

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

Rear guard fencing at Bornhøved

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

The Oldesloe stand was halted on 5 December, and the next day the corps continued north on:

"A position was taken at Travern outside the town. The weather was clear today, frost with a little snow. The horse harness, which had suffered much in the flat roads, was inspected.

The regiment's 1st squadron was in the mill at Rehtwisch and assisted the outposts, which were particularly engaged with the enemy along the woods, which looked good from the many rifle flashes. We were ordered to move into the city, but immediately afterwards we had to go back.

With all this marching back and forth, the horses got little rest and the blacksmithing work was interrupted, but at last the prince allowed us to move into the city and there it continued. I lay with a widow by the bridge, which they worked all night to break off, but it withstood all the toil used, - and they did not want to blow it up for the sake of the houses.

Just as I was enjoying a few moments' rest, trumpets came Skrep ordering me to come to General Lasson. I jumped out of bed and for ten minutes I was with him. He lay on the bed and received me like a ravenous lion, because I had not come quickly enough, which was caused by the fact that the trumpeter did not know my whereabouts and had run about in the dark in the unknown city.

All he wanted was for me to ride out to the brigade outside the city and give orders to finally take good care of the man captured by Esdorff-Hussars at Siebenbäumen. The hussar slept like a rock and hardly thought of running his way. For the sake of such insignificances I and my horse had to interrupt our scarcely measured and necessary repose; but it was also the last order I received from General von Lasson, for a few days later he left the army and again took over his general command on Zealand and Falster, where there was peace and no danger.

His own regiment, the fine Schleswig Cavalry Regiment, mere Juts from Horsenseggen, which was on the march to Holstein, was commanded by its lieutenant-colonel, and the general, its commander - brigadier-general Lasson lay - on Lolland.

Some years later I saw him in Vejle, where he told a company of ladies about his camp life at Ratzeborg, the retreat to Oldesloe and the battle of Boden; Falstaff could not have told it better.

He did not die until 1822, peace with him was dust - and he will probably get that too, because in life he was a peaceful man, except on the parade, in the parol room and on the exercise ground.

December 6. Early in the morning in a fatal rainstorm the march was made to Segeberg.

Foraged. For two hours they stopped, but the horses would not eat - on to Daldorf, which lies in the middle of the heath. The city was barricaded. The night before, the baggage from Lübeck had passed through Preetz. As the other officers were either ill or exhausted, I, who was not feeling much better, had to make a patrol to Tensfeld, and I only met the regiment again on the road to Bornhøved."



General Francois Antoine Lallemand
(1774-1839).

On 7 December it came to the rear guard skirmish at Bornhøved, where Lallemand, who had remained with the corps [1](#), did admirably. The fierce attack of the Swedes brought a lot of confusion in the ranks of the Danes, but we kept the polling place. Our loss was 11 killed, 45 wounded and 75 prisoners, while the Swedes lost 4 officers, 76 men and 178 horses.

"General Lallemand now leads the rear guard. The prince stayed a very long time in Bornhøved. General Lallemand is pursued by the Swedish cavalry over the moor.

His strength was: 4 squadrons of Holstein Horsemen, 4 squadrons of Polish Lancers and 2 battalions of Holstein Sharpshooters. A couple of squadrons of hussars are sent to his aid.

We were hardly out of the peasant town before 10 complete squadrons of the Mörner Hussar Regiment march up against him and attack his cavalry, which is beaten, and now it was in the most terrible disorder through Bornhøved on the road to Nütschau - the Swedes behind. Owing to some broken and overturned wagons, the congestion was terrible, and in a minute it all stopped as if in a solid lump.

First Lieutenant Cirsovius of the Holstein Cavalry Regiment has since told me that he thus held side by side and blade to blade a Swedish Hussar officer, so closely pressed that it was impossible to move. Suddenly it gave air, and as his horse galloped forward, the Swedish officer cut in and cut through the cloak, coat, etc., right to the skin, in which there was a fine little tear, as from a pin and a few drops of blood.

In their frenzy, the Swedes had not paid attention to the 2 battalions of the Holstein Sharpshooter Corps, which (at) the entrance to the city had been rolled up and (arrived) in great disarray; they therefore took up their rifles again, and ranged themselves within the stone walls which enclosed the town, and when at last the Swede saw that they had pursued our cavalry too far and fell back, they were greeted with some powerful volleys of rifles, by which they lost many men.

The regimental adjutant, a master of the horse Meyer, was pierced by 7 bullets. The Swedes could not forget that these Holstein sharpshooters had thus again taken up their rifles and fired at them, and the newspaper articles were full of vehement outbursts at this proceeding, as they regarded the sharpshooters as prisoners. After a battalion (Scharfenberg of the Oldenburg Infantry Regiment) had cleared the town of Bornhøved with the bayonet, our retreat was thereby secured.

Unstoppable, it continued to Preetz, where we arrived at night.

This not inconsiderable affair at the Boden, in which the Swedish cavalry showed themselves an honorable side, cost them 2½ squadrons, but our loss was not small either, and among them were two guns. From a hill, somewhat outside the city, I witnessed it all. It was strange to see the steam of the horses of the Holstein horsemen and Polish Ulaners, when pursued by the Swedes, chasing along the road to Nütschau.

Ritmester von Schøller had to go to Plön that same night to obtain information from the county governor. In the forest he met a number of scattered Polish Ulans who joined his command. For some time we thought he was lost, but the next day he turned up at the regiment."

The auxiliary corps reaches Kiel

On December 8, they had reached back to Kiel, where it was necessary to provide the exhausted troops with a temporary rest.

"Having, as usual, lingered a long time in the streets of Preetz before marching off, we now went by the road to Elmschenhagen, a church town south of Kiel.

For eight days and nights I had hardly been off the horse, nor off the clothes, and in addition constantly wet. This, as well as the food, which was not particularly good, in and of itself did nothing for a strong young person like I was at the time - and of course could not be compared to what a soldier in other armies had had to endure. When the other officers therefore complained, I was always unconcerned, and like them did not yearn for home and the garrison, but what greatly troubled me was want of sleep, for dozing on the horse, or leaning against an earthen rampart, with the rein on my arm, could provide no strengthening and invigorating rest.

When we had therefore dined at the parson's in Elmschenhagen for the evening, Lieutenant Wiggers and I asked a couple of young ladies to provide us with a bed in a few hours' time, and with great readiness they left us their own, the one we were looking for with boots and spurs many excuses were made, for getting the wet footwear off was a sheer impossibility. I never remember sleeping so sweetly. Early the next morning they woke us up.

Lieutenant Wiggers immediately sprang up, seized helmet and saber, and went to the stable, but at the same moment I must have fallen asleep again, for to my great astonishment I heard, as I was shaken vigorously, "Mein Gott, Sie liegen noch hier, da Regiment ist schon lange weg, und jeden Augenblick erwarten wir die fiendlichen Truppen."

In an instant I was on my feet, and in the yard, where my orderly kept the horses. In his stupidity he had no intention of anything other than that I stayed so long on purpose. It was still pitch black night and the Holstein roads bottomless, but we jogged off as best we could and caught up with the regiment at Dorfgarten.

If the incident does not take him up to his room in time, I will in all probability fall asleep, and thereby end up in captivity - Colonel B. had not missed his adjutant at all, he had other things to think about.

Two officers of the Holstein Cavalry Regiment, Master Baron AD (an adventurer and gambler) and First Lieutenant von H., had left their regiment at Bornhöved and now reported on the march to Prince Frederik, who was very dissatisfied with their conduct. He had them court-martialled, and they were both given simple dismissals. Neither had a reputation for bravery. A.D. went for the peace around the baths. H. went to Tranquebar, where he died."

