

# Memoirs of a young cavalry officer from the campaign of 1813, part II

## The purge of officers in the Funen Light Dragoons

October 10th became a "Thyge Brahe's day" for the inept officers of the regiment, as a great purge took place.

It was, as it is said in *"Messages from the War Archives"*, radical and clearly showed that the "gentle" Frederick of Hesse did not shy away from taking responsibility when it was necessary, and that he did not want to find himself lax leadership.



*Holstein Regiment Riders.*

With the exception of the only temporary regimental commander and the regiment's second-in-command, whom the prince saw fit to leave standing for the time being, most senior officers in the regiment were removed.

For premier major of the regiment, the King chose *"the one"*, as the prince expresses himself, *"very competent and precisely useful for the improvement of the regiment, valiant Major Høegh-Guldberg"*. Furthermore, the second lieutenants F. Count Moltke of the Life Regiment of Riders and P. Bardenfleth, adjutant to Prince Christian of Hesse and brother of the Auxiliarkorps chief of staff, both as squadron commanders, and Sonnichsen of the Life Regiment Light Dragoons, who had so far served in an excellent manner with the Holstein Hussar Division [1](#)). Finally, second lieutenant of the Jyske Light Dragoons GT Wiggers, who had recently distinguished himself so much, was transferred to the regiment a few days later. With this officer crew, the Fynske Regiment Light Dragoons were excellent helpers, and it wasn't long before the regiment -

both on and off the battlefield - proved to be his famous Jutland worthy suitor.

On 26 October, the regiment's temporary commander, von H., was appointed commander of the Holstein Regiment Ryttere, due to the death of the regimental commander.

Wind mentions the departed officers and makes apt if unflattering remarks about each. If one of them is called e.g. that he: *"united all the qualities that belong to make a man amiable and dangerous to the ladies, which he was also to a great extent and used: handsome, though not of a manly appearance, brilliantly dressed, rode well and well, kept good horses, was moreover very educated, and a poet as well as a musician; but on the other hand he lacked everything that makes a true soldier - for he had no courage.*

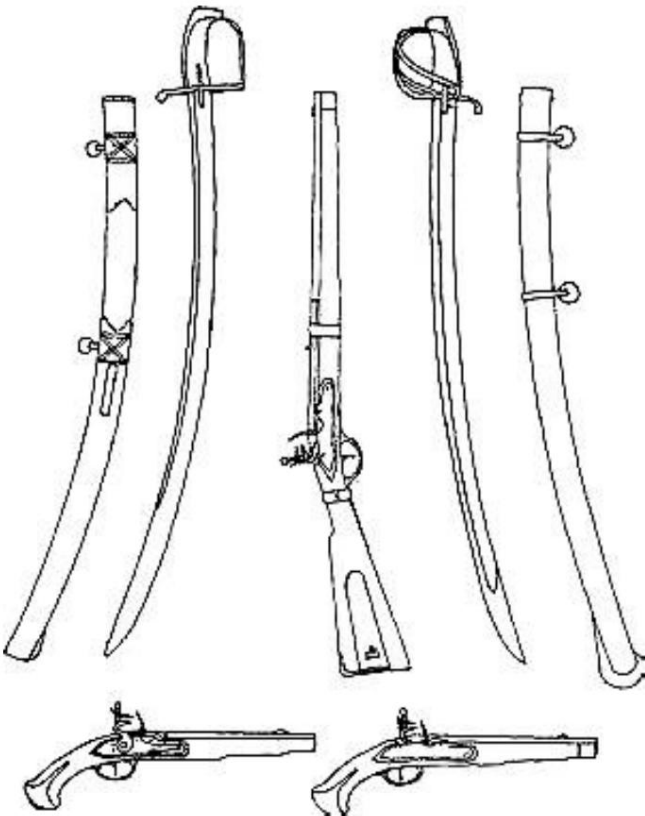
*He therefore unreservedly declared that it was impossible for him to follow the regiment, and before marching) from Zealand would have applied for his leave, if none of his friends had prevented it.*

*During the whole march through the duchies he spoke only of retiring, and already the first times the regiment advanced against the enemy, he reported himself ill and then really sought his leave, which he also obtained; and he now returned without delay to Odense, where mobs and boys publicly insulted him; for he was a philosopher.*

*He now lived quite quietly and as always to himself for many years in one of Odense's small streets, occupied only with reading and horses and inherited a fideicommis of 6000 Rd. per year, which, however, did not help the finances much, as he spent everything on horse trading.*

*Some sixty years old, and always as healthy, amiable, and youthful, he married a young girl."*

Another of the departed officers was a drunkard and a coward,—a third also liked the bottle, but did not lack personal courage. A fourth later became a talented painter. He was of an honorable way of thinking, but was not born with a military spirit,



*Dragon weapon.*

*"All these dismissals again resulted in promotions, and among others, the regimental adjutant*

lieutenant von Schultz, whose post became my share, appointed master of the ring, and (he) thereby already got 1815 squadron, which is a rare case here in Denmark.

