

# Here come the Danish soldiers!

## Introduction

As an apropos to my articles about the Danish army in the 1930s, here follows a reproduction of an article in Billedbladet, no. 52, from 29 December 1942, with photographs by Inga Aistrup.

Unfortunately, the architect and his son are not named, but it is mentioned that each soldier was made to order by an unemployed craftsman in Copenhagen.

## Here come the Danish soldiers

His parents were against war toys, but he himself was for it. All the savings were spent on soldiers, and his father the architect suddenly became a boy again with him.

But the two playful generations are not ordinary "tin soldier jokers", because his father is something of a military force, and no cannon, no soldier and no listening post are incorrectly lined up in the large, often thousands of battle formations or maneuvers that they construct together in self-built dwarf landscapes.

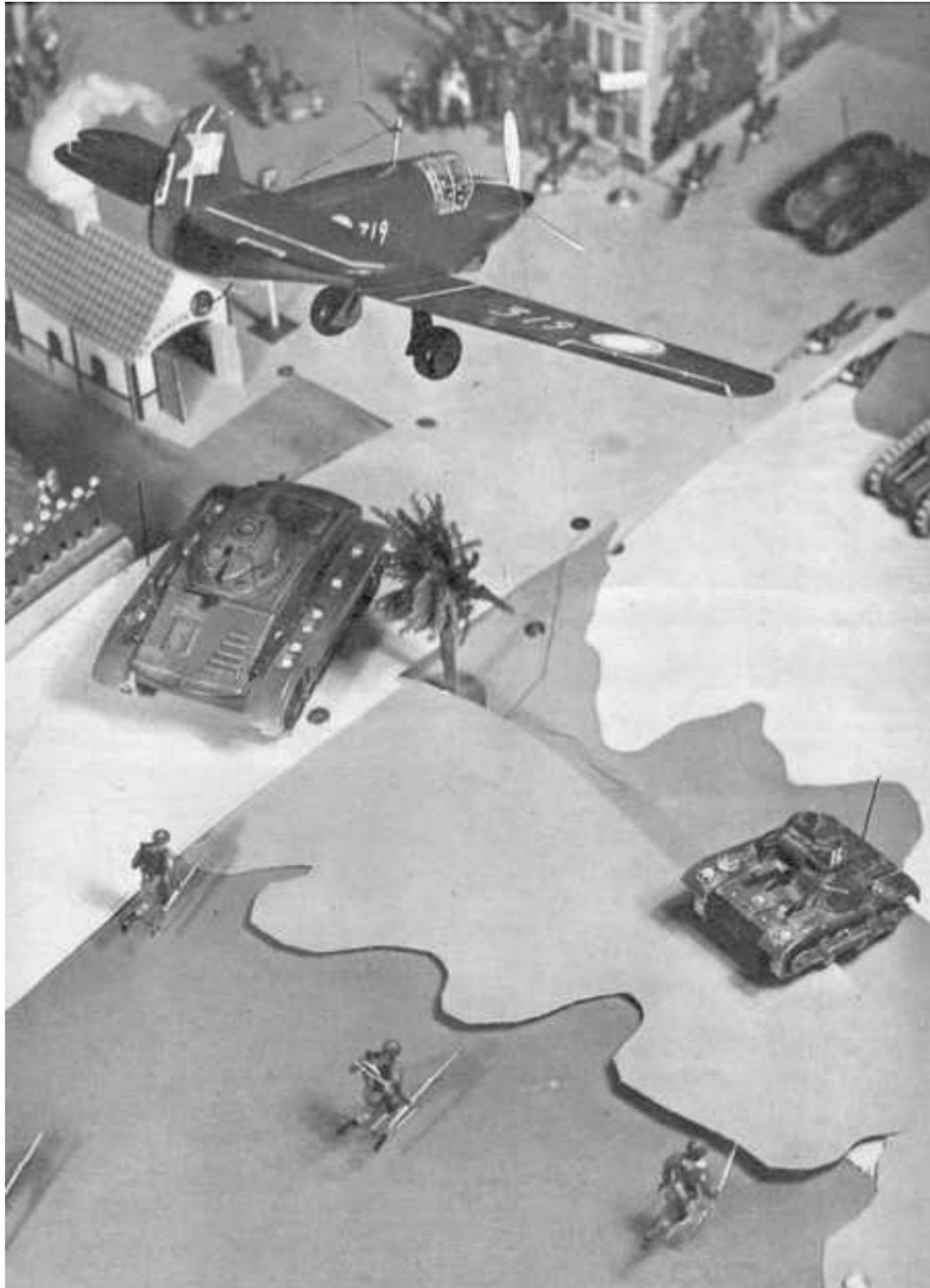
The picture shows here the magnificent situation picture of father and son of a Danish harvest manoeuvre, for the visit of His Majesty the King.