The retreat from Kiel to the Gettorf region

Early in the morning of December 9, the general march sounded in the streets of Kiel, and the retreat was joined in three columns. The train's 350 wagons passed the canal at Knoop, the 2nd Brigade at Levensau, the 1st Brigade at Landwehr (further west), where Lallemand, who formed the rear guard, was also to cross.

"In the morning we marched through Kiel. A few minutes later the enemy advance was in the city, where the Swedes and Russians were received with cheers. A Madame Hagemeister is even said to have made a speech to Prince Pontecorvo, who, however, did not like her wretched behaviour.

What a disgraceful city! - thus it rewarded the King and Queen, who had favored and distinguished it above others. Pontecorvo took up his quarters in the castle.

At Königsförde we met regimental surgeon Keil of the Oldenburg Regiment of Horse. He was very affable and told us that Gettorf, where we were just going, was already occupied by the enemy. As he persisted in repeating this, untrue by the way, along the column, he somewhat disordered it, especially among the troopers, who made about and were only brought to their duty by many a fugtel.

Keil should have been punished for this untimely talk of his. B. became quiet and did not seem to like the fact that Gettorf was under enemy attack, but a squadron sent there found everything calm, upon which B. regained his composure.

A certain Dumreicher, lieutenant in Duchess Louise Augusta's Life Hunter Corps 2), was at Klüvensik with a detachment of the corps. As soon as he learned that the enemy was approaching, he left his post without first burning the bridge.

Enemy patrols therefore passed unimpeded, and a Russian lieutenant with five hussars made a good coup on this occasion, when a Danish artillery officer with 8 guns and his crew surrendered to him without even attempting to defend themselves.

The captain, who was to lead these guns, sat quite calmly with his wife in a canopy, and then also received pay as was due, since he was afterwards infamously discarded 3), whereas the Russian officer, who was a German by birth named von Miller, was promoted to riding master and received St. George's Order.

Lieutenant Dumreicher, as far as can be remembered, also got a running pass. On the other side, the bridge at the Landwehr had been allowed to burn too early, so that a battalion of hunters barely got across. Their second cannon crashed into the canal, but the Swedes found out and fished them out again. Above all, one has to wonder how little was added by the governor, Landgrave Carl of Hesse, to cover the canal line - or for the defense of the duchies in general.

Our army was in Funen instead of in its proper place, nothing was planned. Neither Glückstadt nor Rendsborg were properly provisioned, everywhere was confusion - and why couldn't the entire great Danish army, which either lay desolate on Funen or only tired by marching from town to town through snowdrifts and on impassable roads, just as well?

And what was there to fear for the islands in the month of December. In any case, an English fleet was not known to be present with landing troops, and if there was - let them only take Funen and Zealand. We should have gotten them back.

For a union of the French army at Hamburg, the other French troops in northern Germany and the Danish army, all this - NB. under a Davoust command - had hopefully given matters a different turn, but now it was too late to think about what should have been done then. However, everyone realized this - just not those who should.

The night between the 9th and 10th of December we were, as I said, in Gettorf. Nothing was to be gained. Twenty officers shared one goose, but a large kettle of potatoes helped. A squadron came on field duty. The night was extremely dark and stormy."

On the evening of 9 December, the entire Auxiliary Corps was on South Jutland land in the area near Gettorf.

It was not the Prince of Hesse's intention to continue the retreat north. Instead, he wanted to turn west to throw himself into Rendsborg, whose garrison was insufficient, and where his exhausted troops could gain strength. He wanted during this march to have the Eiderkanalen on his left flank, and he hoped that the enemy did not succeed in advancing in greater numbers over the same.

Bernadotte's advance through Holstein took place with Tettenborn's Cossacks flooding the west coast, while Wallmoden's corps moved closer to the east coast, and with the main army following behind Wallmoden. This had advanced over Neumünster towards Rendsborg and Eckernförde with a total of 14 battalions, 3 hunter corps, 19 squadrons and 24 guns.

Wallmoden's most advanced hussars had intercepted some Danish baggage on the 9th in Eckernförde, which caused the general to get the definite impression that the Danes were on the march in a northerly direction, which is why he sent a vanguard under General Dörnberg towards Mysunde to prevent them Danish in using the ferry across the Slien at the same place.

Wallmoden's main corps, however, had to assemble at Klüvensik, which is located 1/3 Danish mile (approx. 2 km) south of the Sehested manor. On the evening of December 9, Dörnberg had reached the Sehested area, from where he was to continue the advance north early the next morning.

Wallmoden, who was quite unaware that the Danes wanted to go to Rendsborg, strove in vain to cut off the Auxiliary Corps on the roads to Schleswig, Mysunde and Eckernförde. His and Prince Frederik of Hesse's forces were roughly equal in size, but Wallmoden's were scattered.

The Battle of Sehested - introduction

Map of the area at Sehested

On January 10 at 6 morning 2 enemy battalions marched under Wardenburg with wood from Sehested to the north to engage the vanguard in the village of Gross Wittensee. They crossed Holtsee and Haby without any idea that the vanguard of the Danish corps was just marching towards their right flank.

The night had been moonlit with frost, but towards morning the sky became overcast, it began to thaw, and a little snow fell. In the morning, however, the sun came out, and the rest of the day was brilliant sunshine and in the evening clear and moonlit weather.

The roads, which had been fairly hard in the early morning, soon became soaked.

When Wallmoden wanted to advance north, he had to go over Sehested, and if the Prince of Hesse wanted to march to Rendsborg, south of the Wittensee, he had to secure this point, which was thus of the greatest importance to both parties.

Lallemand with the Light Brigade was in Revensdorf (west of Gettorf), and the troops were ordered out already at 1. at night. Outside the city, a bonfire was lit and bread and brandy distributed to the frozen and worn out soldiers. At At 3.30 in the pitch of darkness they marched west along the Holtsee to, and the 1st and 2nd Brigades under Schulenburg and Abercron. The march went quite exceedingly slowly on the bad roads, and the vehicles sank deep in, so that every moment had to be stopped in order to give the trained time to finish.

Only at dawn did the tip reach the Holtsee, at 7.15, and stopped to wait for the corps' other departments. Colonel Waldeck rode forward through the town and in the semi-darkness encountered soldiers, to whom he called in his Hessian dialect to come closer. He then discovered that they were enemies. In silence, troops were drawn up and the enemy soldiers were disarmed. Our vanguard was immediately informed, and the Polish Ulans immediately captured a lot of wood and captured approx. 70 men of the rear cover for the enemy force which had been sent forward under Wardenburg.

Lallemand rushed to attack, and Schulenburg's Brigade rushed in - just as the Prince of Hesse appeared. He was immediately aware of the situation and did not waver. Rendsborg had to be reached, after all. He wanted to push through.

First, the enemy force was driven away in the north-west, and Captain Rømeling of the staff solved the task with 3 battalions excellently of keeping the enemy vanguard away.

Lieutenant Wind tells:

"About 3 o'clock in the morning we broke up.

Outside Gettorf we waited several hours until the terrain ahead had been searched. The cold was extremely bitter. The dragons slept along the ditch rampart. The horses were extremely exhausted. For two days we had had no victuals or brandy - finally we went forward and past the place where General von der Schulenburg had bivouacked that night; here the fire still burned.

Towards Holtsee we met 25 wagons and 80 prisoners, which General Lallemand, who led the vanguard, had taken in a skirmish at this town. This sight revived us. We were told what lay ahead and that we were cut off from Rendsborg if we didn't get through. And we all decided this as one man."

The main battle at Sehested

However, the corps continued on the road towards Sehested, where it soon came into contact with enemy cavalry.

When General Wallmoden heard the firing in a northerly direction, he galloped over the bridge at Klüvensik north to Sehested, where he soon became aware that the Danes were turning south-west.