After all this purification, efforts were made to restore the lapsed service and the bad spirit prevailing in the regiment, which, even after a short period of time, the persevering efforts of all the officers succeeded.

The regiment was quartered after the weather in October had turned abominable at the village of Schmielau, 174 miles from Ratzeborg, which was especially beneficial to the horses, who now had shelter. Almost half of these had, as stated, been brought to Ottensee, and a large number of dragoons were in the Franco-Danish hospital in Hamburg.

The armature, in itself poor, was, for want of due inspection, completely dilapidated, and I remembered that several dragoons were with me on field guard, some without locks for their pistols, others without cartridges, and still others, who, however, had cartridges, without loaded pistols or carbines, so pitiful had been the inspection of the various squadrons before the departure of the field guards.

When I became a regimental adjutant, I submitted a report on the pitiful condition of this armature and it was also partially remedied by the distribution of new armature cases by the Frederiksværkske Fabrik, but therefore they were not good, many even completely useless, so the fellow had no confidence in his arms.

On October 12, I was transferred from Schmielau to Fredeburg, a "Vorwerk" on the highway between Liibeck and Mölln. Here was the regimental staff. Fredeburg belonged to the Prince of Moskwa, who was the French Marshal Ney.

Now I was freed from the field guards, but had a lot of writing and other matters to take care of, especially since the colonel didn't take care of the slightest thing. He was almost always half asleep. The young Premier Major Høegh-Guldberg was a very difficult man to command, a kind of roaring lion, but I strove to familiarize myself with the adjutantship and the regulations, did not say many words, and we got on quite well together. . On this day, I turned 19. We had a very strong thunderstorm."

## Fencing



Colonel Engelsted in camp with Cossacks.

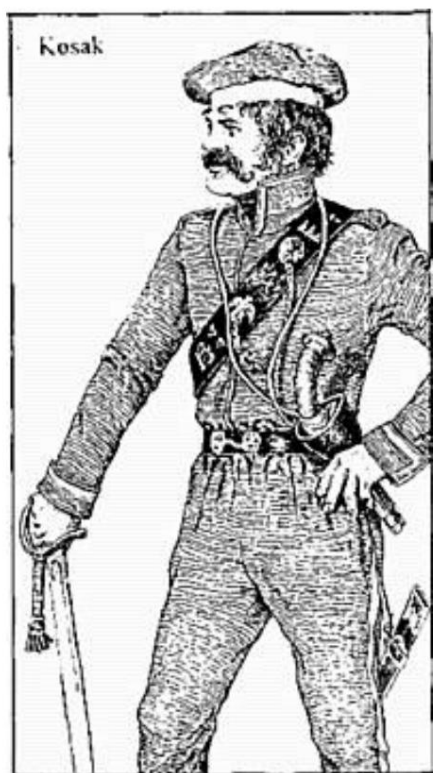
The newly appointed Major Høegh-Guldberg was an excellent officer. He and Colonel Niels Engelsted excelled, among other things. on 12 October in the cavalry duel at Rosengarten [2](#), where the enemy was thrown. A number of prisoners were taken, but some unmounted Cossacks, who could not be brought along, were unfortunately mercilessly cut down, as our horsemen had to return in haste. It was a stain on Engelsted's Jyske Light Dragoon Regiment, which, by the way, always showed a brave and excellent attitude.

General Vichery, who was in command at Rosengarten, spoke in high tones of their excellent relations on every occasion.

*"Prince Eckmühl's provision was over the Kogel to go towards Zarrentin, which Vichery was to do at the same time over Mølln, but instead of, as we so much desired, going forward, it remained by deployment.*

*The enemy was cannonaded at a distance and retreated to Seedorff, we went back to camp. Had Davoust carried out his plan, it might have been difficult enough for the Russians to get away safely."*

Now followed the reconnaissance at Valluhn and Zarrentin.



