

Scrapbook - Danish soldiers - Infantry, Part 3



Introduction

As far as is known, the fourth and last scrapbook in the series Danish Soldiers (from about 1946), drawn and/or published by NCW - see *Scrapbook: Danish Soldiers - 1946* and *Scrapbook: Danish Soldiers - Infantry, Part 2* - has appeared. See the end of the article

The drawings mainly show soldiers in the field, but interestingly some of the infantry's heavy support weapons are also included.

Drawings and models

As before, a standard-bearer is also shown here, who may be supposed to represent a situation from a royal revue. This time, however, the banner is not assigned to any particular battalion, so it can be used in any situation.

The soldiers are wearing English battledress and apparently English mounting system M.1937. Both parts were acquired by the defense from the summer of 1945. Apart from the sacks, the harness is shown in brown, which could suggest an inspiration from the large amount of Swedish equipment and materiel that came to Denmark together with the Danish Brigade. The systems are not immediately "compatible", but were used in parallel.

The soldiers are equipped with the following weapon systems:

Handgun	Danish designation	Foreign designation
Gun	7.7 mm rifle M.45.E	Lee Enfield (English)
Machine gun	9 mm machine gun M.45.E Sten Gun (English)	

Light Machine Gun 7.7mm Recoil Gun M.45.E Bren Gun (English)



Recoil rifle shooter in prone position.
From Source 1.



Machine gunner in melee position.
From Source 1.

The possible model for the medium-heavy mortar is one of the following options:

Arms	Danish designation	Foreign designation
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Medium heavy mortar 81 mm mortar M.29 S 8 cm grenade launcher w/29-32 (Swedish) 1)		—
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Medium Mortar 76mm Mortar M.45 E 3inch Mortar, Mark I (English)

The drawing of the machine gun is easy enough to identify - it depicts a Danish *20 mm machine gun M.1938, in the field-made M.1938 2)*. The closer connection is more doubtful, as these machine guns were not used after the war as far as I know, as they were all, like other Danish weapons, taken by the Germans after 29 August 1943.

If one is therefore looking for a possible role model in the present, the drawing could conceivably illustrate one of the following possibilities:

Arms	Danish designation	Foreign designation
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Machine gun	20 mm machine gun M.40.S	20 mm automatic cannon w/40 (Swedish) 2) —
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Anti-tank gun 57 mm anti-tank gun M.45.E 6pdr Anti-tank Gun (English)



81 mm mortar group.
From Source 1.



57 mm anti-tank gun M.45e.
From Source 1.

As a curiosity, it can be stated that other contemporary clipping sheets also show Danish material from before 29 August 1943 in combination with Danish soldiers after 5 May 1945 - see e.g. my article Scrapbook - Danish soldiers, 1945.



Closing

With this, the four cut-out sheets from approx. 1946 with artillery and infantry described and in summary it must be said that they give a good impression of Danish soldiers at that time.

Today, one can only regret that the artist did not also choose to make a sheet of vehicles, then the series would have been almost perfect...

Queen Ingrid presents a banner to the Queen's Life Regiment, 1949.

From Source 5.

On the officer's left upper arm is the Dannebrog shield, which was worn during service with the Danish Brigade in Germany.

Sources

1. *Textbook for the privates of the army, Part 1*, Ministry of War, Copenhagen 1950.
2. *Swedish and English equipment in the Danish army* by Ole Niemann, brought in the Queen's Life Regiments Soldiers' Association magazine Gyldenløve, December 1998.
3. *Swedish weapons in the Danish army 1946* by Captain IV Vorsling, Dansk Artilleri-tidsskrift, 1946.
4. *English weapons in the Danish army 1946* by Captain IV Vorsling, Dansk Artilleri-tidsskrift, 1946.
5. *When the Dane jumped soldier, Danish Album - glimpse of the history of the defense* by Orla Alstrup and Harald Skougaard, Schultz Forlag, Copenhagen 1980, ISBN 87-569-0611-0.

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Notes:

- 1) See e.g. my article *The Danish Brigade in Sweden 1939-1945 - 5th (heavy) Battalion, Part 1*.
- 2) See e.g. my article *About Danish infantry 1932-1941, Skytskompagniet, Part 4*.