He gathered what men he could on the northern outskirts of the city to receive the attack and then hurried back to get help. First he encountered a battalion and some guns, which were ordered forward, and near the bridge crossing were 6 battalions and 3 squadrons, which he could also dispose of. He kept part in reserve, sent part to Sehested and part west to block the road to Rendsborg.

Some cannon shots from our side opened the battle, and then began the fierce fight, which wavered back and forth, and during which it appeared that the co-operation between our arms was excellent. Schulenburg here showed great personal courage in leading his troops forward.

The town was taken by us, retaken by the enemy, who received reinforcements, and who in dense masses rushed forward along a dammed road that led up to the town from the south.

"At 10 o'clock in the morning we encountered enemy troops outside the village of Sehested, and now the fighting began. A position was taken, our guns did good work, and the enemy pushed into the town, where he wanted to establish himself in the cemetery, but Captain Christian Høegh, a man of old Danish stock, charged and took it at the head of the grenadiers of the Oldenburg Infantry Regiment. Although wounded by two bullets, he allowed himself to be carried forward to the attack. I myself saw him thus led forward.

While this was going on, the regiment and the rest of the brigade kept on both sides of the road. In front on a hill was Lieutenant Krabbe with 2 cannons, whose bullets made good effect. A few of them struck down an enemy squadron and split it apart. Many horses and people lay dead on the white ground, for a small layer of snow, or rather frost, covered the ground.

Now we got some cannonballs in return. A cannon wheel and a powder wagon wheel were smashed; even the musket balls, although fired at a very long distance, pinged our ears, one even with such force that the bridle of a dragoon's saddle splintered, another, but more bluntly, struck Master von Schultz on the thigh; however, it caused him a lot of pain in it, the next day, green and yellow legs. The ball was on the ground. Now Prince Frederik came and made speeches, which were unnecessary, for we were all burning with desire to come forward. The ball music and janissary music 6) of the Jutland regiment had had an effect, and the order conveyed to us by Major Høegh-Guldberg to advance was immediately carried out through Sehested town, where there were many dead (and) wounded, both friends and enemies, as the fencing here had been very intense. At the exit of the town a regiment held one column, which was a very disadvantageous and confined position, and the musket balls also killed

several horses and wounded some dragoons, and of the Oldenburg Infantry Regiment 3 or 4. In the batteries that fired from gardens and houses along the column, many were also shot, among others a non-commissioned officer, hardly 4 paces from me, by a bullet in the middle forehead."

Fynsk Light Dragoons raid

"The enemy's tirailleurs again advanced further; the guns of the infantry were taken and recaptured, and so it went on continually. We were all very desirous of advancing, and as General von der Schulenburg was holding, not far off, I allowed myself the liberty of asking him permission for the regiment (to) make an inroad.



Fynske Regiment Light Dragoons attack at Sehested 10 December 1813.

Never so soon had I this before I wanted to bring it to the lieutenant-colonel, but B. was nowhere to be found (he had dismounted and was staying in a room in the parsonage—since he had applied for leave). Premier Major Høegh-Guldberg (who) was also (was) gone, there was no time to find out why I brought the order to Master Count Moltke, who was at his post in front of the 4th squadron. He commanded the regiment on this occasion, and that as a good man.

We rode side by side at the head of the same, and like a gale it went out of town. Instantly the 4th Squadron marched up and then formed a debanded chain which cut into the Russo-German Legion's 5) blinkers. They were all cut down or captured.

I myself, with some dragoons, had entered the field to the left of the road, here I made 2 men prisoners and brought them to Schulenburg. Count Moltke was still in the process of clearing up among them, when we received some volleys from a battalion standing on the road, which moved us to rush against it. About 10 dragoons followed in roughly order.

Corporal Jørgensen, who was riding right in front of me, had his horse shot under him, but the brown mare got over it. Saber jabs were handed out to the right and left. The battalion was blown up and was captured by the advancing squadrons. In this attack, a bullet went through my helmet (through the horsehair), it lost its balance and fell off, and I now had to ride without a head covering.

Behind this battalion, now thus blown up, 3 guns were placed and were just in the process of retreating, when, amid shrill cheers, we sat on their necks. Approx. 14 dragoons accompanied Count Moltke and me on this work. The piece drivers were immediately sabered down, and the 3 guns were ours. I now let them drive into a field to turn, but in doing so one fell over and (2 dragoons were shot and one had a bullet through both his hands) lay down, so that I only brought 2 to Prince Frederik, who with his adjutants held in the city.

The happy mood I was in cannot be described, but all my life I have blamed myself for not riding back to get the third cannon anointed, which I might have succeeded in doing. That was also my thought for a moment, but when I rode out again - having, as I said, handed over the cannons - the regiment assembled again for a charge 6)." —

Lieutenant Wind's definite statement that Major Guldberg was not present when he conveyed the order to attack is interesting. This, seen in connection with the below message from an eyewitness, makes it likely that Major Guldberg did not participate in the attack up the road, but that he operated in the field to the sides.

In the article: "A memory from the Battle of Sehested on 10 December 1813 by Knud Øbo" (in Vort Forsvar, No. 209), a combat participant tells:

"At noon, Sehested was cleared, but to the west of the town the enemy had formed a square that was not good to budge. There came

then bid us Fynske Dragoons to take this square on our conscience, and the regiment's leader (?) sent forward the cavalry master Guldberg's squadron. I was a watchman at the squadron at the time, so I came along.

The rhythm master let us move forward in a triangle He rode forward himself; in the next row came 2 men and then even more. When the triangle was formed, he "fronted" us, and fastening his helmet tighter on his chin, and pulling on a pair of gauntlets reaching to the elbow, said in a voice I cannot repeat, "When I ride forward, follow me! If I turn around, shoot me." Then he turned his horse and shouted: "Forward!" - We followed.

I can't tell you anything about how it went otherwise. It wasn't until we were well on the other side of the enemy that "Hold" was shouted. We looked back. It looked terrifying. - Guldberg's voice sounded "Formér Linien".

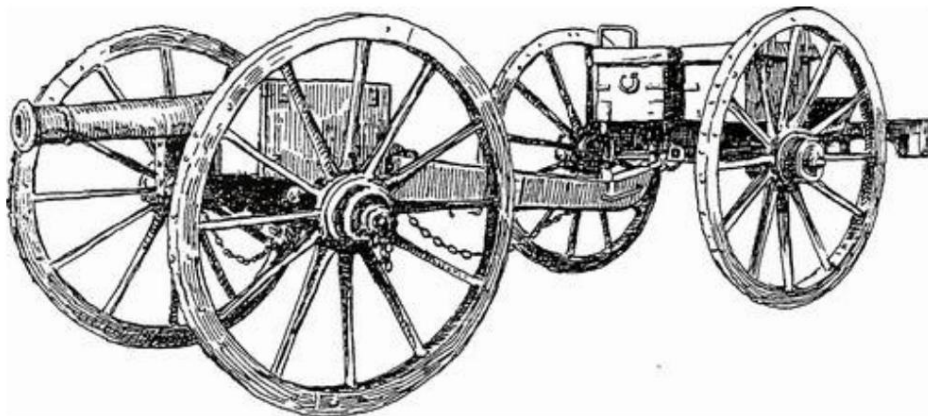
With open ranks we crossed the field once more, and the enemy's broken, square array really got its fat. Many were trampled by the horses, others cleaved by the sabers, and some asked for "pardon", which they immediately got. When we came back, a genuine Danish hurray was shouted for us."

In the list of names of the people who distinguished themselves at Sehested, it stands for Fynske Dragoons: "Major, knight and Dannebrogsmann Høegh-Guldberg, with his usual courage, led the regiment's 3rd squadrons into the fire of the infantry -"

Nothing is said here that the major was in charge. He, who was an exceedingly energetic and brave officer, may himself have undertaken the perhaps more difficult task of attacking to the side of the road. Lieutenant Wind has not seen him and therefore assumed that he did not command the regiment.