*"On October 18, the Danish-French corps [3](#) marched out early in the morning to reconnoitre, commanded by the French general Romme. In the woods on both sides of Kogel-Vejrmølle, however, a strong enemy cavalry patrol had taken cover or in ambush, and when the general, accompanied only by some orderlies from the Funen Dragoons, Master Sonnichsen of the same regiment, and a few French adjutants, went too far in advance, they were suddenly ambushed by the enemy.*

*The general had to cut his way through. Ritmester Sonnichsen lost - for the fourth time - his helmet and thought it was over for him when a shot down dragoon horse crashed right in front of him, but this was his salvation, because his horse jumped over while the enemy hussar crashed, Ritmester C. 4) was again in front with the squadron. General Romme called out to him: "en avant dragon, en avant monsieur," but he lost his head at the sight of the disbanded enemy, who was, however, only 50 men strong, and went about with his squadron. Later he claimed that the general had called out to him: "with the 4th right around"!*

*Just think that a French general should command "with four - right around"!*

*And such an officer continued to serve, was not discarded - indeed he was even made a major in the Jutland Dragon Regiment!*

*During the retreat, several dragoons 5) burst out of the squadron, as if to avenge the tort which the horse-master's malconduite had inflicted on them, and for their own pleasure cut in on the Goltz Hussars, of whom they captured 2 men, of whom it is seen, what turn it would have taken and how good the Danish soldier is when the captain is tough. We were all indignant at the behavior of the riding master, but what good did it do.*

*While this was going on at the avantguard - and which no one knew about until later - Lieutenant von Levezow, who spoke very little French, was ordered to be an orderly officer with General Romme and meant to ride to the Kogeler-Vejrmølle, where the general was riding there. Unfortunately he met no one who could inform him of its passing, but rather the enemy troop, to whom he had to surrender himself as a prisoner.*

*Among the enemy officers there was also one, a Dane by birth, a certain von Bergen from Helsingør. This was another traitor we had against us, for at Zarrentin and elsewhere the 3rd squadron Hanseater was commanded by a master of the horse A. Sehested, son of Major Sehested til Nordskov in Funen, who previously - in 1809 - was an officer in the king's service, but because of an unpleasant story had to say goodbye and leave Denmark.*

*He was now employed in one of King Hieronymus (Jerome) of Westphalia's cuirassier regiments, with which he made the campaign to Moskwa and the retreat from there in the winter of 1812-1813. Like many others, he went over to the Allies and was thus given a first lieutenant's, and as far as I know, eventually a squadron commander's place at the converging Hanseaters. More on this man elsewhere.*

*In addition to Lieutenant Lewtzow, the French adjutant Lafayette was also captured, and Prince Eckmühl, when he learned of Romme's imprudence, is said to have given him a severe rebuke in the hearing of everyone.*

*A Norwegian officer named Muller, who served with the regiment, was on field duty at Kogel, where he was attacked by 2 squadrons. Instead of retreating to the picket and entrenchments, he made a desperate charge with his little mob, and would certainly have been routed, had not the relief fortunately arrived at the same time.*

*The game was not even even, and we lost 2 hussars and 4 dragoons. The enemy's losses were greater, and one must wonder that he would use two squadrons to attack a field guard, but it was expected that it was a reconnaissance party, which had no intention of attacking at all, for as far as I now recall, it was Lieut. Muller, who rushed at them first.*

*Of course he received, and had to receive, a reprimand for this reckless act of audacity, but on the other hand, only a healthy fellow can do such a thing. Too bad he left us so soon and went back to Norway."*



*Cossack under foraging.*

During this time, defectors came to the Auxiliary Corps almost daily, especially from the Prussian regiment of black hussars, "Count Dohna". In the end, the regiment had to be disbanded for that reason. Davoust states that it consisted mostly of French prisoners who had been forced to serve in the army under threat of sending them to Siberia, which explains their defection. Wind writes:

*"At night, 2 black hussars came and burst through the wood chain, ignoring its calls and fire. They reported as deserters and pretended to be (being) pursued. The next day, 8 men of the same regiment came, 2 Tyrolean hunters and 2 Hanoverians.*

*At Lübeck, a Major von Schill - brother of the partisan - was captured (November 10) by a young Polish Ulan officer. This Schill Hussar regiment was still very hostile to us Danes from that time on. It was this regiment which attacked and cut down the Wedell squadron at Lübeck.*

*On 8 November, 2 battalions of the Funen Infantry Regiment, 50 Hussars and 50 Funen Dragoons marched out to pick up some geographical maps, which were supposed to be (were) at the Gross-Zeher manor at Schall See. Although adjutant to the regiment, I was allowed on request to join this party.*

