# About Danish infantry 1950-1951 -The infantry battalion

## Introduction

The illustrations shown here come from a red booklet in A5 format called "Orientation and guidance regarding the composition of the infantry battalion and light weapons". The booklet was published by the General Command for use in "Retraining 1951", as stated on the cover.

These retraining activities were to update the army's line and reserve personnel to the norms and standards that became applicable in connection with the reconstruction of the army, especially from the Army Regulation 1950-51.

The majority of the officers and commanders were trained in the 1930s and up to 29 August 1943, just as several had experience from the resistance movement, the Danish Brigade in Sweden and from service in allied units. Added to this was service in the army that was reestablished from May 1945, including the Danish Brigade in Germany, which was established in the summer of 1947.

All in all, a motley crowd that had to learn to master the new organization and the new equipment that came in connection with the American arms aid, which with the Army Order 1950-51 gave the army a modern and more up-to-date look.

#### The division of the booklet

The booklet contains two instructive drawings, which with their simple lines - and with telling drawings of the characteristics of the staff functions in particular - are a school example of how a subject such as organization, perceived by many as dry and boring, can be presented in an instructive way.

In addition to naturally fulfilling its purpose, the charts are generally useful in understanding how a military organization is structured.

#### The light weapons

The booklet's section on the light weapons contains a brief review of:

- Rifle M/50
- Light machine gun M/48
- Submachine gun M/49
- Pistol M/49
- Rifle grenade PM/49 (Energa).

### Closing

The designation *fodfolk* was retained until the beginning of 1960, when the more international-sounding designation *infantry* was used.

Seen directly in relation to our hobby, information about organization and weapons is particularly useful in connection with the Danish-made Reisler figures, which precisely show Danish soldiers as they looked in the early 1950s.

## Referrals

- 1. Danish infantry uniforms and equipment over the last 200 years by AN Hvidt, approx. 1960.
- 2. Reisler figures About Reisler's soldier series.
- 3. Reisler figures Machine gunner.

#### Per Finsted

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