It is further stated in the list of names: "Rite Master, Count Moltke went at the head of the column when it made the attack, rushed with a few men into 3 guns and took them, but got only 2 back as one overturned."

After all, it is in full agreement with Lieutenant Wind.



One of the two English 6 pds. cannons that were captured at Sehested (Tøjhusmuseet).

Ritmeister Count Moltke was commander of the 4th squadron, but it was not, as we shall see, in the lead. He had thus ridden forward in front of the 3rd squadron (rhythm master Poul Bardenfleth).

It is stated in the same place: "Ritmaster Poul Bardenfleth went with his squadron, which had the lead, first loosed the enemy, threw him, supported by the other two squadrons; cut in with great swiftness and cut off a number of prisoners who were taken on this occasion ; all 3 squadrons were only 130 men strong together, took over 700 men prisoner, of whom a few hundred escaped; the rest were brought in.

Ritmeister Schultz sat down in front of the 3rd squadron together with Ritmaster Baron Rantzau, who cut down an officer."

In the list of names it is further emphasized: "Lieutenants Topp and Wind, who supported Count Moltke in taking the guns; the latter (Wind) distinguished himself earlier. Lieutenant Wiggers was severely wounded."

Among the crew who: "helped Count Moltke and Lieutenant Wind cut into the artillery and take 3 guns" are highlighted: "Corporal Jacobsen, wounded, dragoon Rasmus Rasmussen No. 81, both of the 4th squadron; dragoon Anders Pedersen No. 156, dragoon Peder Eriksen No. 75, both of the 3rd squadron."

Furthermore, a lot of sub-commanders and privates are highlighted.

The 1st squadron was not involved in the attacks, but the squadron commander: "Cederfeld de Simonsen, an excellent officer, covered the rear guard with the 1st squadron".

In other words, he was left as a rear guard for the coach.

Finally: lieutenant Preusser, who here: *"who often in the past showed a lot of cockiness."*

According to *"Messages from the War Archives"* the course of the attack was as follows:

When the enemy battalion saw the Danish horsemen in their long cloaks rushing out of the town amid wild cheers, it was as if struck by lightning, and the commander, who was riding at the head of the column, completely lost his head.

While Bardenfleth's squadron, followed by a portion of Moltke's dragoons, continued to ride down the road through the completely shattered battalion, the rest of the latter squadron bent off to the left, at the same time as Høegh-Guldberg's advanced to the right. Like cats, the horses climbed over the steep fences, crossed the ditches, split the enemy line that had sought cover behind the fences, and continued the wild speed almost to the Ejderbroen.

The Fynske Dragoon led their excellent choc to the bottom.

In the end, however, their strength was exhausted, the exhausted dragoons, who at the beginning of the attack hardly numbered 150 sabres, had to turn around and seek to return to their former position. During the retreat, they were fired upon not only in the front, but also in the flank of Natzmer's battalion, which was in the fields west of Sehested.

The attack had made an enormous impact. *"Everywhere unrest and confusion prevailed among the enemy"*.

Three times the enemy's infantry had been driven back - now Wallmoden also wanted to try a cavalry attack. Prince Gustav of Mecklenburg was in the lead with his squadron of mounted hunters as they rode along the road to Sehested.

The Funen Dragoons, who had just made an incursion, had not quite recovered; they were therefore supported by Major von Späth's hussars.

Our cavalry had to fall back, and our infantry on the southern edge of Sehested began to give way. But eventually the Mecklenburgers were driven to flight when they came under cannon and infantry fire.

Wind reports further:

"The regiment again assembled for a charge on the Mecklenburg mounted hunters, but it failed, and we had to fall back, hotly pursued by these brave people."

Who actually commanded the regiment on this occasion I do not know, but the disorder was great and all unity failed. No wonder it went like this. Lieutenant Wiggers received a deep saber cut in the left wrist which disabled him for life. Many dragoons were wounded. The horses were in an included state.

In my blue 7) cloak I received a saber cut en passant. As an oddity, I must state that B. was present at this attack; but also the first one who sought salvation, crying out for help in 3 different languages, over which he was led out by some hunting officers who later told me about this edifying vision.

When the Mecklenburg mounted hunters pursuing us had ventured too far, on the way back they had to pass a crossfire of the Funen Infantry Regiment and the Holstein Sharpshooters, all of them, about 30 men, also fell close. Prince Gustav of Mecklenburg-Schwerin - squadron commander - had 2 fingers cut off and was captured by a dragoon.

Squadron surgeon Bucholz removed the fingers, after which the prince was given an honorable discharge."

The prince was wounded by an Oldenburg musketeer (Henrik Kreutzfeld), who became a Dannebrog man, his horse was shot, and he himself was taken prisoner by a Funen dragoon (No. 129 Johan Hansen of the 3rd squadron), who continued the attack. An Oldenburg grenadier led the tall prisoner up to the Sehested manor. Along the way, the prince tried to dodge, but the excited soldier forced him with blows and club blows to follow.

The prince was born on 31 January 1781 and the son of the reigning Duke Frederik Franz and thus a brother of Prince Christian Frederiks (Chr. VIII's divorced consort, Charlotte Frederikke. He died on 10 January 1851.)

The Sehested final match - The arrival at Rendsborg

Map of the area between Kiel and Rendsborg. See the end of the article.

Sehested itself was in the possession of the Danes; but now the situation began to become precarious west of the city, where the enemy had sent two battalions to cut off the Danes from the road to Rendsborg. Here stood only a few Danish companies (under Major Bie) and 4 guns, an insufficient force to resist the enemy flank attack. Prince Frederik of Hesse realized the danger, and was aware that if he managed to escape, he risked losing the convoy, which under the existing conditions could hardly be taken past Sehested and west.

The situation was extremely dangerous, but it turned to our advantage.

Captain Römeling, who had kept the rear and right flank clear with his 3 battalions, now suddenly came to the rescue. When he had driven the enemy's vanguard away in the direction of the Gross Wittensee - north of the lake of the same name - he hastened for the thunder of the cannon and the boom of battle, which he still heard down from Sehested - and he came just at the moment when the company Bie was attacked by the superior strength. With ingenuity and pressure he arranged his force for attack, then it went forward. The enemy could not resist and had to retreat to the Klüvensik bridge crossing, which was even fired upon by the 4 guns.



Brigadier General CFA Lallemand with staff in Holstein 1813.

Wallmoden had to withdraw all his troops towards the bridge, and Prince Frederik had free passage to Rendsborg.

But in order to drive the enemy back, Major von Stemann made a charge with the gallant Holstein Horsemen, who blasted the retreating infantry. The cavalry even rode over the bridge at Klüvensik and attacked troops to the south of it, by which General Wallmoden himself was almost taken prisoner.

Stemann, after the splendid charge, went back over the bridge, heavily fired upon by the enemy, but he happily reached our troops, whose further march towards Rendsborg had begun immediately, as the wagon column was first brought to safety.

Wind tells:

"This, so to speak, the only land-fencing of any importance in this unhappy seven-year war, is sufficiently discussed and described in books, which is why I will not go into it further than to add that the Danish army corps, which was animated by a good spirit, fenced well and drove the enemy to the other side of the canal or bridge which leads over the old Eider.

40 horsemen of the Holstein Regiment even went over to the other side of the canal, but were also all shot down almost in one place. Captain of the engineer corps Malthe Friis, adjutant to Prince Frederik, was accused of having led this useless undertaking, whereby the Holstein Horse Regiment lost so many brave men, but the matter was glossed over and not further investigated - and in a campaign one had to let all fads investigate, then you also had enough to order.