The attack comes from the Donner Bakkerne (left) towards Rønneby (right). The infantry reserve, covered by anti-aircraft fire, advances across Rind Å, which empties into the fjord (where father and son sit).

In the background, the King pays the General Staff a visit to a barracks, recoilless riflemen advance into position on Brage Hede, from the Donner Hills the heavy artillery fires at the enemy in Rønneby... see next picture... and his reconnaissance columns must withdraw from the town past the church in the background while advancing

infantry, supported by tanks and aviators, occupy the houses.



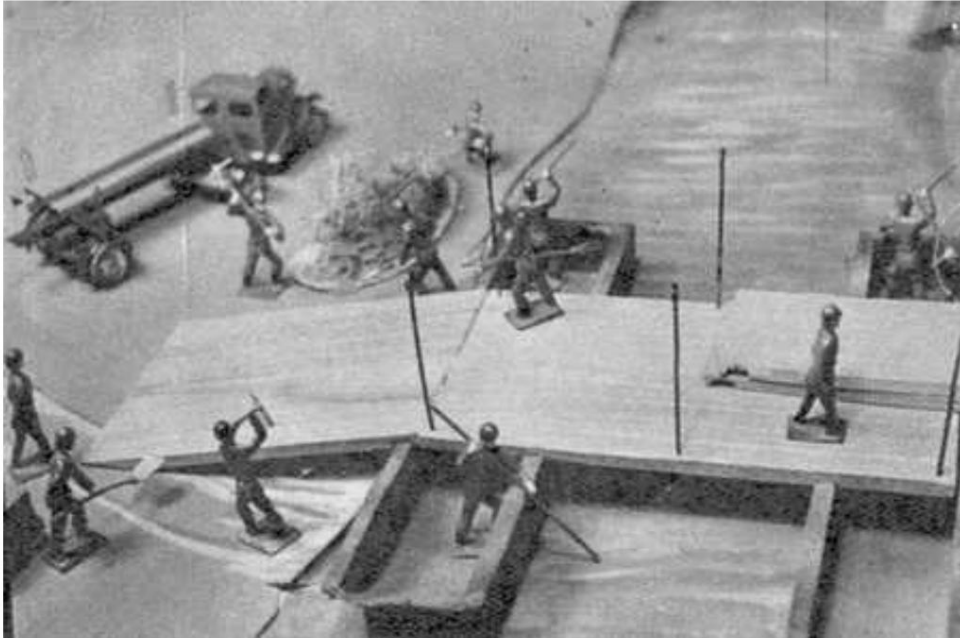


A recoilless rifle group has gone to attack just off the bridge which has been passed by light artillery. The battalion commander, followed by the adjutant, rides behind the front line.

### Comment

The recoilless rifle group appears to be covering the engineer troops' bridging, while what the journalist describes as light artillery is probably more like a 37mm infantry cannon.

Incidentally, the cannon appears to be Lineol's 3.7 cm anti-tank cannon for the series of 4 cm figures.



*Another detail situation:* Engineer troops have arrived with material wagons, filled with beams and flakes, which they use for the new floating bridge.

### Comment

Considering the pontoon material, it is probably more of a field bridge than a floating bridge.

The pontoon bridge is of Danish manufacture - I once saw a bridge in the original box, but I don't remember

the make - but it resembles similar material from Hausser-Elastolin. The truck appears to be from the English manufacturer Tri-ang, who in the 1930s produced a large series of tin cars.

After the publication of this article, new information has come to light about the field bridge.

## Closing

If you look more closely at the pictures, many of the figures appear to be either Heyde figures or casts thereof. The heavy artillery as well as the anti-aircraft gun, listening device and proofreader shown in the first picture of the paper are from Britains. Similarly, the image also shows a Britains ambulance and a staff van, while the gun tractors have a past as Falck cars, from Tekno's range of emergency vehicles, which were produced from sometime in the 1930s to sometime in the 1950s.

In the large picture you can see at least one Gama tank (Pz I) as well as examples of the good unemployed craftsman's model work. The storming figures must be of his own design; note the detail with the spare horn blower horn at the back of the turret..

If anyone knows the names of the architect (who was probably a reserve officer) or his son, I would like to hear about it.

That must have been an impressive collection!!

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