*At the long avenue in the forest, riding master Sonnichsen, who led the dragoon vanguard, encountered the enemy's vedettes. The enemy, who stood at Marienstädt, were immediately on their feet, and a moment later we were engaged on the whole line.*

*The fire from the hedges was very strong on both sides, but we only lost 1 dragoon and 2 horses. Of the enemy, I saw several lying dead on the field, for which they could thank the Funen Infantry.*

*I saw an enemy hunter approaching from behind a fence, and immediately drew the attention of a dragoon rifleman standing in the avenue. He watched the moment so well that as the hunter jumped over the ditch he also had the dragoon's bullet in his waist, so he fell forward into it, towards us. He was quite dead and*

shot through the stomach. The dragoon got off his horse, and took his tobacco pipe and a silver watch out of his pocket.

After finally being finished, Captain Steffens from Gross Zecher came with the famous maps, and we retreated back from whence we had come, under idle glare.

An enemy cavalry officer on a mold was here again, as on every occasion, the first. All the shots were aimed at him, but it was not yet known that he had once received a wound.

The Funen Infantry Regiment carried out everything with great order and calmness. Such an exercise in fire is not out of the way for the crew. Obersten, R 6)...., a very large, fat garrison colonel, not known to have much sense, was quite put out of command by Major Høegh-Guldberg and - let it be.

On returning to Schmielau, it was said that the bridge to Ratzeborg was wrapped in straw and smeared with Tar, etc., which indicated that we had now been here for the longest time !"

### **From the Ratzeborg position, the Auxiliary Corps moves back to the Stecknitz position**

Map of Holstein. See the end of the article

In 1813, Emperor Napoleon stood alone - or, so to speak, alone in the fight against the Allies. Only the king of Denmark held on to him. Even before the intelligence about the outcome of the Battle of Leipzig (17 - 19 October) had reached Copenhagen, Frederik VI had declared war on Russia and Prussia on 21 October.

A treaty was concluded with France for protection, but Napoleon was now unable to protect his own country, let alone that of others. However, the king did not think of abandoning Napoleon's cause, on the contrary, he still looked admiringly, even touchingly, to the French emperor as the savior, whose power and genius should overcome all difficulties.

However, this confidence in the genius was not shared by our ally, Marshal Davoust, who had only received official confirmation on the 11th of November that Napoleon had arrived at Mainz on the 1st of the same month with the remnants of his army, the Emperor thought that Davoust should either put a strong garrison in Hamburg, and with the rest of the army go to Holland — or, if that was not possible, go to Hamburg with his whole corps.

As we shall see, Davoust had to choose the latter in the end - and let the Danish Auxiliary Corps fend for itself. For the time being, it had to go back from the Ratzeborg position, where part of the force had been in a hut camp, partly built of spruce logs, partly buried in the ground.

Prince Frederik of Hesse had managed to maintain excellent discipline in the Auxiliary Corps, which was able to perform fully warlike, despite the fact that the lack of money had made itself felt to such an extent that the troops both suffered from hunger and were poorly clothed.

Subsistence could not usually be obtained in the areas one was in. There was no food to be had, and the equipment was so poor that one saw soldiers appearing in canvas trousers 7).

The corps was not significantly reinforced either, although it had to return across the southern border. It did not count 10,000 men, of which even a quarter were sick.

On 13 November, the Auxiliary Corps now went back to the Lübeck-Mølln position or the so-called Stecknitz position. The return march was long and difficult, and the rainy autumn had made the roads bottomless.

Davoust withdrew closer to Hamburg, but maintained constant contact with the Auxiliary Corps. The enemy did not immediately follow this, but soon his reconnaissance patrols were felt, and the Cossacks showed themselves very close.

Lieutenant Wind reports on the breakout from the Ratzeborg position, which began on the night between 12 and 13 November:

*"On the march we saw both the Franco-Danish camp and the aforementioned bridge in flames, which was an impressive sight in the dark November night. Two hours later the enemy was in Schmielau.*

*Our infantry went over the paper mill, where the bridge was thrown away. At the mill the French burned their camp, but left a few battalions behind, who made a bad tackle on the carelessly approaching enemy. Everything that was Danish now retreated behind Stecknitz and to Lübeck with the exception of the Jutland Dragoon Regiment, which went with Vichery to Hamburg.*

*Our first march was over Cronsforde by Liibeck to Krumesserhof, a manor house at Stecknitz. All the city's bridges and passages were entrenched.*

*Prince Frederik took up his quarters at Rothenhaus, but a few days later moved to Lübeck.*