Godset Osterrade

After lithograph by A. Hornemann.

The French general Lallemand (died in North America 8), as far as I know, where he was the founder of a colony in the province

Texas - champ d'asyle) basically commanded the whole thing, and the soldiers also had a lot of confidence in him. Two horses he had shot under him, and I saw him ride a dragoon for want of another, and fly from place to place. He was later appointed Grand Cross of the Order of the Dannebrog by the King.

Colonel von der Goltz, 13 officers and 900 privates, besides the two guns, were the trophies of the day, and among these officers was a captain and company commander von Rønne - now a general in the Russian service - whose father was a government councilor in Glückstadt, and who was therefore a Danish subject

On 28 February of the same year, I was at a masquerade with him and several others at the Hofteatret in Copenhagen, since at that time I was employed as a lieutenant in HM the King's own regiment. In the spring he took his leave, went to Russia and six months later fought against his own countrymen. The case was ignored, but he deserved a tie.

We often met in the evenings in Rendsborg at confectioner Høhnke's, where all the enemy officers, as well as many Danes, liked to go, and here I became especially good friends with a captain Schmidt, whom I myself captured at Sehested, and whose saber I still own 9). He was a good man of true martial appearance. Previously he had been a lawyer, but the patriotic upsurge, which everyone at the time was grasping in Germany against Napoleon and his allies, as well as an unhappy love affair, let him become a soldier. At the march of the regiment I drank from the horse a glass with him on a happy journey and march to France, for soon after all the prisoners were exchanged or released, and since that time his fate is unknown to me. Good luck to him. Expected."

Lallemand covered the Auxiliary Corps' march to Rendsborg, staying west of Sehested with his light troops until midnight. The bivouac fires lit up in the darkness both from the Danes' camp sites north of the Ejderen and from the Germans', south of same.

"A solemn silence reigned in all nature, and the moon shone brightly."

In the fortress the corps was received with stormy cheers, and the town was illuminated, but the outcast troops had to begin with bivouacs in the streets and squares, before accommodation could be arranged.

"After we had thus cleared a way for ourselves by this Sehested affair, the army continued its march unhindered to Rendsborg, where the Fynske Dragoons arrived at 12 o'clock at night and found all the suburbs, peasant towns, garden houses and other farms in a bright light.

The regiment bivouacked in the street, but after my official business was over, I hastened to my old host, the Herrnhuteren Mathias Nielsen - who had coffee and other good living on the table - and crawled into bed with another officer, of the infantry, who was quartered here, but without being able to sleep, for the commotion in the illuminated streets was terrible and my fatigue too great to enjoy rest."

What has so far been communicated by Lieutenant Wind's memoirs derives from his purely written memoirs referred to. This is joined by a number of similar things in another, unedited book, from which we shall reproduce the following:

"Rendsborg was illuminated when we arrived, and the citizens showed a lot of courage and great kindness towards the soldier; however, in the first days there was a shortage of bread and other foodstuffs, so everything was collected from the nearest towns. In particular, there was a lack of firewood (?).

General Lallemand escorted 1,500 wagons with foodstuffs from Schleswig, which the enemy did not dare to attack, as the escort was too strong, so the city was able to hold out for a few weeks. They also worked hard on the fortifications and a flood was arranged on the Holstein side. - Everything was neglected when it was thought that the danger was not so near.

Two days before us, the Jutland Dragoons had arrived in the city and had marched in one turn from Hamburg to Rendsborg without being disturbed by the enemy. Only when they got to Jevnstedt did a regiment of Uhlans set after them, but they rode hard and thus avoided the imminent danger.

In an attack that took place from Hamburg on some regiments of Cossacks stationed in Rahlstedt, this regiment was badly taken, when a regiment of French chasseurs à cheval, partly composed of Dutchmen, almost all deserted.-

The Russians were really ambushed and a large number cut down, but the French infantry, which had been entrusted to Lieutenant von Lasson, the son of the general, who pretended to know the region, came too few, and they (the enemies) had, however, received reinforcements. Colonel von Bonnichsen, First Lieutenant Ursin were killed and 50 dragoons were missing. When the regiment arrived in Rendsborg, there were barely 40 usable horses left."

The Jutland Dragoons were commanded by the handsome colonel Engelsted, who at Rahlstedt had particularly distinguished himself in personal combat with 2 Cossacks.

The Danes' losses at Sehested were 17 wounded officers, of whom 3 were taken prisoner, 66 dead, 319 wounded and 146 missing non-commissioned officers and privates. A dismantled howitzer had to be left behind.

Wallmoden's losses amounted to 22 killed and wounded and as many captured officers, approx. 500 non-commissioned officers and privates killed and wounded, as well as approx. 600 prisoners of the lower classes. In addition, he lost 2 guns with ammunition carriages.

The battle at Sehested was an uncommonly beautiful feat of arms. The prince's decision to break through was *"wise and bold, it was carried out with courage and strength"* (*"Messages from the War Archives"*, Vol.8., p. 138).

All the divisions of the Auxiliary Corps had fought admirably.

Holsteiners and Danes stood here for the last time in our war history, side by side, fighting for the same cause.

Unfortunately, this beautiful battle, which testified highly to the warlike skill of our troops, did not become the impetus for more troops to be sent over to the duchies to beat Bernadotte.

Armistice - Peace

During the following armistice, the fortresses Frederiksort (December 19) and Glückstadt (January 3) fell. The king and the people had previously given up the fight for Norway's preservation.

Wind tells about this:

"On January 5, 1814, when the armistice had ended, the regiment moved to an outpost in Osterönfeldt, where there was also 1 battalion of hunters and 2 guns. The outpost line went from Andorf over Schwabe-Jevenstedt to Westerrönfeld - and on the other side (Ejderen over) Nubbel- Kockbeck-Büddeldorff.

The service in the fortress was very strict. Lazaret fever carried away many. One of the terms of the armistice was that all Danish troops on the peninsula had to be drawn to Funen, and since several regiments were already in Schleswig, these also had to return.

The country was now open to the enemy, and General Tettenborn wandered straight to Kolding, where he received a bit of a beating at Vonsild, and set fire to the country. In particular, Flensburg and Kristiansfeld were included. Horses were especially robbed and taken away. The entire army was located on Funen at Middelfart, where the king also had his headquarters. At Snoghøj there was a French officer who had to see that all the troops actually got over; many of the soldiers cried.

Enthusiasm has probably hardly ever been greater in the Danish army than it was at this moment, and the troops burned with longing (to) measure up (with) the enemy, who was certainly stronger, but also partly did not fight at all, since most were both undisciplined and not fighting for their freedom as in Germany, but for Pontecorvo's tyranny.

ISLAND! with that atmosphere nothing was impossible.

Not even the difficult marches that they were made to do in Funen back and forth, perhaps to keep them breathing, managed to destroy the readiness with which anyone would have sacrificed himself for king and country of his birth, which for seven years had entertained a great army to parade and make harvesting manoeuvres, and who now, when it mattered, should have seen what it was for.

However, peace had been decided -

In Østerrönfeld everything was therefore used (to) prevent the enemy from visiting us, and in the first days the terrible snow made it impossible, so that we even had to take our vedettes, which could not stay, without either freezing to death or being snowed in, and in this appalling weather the French bivouacked for 2 days and nights in Sorgebrück in the idea that the army in Rendsborg would, under its favor, break through to Schleswig and then further forward.

The attitude of the Russians towards the Swedes was just not the best and it often came to tangible things, and the Swedes were blamed for the fact that their morning devotion had prevented them from coming to Sehested.

General Dörnberg must have received a good Wisker from Pontecorvo that he did not destroy the small Danish army, but it also fought with courage and despair for freedom and honor, so the matter was not quite as easy as the good man imagines.

