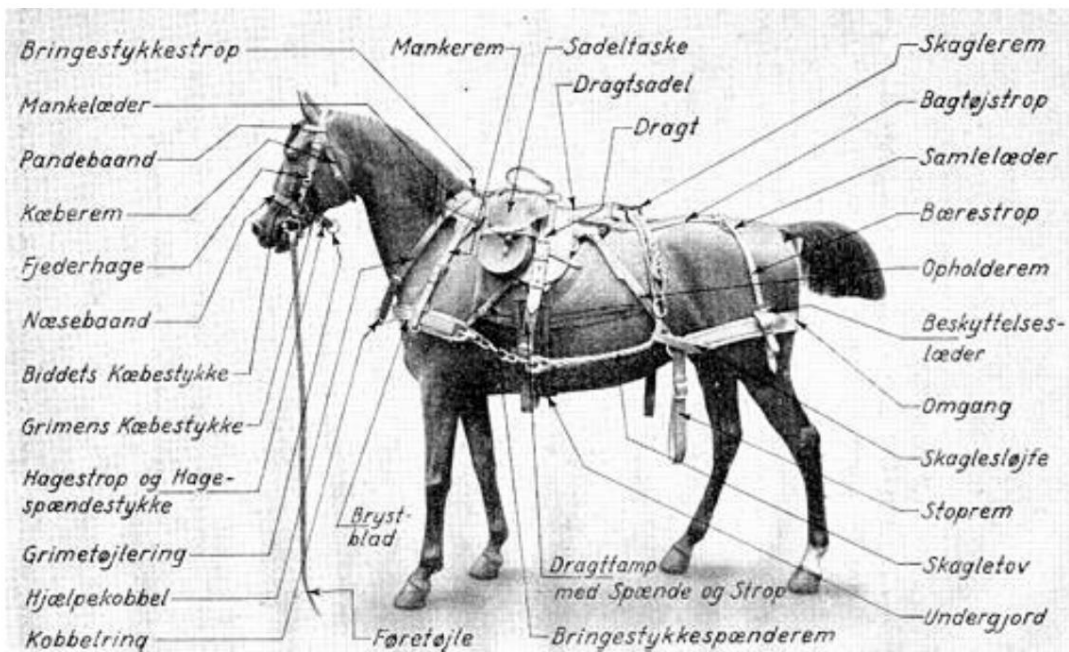
In the mortar tank's prop box, the following are transported: dishes, dish stand, gunner's bag, helper's bag and slings.

Under the vessels are carried: 2 drawbars (1 spare drawbar) for the crew and 4 directional sticks.

The carts are additionally equipped with spades, axes and picks.

Each tub comes with 4 wooden braces.

| | Dimensions etc. | Width | Height | Length | Weight - unpacked | Weight - packed |
|---------------------|------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| M.1931 | 1.52 m | 1.00 m | 4.46 m | 300 kg | | |
| Grenade cart M.1931 | 1.52 m | 1.00 m | 4.06 m | 285 kg | 702 kg | |



Horse equipment and accessories for 81 mm tank equipment M.1931.

From Source 2.

Handgun

In the mortar groups, all are equipped with infantry carbine M.1889. In the platoon, everyone is equipped with rifle M.1889 - second-in-command, range finder and angle finder, however, with an infantry carbine.

The platoon leader has pistol M.1910/21, incl. 25 cartridges.

Formations etc



Mortiergruppe, i marchkolonne.
From Source 4.



Mortar group, in marching column. Lifeguard, 1932.
From Source 6.

The mortar group is divided into a mortar team (at the front, with the mortar cart) and an ammunition team (with the ammunition cart).



Mortar group, in line.
From Source 4.



Mortar force on the march.
From Source 5.



A grenade launcher forces a hill. Lifeguard, 1932.
From Source 6.

The picture shows how the crew prevent the vessel from tipping over with the help of the tow straps.



A mortar truck is moved by manpower, Livgarden, 1932.
From Source 6.

The cart horse is unhooked (stands on the road),
after which the mortar cart is moved with the help of the crew, who
have taken one of the drawbars into use.

Ready for battle



Mortar squad leader.
From Source 1.



Mortar squad leader.
From Source 1.

The mortar group includes...
Following...

Group leader
Dishes, in a bag

Mortar shooting
Mortar tube, shoulder leather, shooting bag and extension

Assistant 1
Stand, helper bag, mop stick and 3 directional pegs

Helps 2
Support plate and 1 direction stick.

Assistant 3
Dish stand with guide, 3 directional pegs and 2 directional sticks

Supplies 1, 2, 3 and 4 2
(or on further order more) boxes of 3 grenades and charge ammunition

The platoon includes...
Following...

Remote stager
Range finder with stand, but without guide

Angle taker
Dishes, dish rack with guide and 2 direction sticks

Ordonnan's
1 magazine bag with 8 hand grenades

Team leader/telephone team and Telephonist 1
Landline phone

Operator 2 and 3
Cable towers and 2 red and 2 white signal flags (spare for telephone equipment)



Mortar group in position.
From Source 7.