*At the Krumesserhof, where a multitude of officers spent the evening and night, things went on merrily, although we knew that since things had gone wrong for our allies, the French, in Germany, there was no great luck waiting for us either, and that we would soon be left to ourselves.*

*On the 14th of November [8](#)) the regiment came to the castle of Rondshagen, which belongs to a Hammerstein, but it was not inhabited, as everything had been carried away from there. We therefore arranged ourselves as best we could, and despite the magnificent rooms, it was not much better than in the camp. Our bed was straw, and our candlesticks hollowed out potatoes, but the henhouse was well supplied, and an ox's head of wine, which we got from the French, made us forget the comforts so unnecessary to a soldier.*

*But unfortunately we now came under Major-General von Lasson's brigade, and we all realized that was not the way to victory and glory. His quarters were at Blesdorff, and every day I had to ride over there in a bottomless road, often for the greatest trifles.*

*In particular, he was a great pedant when it came to lists and the like, and talked about every time he discovered something what a skilled accountant he had been in his time as premier major.*

*At Klein-Berkenthin was an outpost of a squadron and a company of hunters. Küsen, Donnerschleuse and Hollenbeck were also heavily occupied and the bridges broken.*

*So here we lay in good peace, which was interrupted only once, when a Swedish patrol sent the Vedettes some bullets, - went hunting behind the town and assembled every evening, if not for a sumptuous, then cheerful party of comrades, until suddenly marching order came, on the night of the 1st of December, for the crown prince of Sweden was now advancing to conquer Norway in Holstein."*

## **Further retreat**

Bernadotte, who - albeit only lukewarmly - had helped the Allies to put down Napoleon, now demanded his pay, and on 26 November he had obtained the Emperor Alexander's permission to force his will regarding Norway through a campaign against Denmark. To achieve this goal, he had an army of 60 battalions, 78 squadrons, 7 Cossack regiments and 149 guns, a total of 32,800 infantry and 10,300 cavalry.

Bernadotte's campaign plan consisted of enclosing Davoust in Hamburg at the same time that he himself crossed the Elbe north towards Denmark. The crossing of the Elbow took place on 1 December on a bridge he had built at Boitzenburg.

Davoust did not wait for Bernadotte's superior attack, but on the same day began the retreat towards Hamburg, where he was soon hemmed in.



*"December 1. Everything now began to move, and early in the morning the baggage, which we did not get to see until after the peace had ended. The Lauenburg farmers drove it through both duchies and over to Funen, where it was stored at Hundsløv field at Kjerteminde.*

*The archive box, in which my servant's great care had packed my rather unnecessary linen and other things, I did indeed get back, together with the basic books and protocols, but the rest - yes, where was it, I especially missed the linen in Holstein, where my wallet was not in the best constitution.*

*Colonel B's squadron's accounts and some of the regimental quartermaster's were lost on that occasion - which was of great use to them both!*

*At 1. at noon the enemy overran the outposts at Stecknitz, and the enemy's cavalry, though insignificant in strength, crossed the river on the ice.*

*The 3rd squadron now, by order, retreated to Rondeshagen, where the regiment's 4th squadron and a company of grenadiers of the Funen Infantry Regiment remained to cover the retreat.*

*Major Count Moltke, who as always showed much conduct, had a skirmish with the enemy cavalry in and around the town. Some men fell on both sides, and my servant Hans Madsen, who, in addition to the horse he was riding, had one of my hand horses and a pack horse, which was very lazy, by the bridle, was nearly captured when he carelessly rode back to the castle to retrieve some forgotten cases. Some pistol bullets whizzed by his ears, but luckily our flashing chain advanced at the same moment by which they were received.*

*Our quarters for the night were on the main farm Castorff, which now belongs to a Mr. von Schrader, and (which) lies just off the road from Lübeck to Hamburg. The night was very cold, it froze hard and rained.*

*I made a patrol towards the area where I heard firing, and after returning I slept for a few hours myself fourth in the tenant lady's bed.*

*Rondeshagen was once again one of the Danes this night.*

*2nd of December. At dawn we marched on the most terrible roads to Siebenbäumen. It could neither burst nor wear. Several draft horses were left lying down, as well as a couple of steers, which were stubborn. General Lasson ordered me to post 5 field guards - for what use I really don't know, since our determination was not to remain in Siebenbäumen.*

*But it had scarcely happened before we had the rear guard on us under constant fire with the advancing enemy, and the field guards, who had done better in feeding their horses than in riding back and forth, were all engaged.*

*General Lasson, who was no friend of sharpshooting outside the exercise-ground, sat down, leaving the parson's well-covered table at the head of his brigade, and with all he could pull it went across the Boden to Oldesloe.*