Glückstadt and Frederiksort were wiped out by the armistice, and we heard distinctly at Rendsborg that there was shooting in that area, and a few days later we learned that they (the first) after having been for 3 days, were fired upon from the land side by the Swedes and from the south of the English had capitulated. The garrison was given free march, but rebelled and separated, threw away guns and banners, and ran home. However, it was only the two battalions of the Queen's Life Regiment, which for the most part consisted of marsh peasants.

A commission was set up for the commander general Czernikow to assess his situation, but like so much in this country, it has dragged on for a long time.

The demolition of this fortress was one of the conditions of the Peace of Kiel. Its first intake was also its ruin. Three houses were burnt by the bombardment, and the encroaching hard frost made the enemy's work easier. By the way, nothing was provided here either.

Frederiksort, where General Hirsch was in command, also soon capitulated. Hirsch was an old man - Czernikow also etc

Before we got to Rendsborg, the enemy was already outside and called for it (to surrender), but the 84-year-old General Munnich responded as he should. At Nobiskrug the Sjællandske Husarkorps 10) had had a small skirmish, and at Jevenstedt Captain Loose's Battery had repulsed the advancing Russians.

On January 10, the truce was extended to the 15th, when peace was negotiated. We had no good idea.

January 15 was a day of mourning for anyone who was devoted to his native land. We received information from the Prince that the peace had ended and that Norway - the old Norway that had been united with Denmark since 1397 - had abdicated, abdicated willingly and at the front of 30,000 men who stood in Funen full of courage and fighting spirit. It was infuriating.

On the night of January 22, the regiment was ordered (to) in the morning to hold the parade ground in Rendsborg, where orders were handed out to the following, among whom I was:

Our beloved Count von der Schulenburg, adored by the whole army; he had only been in Russian service for a few years and was one of the first on Oczawor's walls, which is why he got St. George's Order, and now the Commander's Cross of Dannebrog. The following year he became Grand Cross, commander of the Life Guard and adjutant to the queen, while the king was in Vienna.

Also Major Løvenørn Bardenfleth, Captain Römeling, Captain Ewald, Lieutenant Lasson, Lieutenant Engelsted. The last two were adjutants at different corps - the other general staff officers.

Major Count of Moltke, Major Poul Bardenfleth, Master von Schultz and I - all of the Fynske Regiment Light Dragoons.

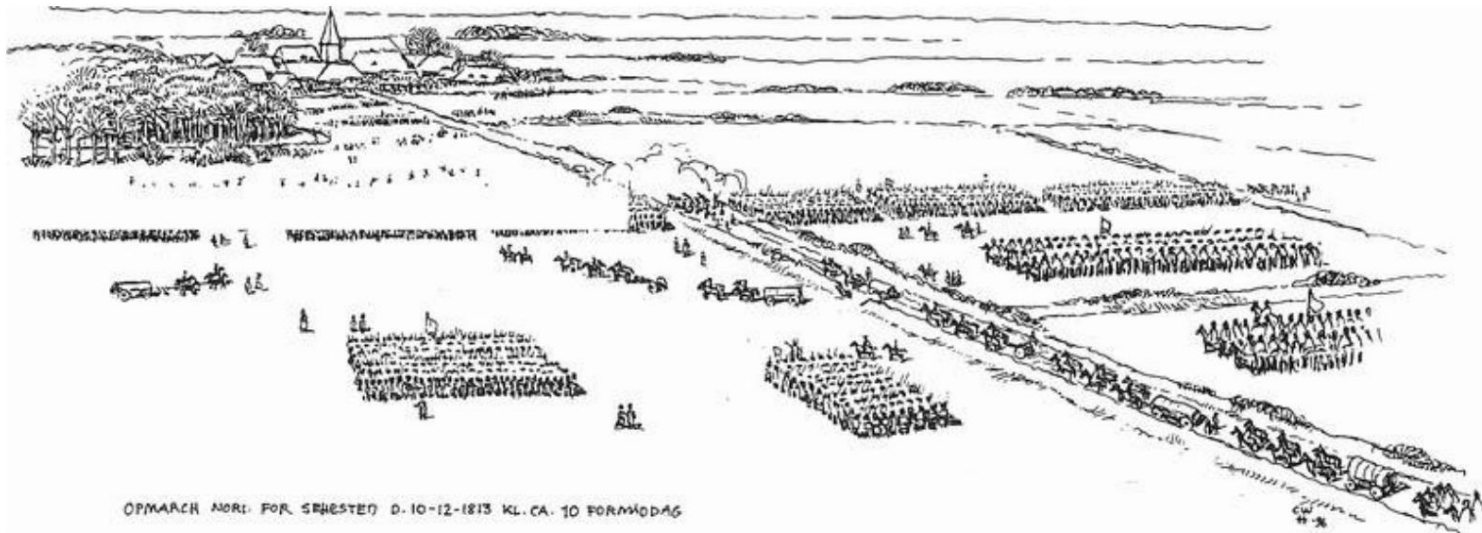
The prince among us (presented) the cross and thanked us from the king. I got it right outside the house where, as a corporal, I had studied military science. Struense was also born there.

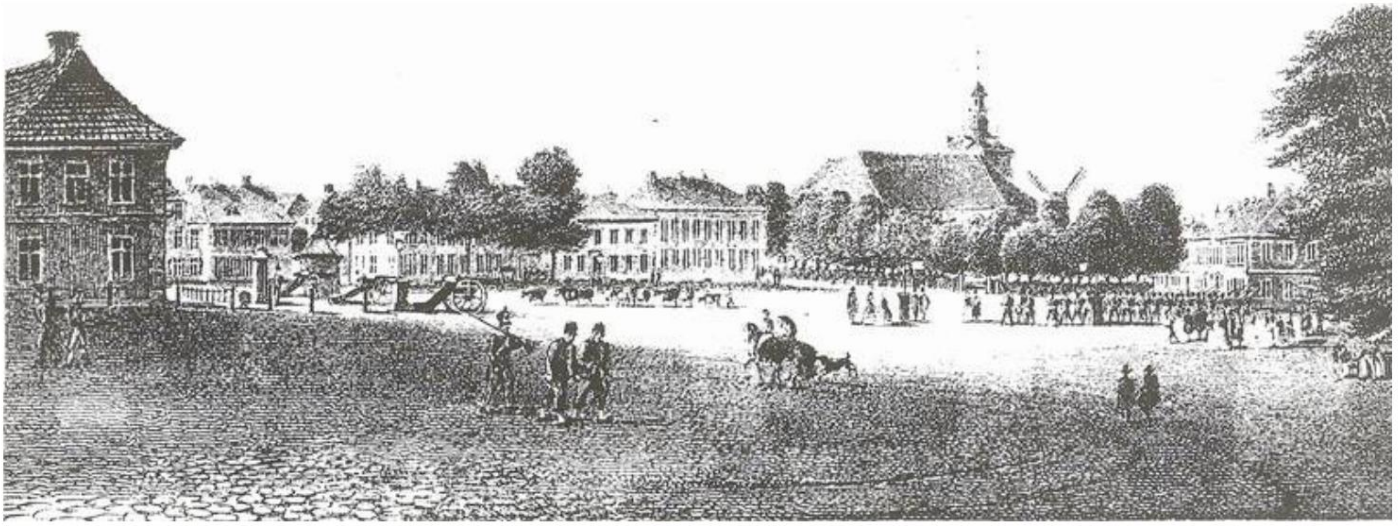
Prince Frederik became Grand Commander and General Lallemand later Grand Cross. The latter had gone to Copenhagen - since it was during the armistice that he was not allowed to stay - he sneaked through in disguise."

The fight to the death, which alone could have saved us from the humiliating Peace of Kiel (January 14, 1814), was unfortunately not initiated. The king and his advisers were blind, their energy was gone, and no great personality raised the people to manly deeds for honor and justice.