Tactical use

Under normal conditions, a single mortar can be expected to be ready to fire against a target approx. 10 minutes after moving into the shooting position.

When estimating the time it takes to obtain mortar support in a given situation, time for advancing to the position, time for establishing targets, reconnaissance and issuing orders must be added.



Mortar group in position.
Fra paperback of the army of Kurt Passow, JF Lehman
Verlag, Munich / Berlin, 1939.

If a single mortar is to change targets within its full range of lateral direction, it must be expected to take a few minutes.

If the mortar's setup is to be changed, the target change must be expected to take the same time as taking up the position.



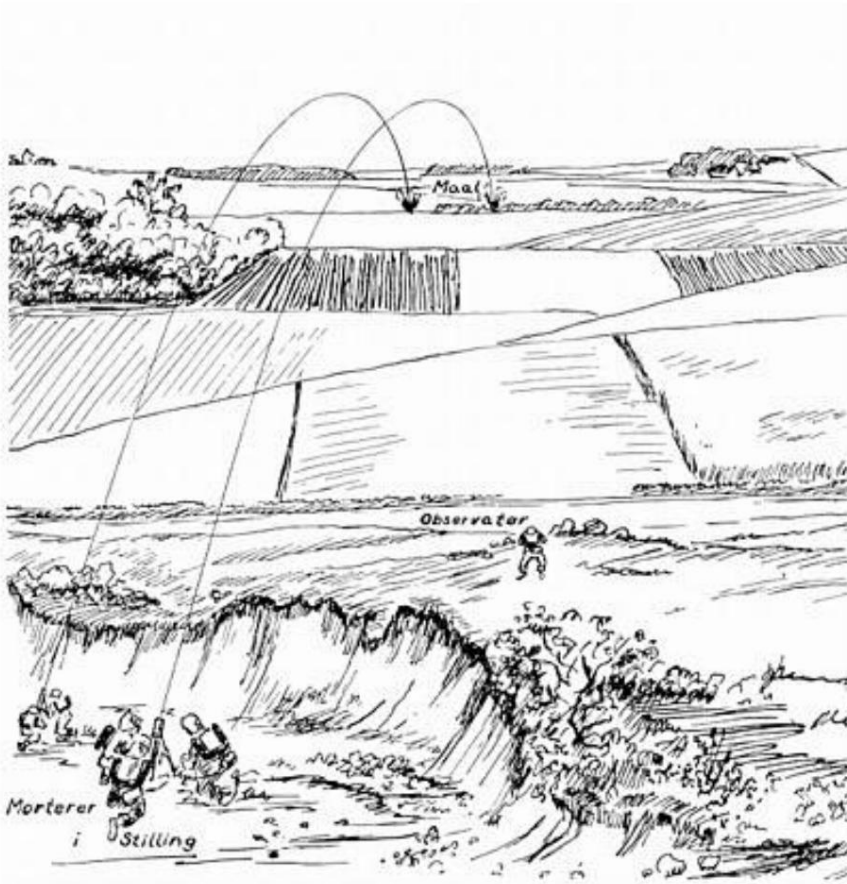
Mortar group. Lifeguard, 1932.

From Source 6.

Standing: The group leader.

Kneeling: Mortar gunner and helper.

Lying: Helps and supplies.



Mortars in position.

From Source 5.

The mortar uses only semi-concealed and concealed firing. The orientation is carried out in both cases according to the same indirect orientation method.

Shooting tasks are usually solved by an engagement, where the target is brought into the fork in side and length, with subsequent effect shooting, which includes the methods of fire: point fire, sweep fire, jump fire and flat fire.

Preparation of a fire concentration (flat fire) with 2-6 mortars, including taking up a position (minus advance time), orientation, calculation and firing of each individual mortar can be expected to take from ½-1 hour.

A prepared shot can be fired immediately when the mortar is aimed at the target.

Sources

1. *Textbook for Infantry Corporal Schools - Equipment and Train*, Ministry of War, Copenhagen 1941.
2. *Textbook for Infantry Corporal Schools - Weapons*, Ministry of War, Copenhagen 1938.
3. *Memory book for use in the field, during exercises and war games* by HH Jørgensen, N. Olaf Møllers Forlag, Copenhagen 1936.
4. *Denmark's Army, Volumes I and II* under the editorship of Captain Hector Boeck, Captain SE Johnstad-Møller and Captain Lieutenant CV Hjalp, Society for the publication of cultural writings, Copenhagen 1934-1935.
5. *The Defense Book* by Colonel T. Andersen, Gyldendal, Copenhagen 1941.
6. *The Life Guard 1908-1933* by Th. Thaulow, H.Hagerups Forlag, Copenhagen 1933.
7. *Textbook for the Privates of the Army, Part 1*, Temporary edition, Copenhagen 1946.
8. *Shooting Regulations for Small Arms, Part 1*, Ministry of War, Copenhagen 1932.

Per Finsted