*It all looked almost like an escape, but as I was of the opinion that it was not in such a hurry, I first took some of the remains to myself before following.*

*A hussar of the Hanoverian regiment Esdorff 9), who was ordered to take up quarters in Siebenbäumen, and especially with the local priest, was surprised and taken prisoner.*

*Without my absence being noticed, I reached my regiment, which was marching straight through Oldesloe to Fresenburg. On the way we heard the Schulenburg Brigade, marching parallel to us, exchanging fire with the enemy.*

To-day 8 grenadiers and 2 dragoons were taken prisoners in a farmhouse, into which they had thrown themselves -, by 2nd squadrons of Esdorff hussars and 50 Hanseatic Uhlans.

These Ulans were led by AM Sehested, a son of Major Sehested to Nordskov, who, as previously stated, was not ashamed to fight against his fatherland 10). When these prisoners were abused and robbed, he let them each keep a shirt. On this occasion he asked them if they knew the second officers, the Fabricius-Tengnagels, to which they naturally agreed, and (he) then added that they were his maternal uncles, which he should rather have kept quiet about.

This is what a dragoon named Jørgen Eskildsen, who was among these prisoners, told me after his return from captivity on Rugen (JE was with the 2nd squadron of the Funen Light Dragoons) and also in the presence of the warden, Dannebrogsmand Sørensen.

3 patrols were sent out, although Oldesloe was occupied."

## The battle at Boden 11) \_\_\_\_

Map of the area at Boden. See the end of the article

The auxiliary corps thus had to retreat right in the face of the great superiority.

By the fact that our right wing, which felt threatened - although for the time being without compelling necessity - had gone back to Oldesloe, the connection with the French had been lost. To restore it, the Danes tried a thrust which led to the fencing at Boden, on 4 December, which the prince calls "an exceedingly brilliant affair". 2nd Brigade's infantry fought well and so did the cavalry. Our loss was only 22 men.

"December 3. Orders came in from Prince Frederik of Hesse that we should march to where we came from and occupy Boden and Siebenbäumen, which General Lasson had left without orders and without need.

On the same day, Lübeck capitulated and the retreat to Rendsburg began. At noon we first arrived in Boden, which the Funen Infantry Regiment had completely looted. The farmers were gone and all the houses were empty, the chests were broken open and there was almost nothing to be had.

Part of the baggage of this regiment, including several chests of uniforms, of which each dragoon was issued one, and the white breeches were afterwards exchanged for blue. It suited the dragoons very well, thus getting new uniforms instead of old worn ones.

The infantry probably demanded them back later when they heard about it, but no notice was taken of it.

Ritmester Schulz with 40 dragoons reconnoitred; Schleswig Infantry Regiment took Siebenbäumen.

Major Bardenfleth had a screen kill at Trave.

1st (?) December. Heavy fog. At midday it started to come alive in the area, and at 4 we heard full volleys.

The Schleswig Infantry Regiment came back from Siebenbäumen, the alarm was sounded, and everything got up and moved out.

The Funen Dragoons held in half platoon columns outside the town on the right side of the road, behind us the Funen Infantry Regiment, marching up to the right, and then 50 Hussars, commanded by a Master of the Horse Hoffmann.

The Schleswig Infantry Regiment now came in a column on the road facing Boden. We kept next to it with opposite front.

*The Funen Infantry moved forward, throwing its flashers ahead, after however first giving up some volleys at the advancing enemy. Then a live tirailleur fire.*



*The Battle of Boden - Danish shooting chain.*

*The hut had been forgotten to be occupied, and had the major not casually asked if it was, the enemy would easily have been able to cut us off from Oldesloe, but now the Schleswig Infantry Regiment was ordered to occupy the town.*

*I was standing right next to General Lasson. He was as pale as death and - in the truest sense of the word - he was shaking like an aspen leaf. Lieutenant-Colonel B. only got his say again after the fencing.*

*Now the bullets skilfully pinged our ears, and the enemy was not 50 paces from us on either side of the road behind the hedges, where the Funen Infantry held them at bay.*

*All the dragoon officers unanimously asked General Lasson to make an inroad. In order to raise the reputation of the regiment lost by the mean and inept chief officers, we had decided to seize the first opportunity to acquire honor and glory, and scarcely had a "yes" escaped the quivering lips of General Lasson, than with a shrill hurrah we rushed into the defile, where from one house in particular a strong fire received us. Everything in the way was sabered or captured, but also several dragoons and some horses were shot.*