"Everything breathes retreat, there is no spark of offensive spirit", it is rightly said in "Messages from the War Archives".

The auxiliary corps therefore came to stand alone; but saved the honor of the country and the army in an admirable manner — throwing a reconciling light over the sad events of a hundred years ago (1914).





To note:

1. Frédéric Antoine Lallemand (23.6.1774 -9.3.1839) was employed as a volunteer in 1792 on Junot's staff. Was appointed colonel after the battle of Jena and became a general in Spain in 1811. In 1813-14 he was an important supporter of Davoust in Hamburg and participated with a French contingent in the Danish Auxiliary Corps. (He was much loved and respected for his character and skillful leadership of the Danish and French soldiers, and is portrayed in S. Steensen Blicher, as "the general with the red trousers".)

Lallemand had stayed with the Danish Auxiliary Corps together with a couple of squadrons of the 17.1 Itavian Lancer Regiment from the 30th Light Cavalry Brigade, some people from a company of sailors and some French artillerymen with 6 guns.

The lancer regiment was established in 1812 and had participated in the Russian campaign of the same year. The force accompanying the Danes was 2 squadrons under Colonel Brzcheffa, had 2 squadron commanders, 29 officers, 5 officiants, 293 non-commissioned officers and privates, to which were added 17 dragoons from other regiments.

The uniform consisted of a blue dress with a red collar, turnout and waistcoat and gold buttons. The officers had gold epaulettes.

The trousers were blue with a red stripe down the side. The chapka had a black bottom with yellow and red trim. The officers had a gold sun as decoration. White bandoliers and belt The officers wore yellow sashes. The lance flag was blue-white (Stemann indicates black-yellow).

After the conclusion of peace on 14 January 1814, the Lancers were accommodated in Ribe. Later the regiment was transferred to Russian service.

About the stay in Ribe see JD Stemann: "*The Uhlan regiment's accommodation in Ribe*", From Ribe Amt, 3rd Vol. 1911-1914, p. 737-763. (In the same article is an interesting and contemporary picture of the Lancers. Unfortunately, the museum (1997) cannot find the original picture, and the picture shown in Stemann's article is not particularly suitable for reproduction.)

2. Louise Augusta's Life Hunter Corps was established in 1807 and disbanded in 1816. Uniform: Dark green shirt with black collar, discounts and notices. Yellow edges and buttons. Yellow underneath. White vest. Gray trousers. Leather clothing black. Green feather. On the chakota a brass plate with the letters LIC engraved.

3. Discarded in infamy: Dismissed in disgrace.

4. In 1809, Colonel, Count Jørgen Scheel (Gl. Estrup and Ulstrup) donated the following instruments to the 1st Jutland Infantry Regiment's Janissary Band: Flutes, bassoons, clarinets, drums, triangle, tambourines with bells, crescent moon, as well as the tambour major's mouthpiece with staff and drum sticks fitted with silver. (Hugo Matthiessen "*An Count*", Gads Forlag 1954). In 1813, the Holstein Sharpshooter Corps reports that they are missing all their instruments, which are: 2 French horns, 2 bassoons, 2 clarinets, 1 trumpet and 2 pipes. (National Archives).

5th Russian-German Brigade consisting of 1st, 2nd and 5th battalions with a total of 700 men.

6. The 2 cannons can be found at Tøjhuset (catalog no. 241 and 242). They are English ore cannons, which are marked with the name cipher of the English king. They have obviously been loaned to the Hanseatic troops.

7. Usually only gray and red coats are known for the Danish troops in 1813.

8. Lallemand did not die in America, but in Paris in 1839.

Louis XVIII entrusted him with a high military post at the 1st Restoration, but nevertheless Lallemand was one of the first until 1815 to participate in attempted rebellion against the king. This failed, but shortly afterwards Napoleon made a landing at Cannes and seized power.

During the Hundred Days, Lallemand was promoted to General of Division and Pair of France. He took part at the head of the Chasseurs à Cheval de la Garde at Waterloo 1815.

After the 2nd Restoration he was imprisoned, but managed to escape to America. Here, in 1817-18, together with 300-400 other like-minded and proscribed from the old French Imperial Guard, he tried to form a settler colony, Champ d'Asyle in Texas on the banks of the Trinity River, 45 miles northeast of the city of Houston. The attempt did not go well. Today, a memorial stone has been erected for Lallemand and his comrades, at the place where the colony was once located.

He eagerly participated in the plans to free Napoleon from St. Helena, and on that occasion the ex-emperor bequeathed him 100,000 francs. in his will.

After the death of Napoleon (1821), Lallemand appears in Spain (1823), then in Brussels and later in Paris, where he completely disregarded the issued death sentence, which was still in force. Again he traveled to America to finally return home to France after the July Revolution of 1830.

He was then reinstated in all his old rights, thus he became general in 1831 and Pair in 1832. He also led active command as commander first of the 17th, later of the 10th division.

9. The sable is still in the possession of the Vind family (1914).

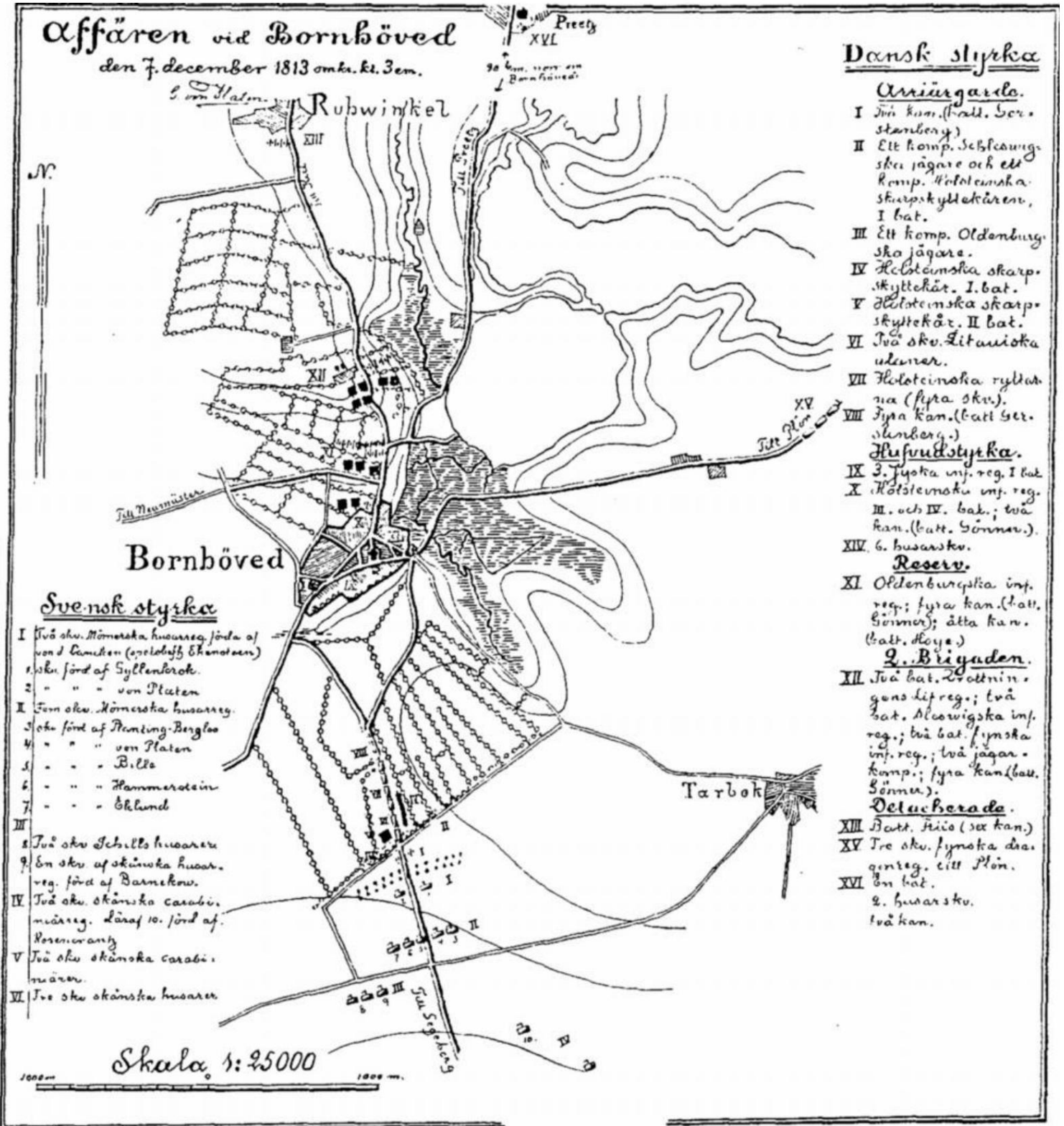
The 10th Zealand Hussar Corps (200 Hussars) was established at the end of 1813 and was disbanded 3 months later, but managed to participate in some of the Auxiliary Corps' battles in Holstein.

