

Scrapbook: Danish soldiers - Artillery

Introduction



"After the German surrender in 1945, the artillery had completely run out of material. In connection with the reconstruction of the army, English material was acquired, and the new field artillery became the English 25 pounder gun, which was designated the *88 mm L/27 field gun M.45E*. It was our only field pamphlet until the arrival of American material in the 1950s. The anti-aircraft artillery was better equipped from the start, with the solid English *40 mm L/60 M.45E anti-aircraft gun* already in 1945."

The quote is taken from the Tøjhusmuseet's booklet *Dansk Landartilleri 1400-2000* An overview by Ole L. Frandsen (Special edition of Dansk Artilleritidsskrift, no. 4, August 1997, 83rd year).

Scrapbook "Artillery"

The sheet from the series "Danish soldiers" consisted of the drawings which are now reproduced on four A4 sheets. There were many play options in the soldiers and at the same time a certain realism

- an observer an
- orderly who delivers a message to an officer two pamphlets
- from the field artillery - one in firing position and just firing two pamphlets from
- the anti-aircraft artillery - one in firing position and just firing

Unfortunately, cannon tractors and the like are not shown.

The field artillery

Here the artist has gone wrong in the city, when the motifs are to be Danish artillery!

The drawings of the field artillery pamphlets do not show the 88 mm field gun M.45E mentioned in the introduction, but an earlier version of the 25 pounder, namely the *Ordnance QF 25pr Mark I*, or as it was popularly known the *18/25 pounder*.

This pamphlet was created in 1936, when it was decided to acquire a new field gun to replace the existing 18 pounder Field Gun (caliber: 83.8 mm). However, it would be a few years before the new pamphlet could be put into use, so it was decided to bore out the barrels of the existing field guns so that they matched the new caliber (88 mm). The 18/25 pounder was the backbone of the English field artillery in France 1939-1940.

The field gun, which later went to the Danish artillery, first saw the light of day in the winter of 1939 and took part in combat for the first time in Norway in 1940.

Having said this, it must immediately be added that the artist brilliantly illustrates the 18/25 pounder and with the crews in the correct exercise positions.

The anti-aircraft artillery

Here too, there is no correspondence between reality and drawings.

The draftsman has not shown the 40mm anti-aircraft gun M.45E, but the British 94mm anti-aircraft gun - *3.7in Anti-Aircraft Gun*. This pamphlet was part of the British anti-aircraft artillery from 1938 and served well throughout the war.

The Danish anti-aircraft artillery first got a similar pamphlet when the American 90 mm anti-aircraft gun M.1950 was introduced.

What has led the artist to render the heavy anti-aircraft gun instead of the light one can only be guessed at. Perhaps his publisher was an English clipping sheet or simply "wrong" photographs. In any case, he has also hit the mark correctly here and again shows the crews in the correct positions in terms of exercise.

As a curiosity, it can be mentioned that the original cut-out sheet has an arrow that marks on the last drawing that the muzzle smoke must be placed in front of the muzzle of the anti-aircraft gun. On the sheet - and my reproduction - there is simply no room for it to be drawn in front of the mouth.

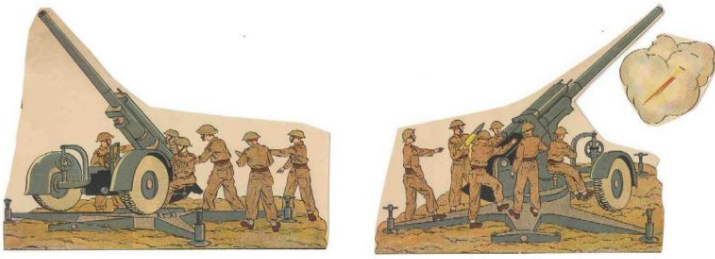
Uniformization

The soldiers are wearing Uniform M/44, which was a copy of the English battledress, and Field Cape M/44. The steel helmet is also of English origin.

All drawings also show the soldiers with webbing gaiters, except the officer (who receives the message) who wears shoes.

On the shoulder, the soldiers wear the so-called *shoulder title*, which bore the name of the regiment.





Closing

I have had the scrap sheet from a time in the early 1960s, when I got it as a gift from my father. Of course it was cut out so I could play with things and mounted on wooden blocks or propped up by other things, so the cannons did well.

Now they have been immortalized for posterity and I hope that others can enjoy the soldiers as much as I have. If you want to cut them out and play with them on the floor, that might be going too far, but inserted in a folder they are now also interesting to look at.

Sources:

1. *Danish Land Artillery 1400-2000* by Ole L. Frandsen, Tøjhusmuseet's 1997 (Special print of Dansk Artilleritids-skrift, No. 4, August 1997, 83rd volume.)
2. *British & American Artillery of World War 2* af Ian V. Hogg, Arms and Armour Press, London 1978, ISBN 0-85368-242-9.
3. *Danish Uniforms 1900-1990, The Army and the Air Force* by Bjørn A. Nielsen, Tøjhusmuseet 1992, ISBN 87-89022-26-2.

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