*Just as the charge began - or was about to begin - Lasson orders me to fetch the hussars, which his own adjutant, M. de Willemoes-Sulim, could have done better. I fly back and shout to Hoffmann: "Mr. ritmester, wollen Sie sich anschliessen", but have to repeat it three times, whereupon I turn to his hussars, who had already almost disbanded to join, and now it goes into flying gallops all between each other forward, but a link near the house had halted the dragoons for a short time, and the crowd now became terrible. Well it was that the fog was so strong that we couldn't see each other, otherwise many a good fellow would have fallen.*

*Suddenly it gives air in the front, and everything is now moving forward again.*

*At this minute—while everything was kept in one lump—I had found myself obliged to traverse my horse into a ditch, and unnoticed I was pressed to an opening in the fence, and in the field beyond I glimpsed a number of black figures, who fired at the Funen Infantry's flashers.*

*I now told the sidemen that they should follow, and thinking that this had happened, I rode into the field and was immediately cut off from the aforementioned opening by a group of 3-4 hunters, who fired at me, but without hitting.*

*Looking back, I'm all alone and in the middle of the enemy flash chain, but I turn my horse to get away, chop a hunter over the head so he falls, and fire my duplicate gun at others, but without hitting.*

*This was very wrong, for one must rely on the saber, to seize the pistols is far too much sloppiness.*

*Realizing this at once, I holstered the gun and grabbed the blade again, giving my lovely brown mare a few terrible spurs. Now I was at the opening, where I again got a bullet, but this hunter I both hacked and rode down, whereupon he begged pardon.*

*The sentinel of the 2nd squadron with 4 dragoons now entered through the opening and immediately after a number of dragoons and hussars, and now it was also over with the enemy battalion, "Anhalt-Dessau" 12). —*

*On this couple, 60 hunters were captured. The fact that the dragoons did not follow me in that time was caused by the fact that at that very moment the wind gave way, and involuntarily they had to go forward with the others. But if warden Sørensen doesn't come in time, it could have turned out to be what it was supposed to be. This whole episode lasted about 5 minutes.*

*Warden Sørensen captured 5 hunters, Guldberg, riding master Sønnichen and I each, and the result of this honorable fight was: 3 officers and approximately 100 men prisoners. Of these, Major von Burgsdorff, who commanded the Anhalt-Dessauske hunters, died a few hours later.*

*First lieutenants Baron Gemmingen and von Schleppegrell, both wounded, were exchanged the next day at Oldesloe. (An enemy colonel and over a hundred men fell (from what I heard).*

*The heavy fog and the shock of the Funen Dragoons contributed most to a happy outcome, for the enemy was stronger than we were in infantry, and he had besides a regiment of hussars, 4 guns and 2 howitzers. We, on the other hand, had no artillery (at disposal); but they could not operate the artillery on account of the fog.*

*In a house inside the town lay the wounded Major Burgsdorff, whose eyes had been taken out by a stray shot. He had been brought in here from the bottomless pit, and I covered him with a quilt when he complained of cold—probably the last love service he received in this life. Despite the doctor declaring him mortally wounded, Lasson let him issue a reverse: "not wanting to serve against the Danes"!*

*At night we marched over Retliwisch-Mølle, where we enjoyed some refreshment, and where von Glemmmgen had a bullet cut out of the wound, to Oldesloe. While the surgeon was doing this, the wounded man recited a scene from "Wallenstein," and the two young fair maidens of the house kept the light.*

*The roads were bottomless. The weather horrible. However, we could expect the enemy at any moment (said B.), therefore we had to go forward, or rather go back. General Lasson now began to grow rough again."*

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**To note:**

1. Holstein Hussardetachment. JH Kloppenborg: *"Memoirs of an old soldier"* - Kbh. 1872.
2. Se PI love i Chakoten og V. v. Quistorp: *"History of the Northern Army in 1813"*. Berlin 1894.
3. See PI Liebe: *"Napoleon's Danish Auxiliary Troops"*.
4. Presumably riding master Johan Otto Cappeln, who was transferred to the Jyske Regiment Lette Dragoons on 6.10.