Additional information:

Knötel - Mecklenburg hunters (section of planche)

Dr. Lienhart & Humbert - Auxiliary Corps uniforms

Chr. Würgler Hansen and Olaf Hasselager - Hanseatic Legion 1813-1814



Affären vid Bornhöved
den 7. december 1813 omk. kl. 3em.

Dansk styrka

- Arriärgarde.**
- I Två kan. (Holl. Ser. stänberg.)
 - II Ett komp. Schleswigiska jägare och ett komp. Holsteinska skarp-skyttekarén, I bat.
 - III Ett komp. Oldenburgska jägare.
 - IV Holsteinska skarp-skyttekar. I bat.
 - V Holsteinska skarp-skyttekar. II bat.
 - VI Två sku. Litauiska utemär.
 - VII Holsteinska ryttarna (fyra sku.).
 - VIII Fyra kan. (batt. Ser. stänberg.)
- Hufvudstyrka.**
- IX 3. fysta inf. reg. I bat.
 - X Holsteinska inf. reg. III. och IV. bat.; två kan. (batt. Sömmar.).
 - XIV 6. husarstu.
- Reserv.**
- XI Oldenburgska inf. reg.; fyra kan. (batt. Sömmar.); åtta kan. (batt. Skoye.)
- 2. Brigaden.**
- XII Två bat. Wollnins gens lifreg.; två bat. Alswigiska inf. reg.; två bat. fymiska inf. reg.; två jägar-komp.; fyra kan. (batt. Sömmar.).
- Detcherade.**
- XIII Batt. Hies (sex kan.)
 - XV Tre sku. fymiska dragreg. ett Plön.
 - XVI En bat. 2. husarstu. två kan.

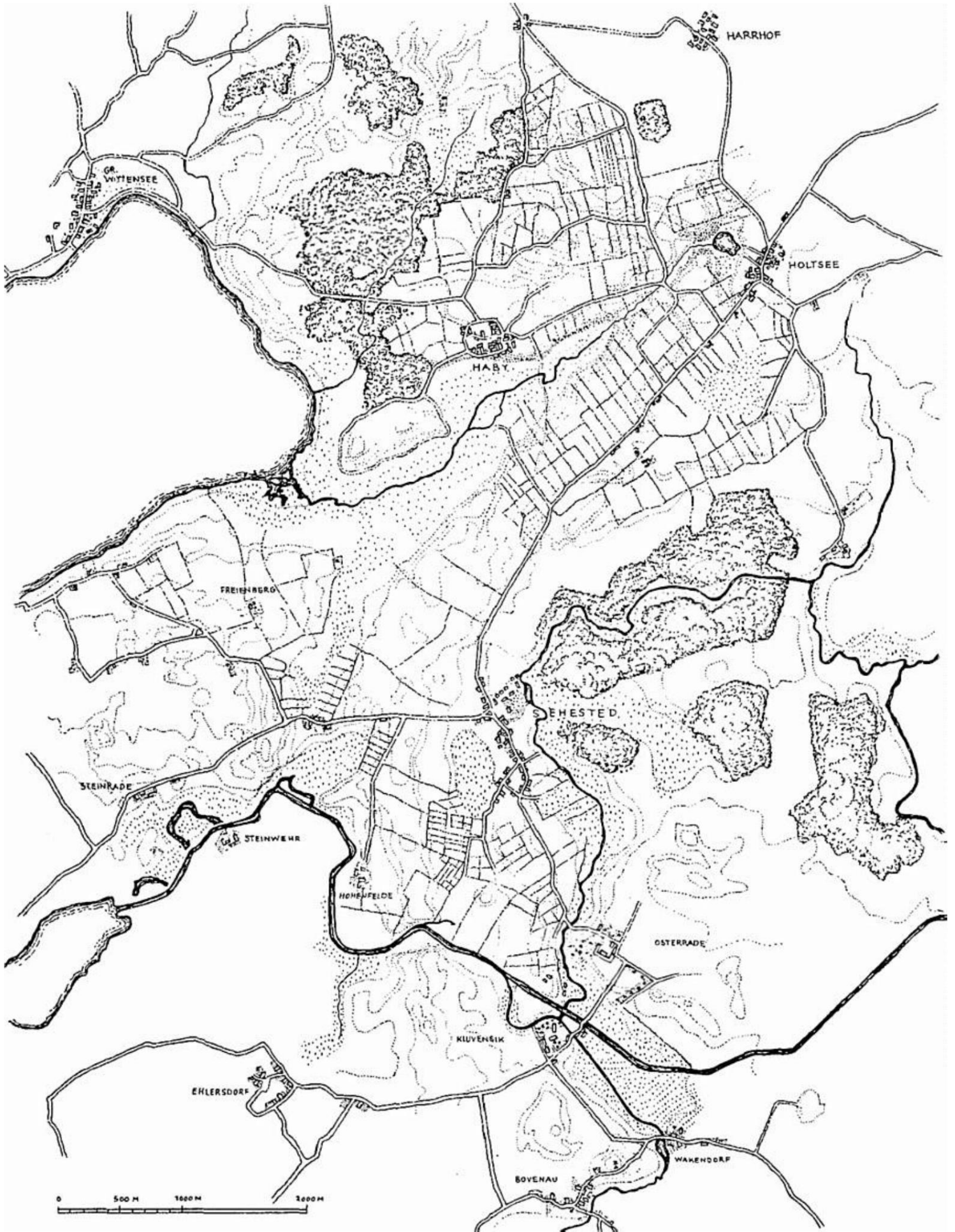
Svensk styrka

- I Två sku. Möneriska husarreg. föda af von d. Lamken (protokoll. Ehrenstein)
- 1. sku. förd af Syllensrook.
- 2. " " von Platen
- II Fem sku. Möneriska husarreg.
- 3. sku. förd af Ranting-Bergloo
- 4. " " von Platen
- 5. " " Bille
- 6. " " Hammerstein
- 7. " " Sklund
- III
- 8. Två sku. Schills husarreg.
- 9. En sku. af skånska husar. reg. förd af Barmkow.
- IV Två sku. skånska carabi. määreg. Läraf 10. förd af Rosenwanz
- V Två sku. skånska carabi. määreg.
- VI Tre sku. skånska husarreg.

Skala 1:25000

V i trakten up Daldorf, 6 km. söder Bornhöved. VII omk. 6 km. syd-öst Bornhöved.

Map of the area at Sehested



Map of the area between Kiel and Rendsborg