5th Jutland Regiment Light Dragoons

6. Colonel Gaspar Leopold Rieck, Funen Infantry Regiment.

7. Canvas trousers were the infantry's summer clothing.

8. In the memoirs it is wrongly stated "the 9th".

9. Esdorffs Husarregiment, se Osprey Books: *"The Hannoverian Army of the Napolonic Wars"*.

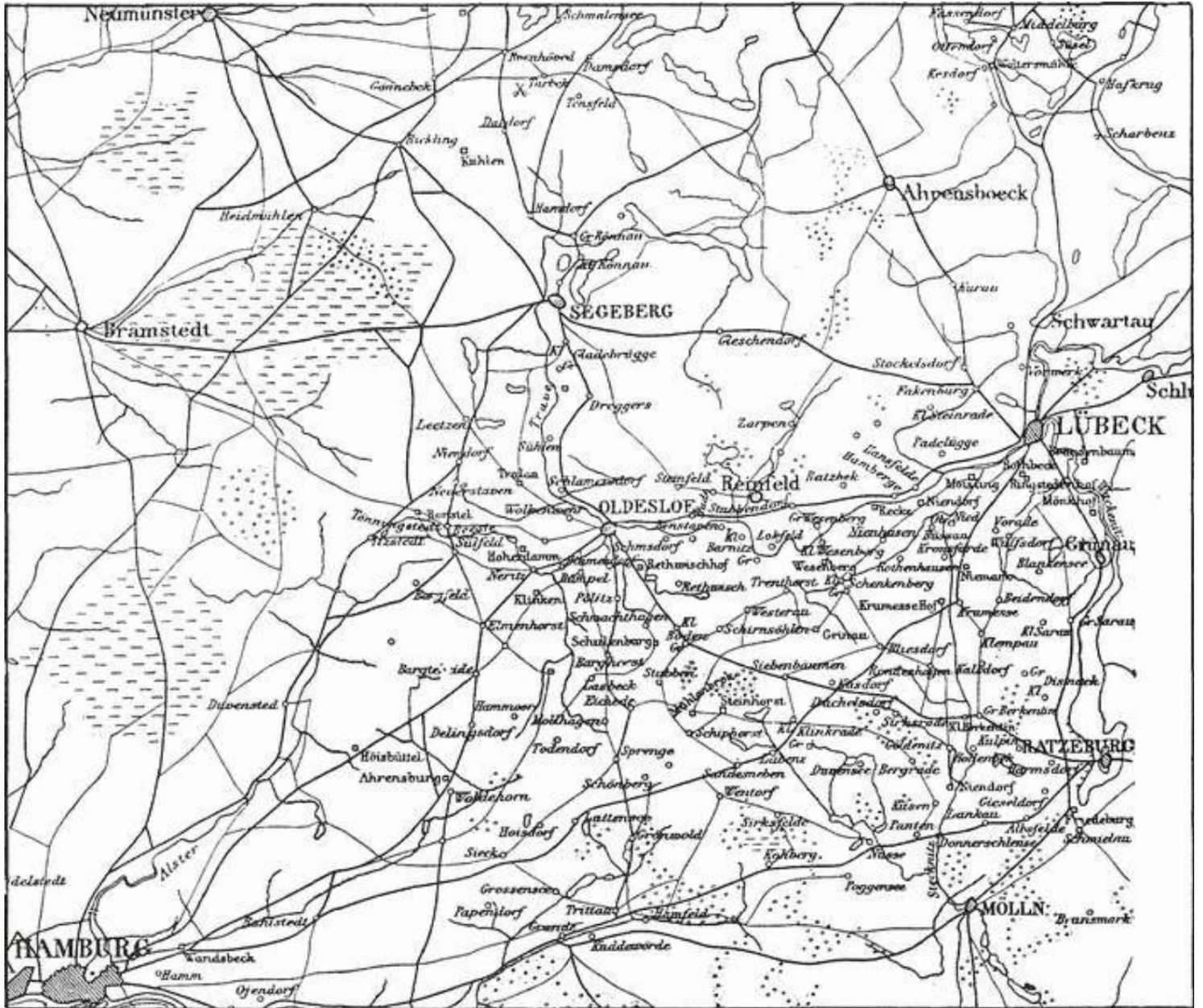
10. Ritmester Andreas Michael Sehested, colloquially Ali, who took part on Napoleon's side in Russia in 1812, but then switched sides. He was quite obsessed with his horses and dogs, and had them buried in a chosen place in the forest close to his manor, Fraugdegård near Odense, Funen.

When the white stallion that had borne him during the battles in Russia and afterwards died of exhaustion, he erected an obelisk on its grave, which is still preserved.

11. See PI Liebe in Chakoten and *"Napoleon's Danish Auxiliary Troops"*.

12. Regarding uniform for Anhalt-Dessau, see Knötel Band VI, no.3. or Chakoten 1994/1 (Anhalt-Dessau Battalion 1813 by Jørgen K. Larsen.)

Map of Holstein



# Map of the area at Boden

