

Scrapbook: Denmark's army and navy

Introduction

"Danmarks Hær og Flaade" is the title of a booklet with cut-out sheets, which was published once in the 1940s. The sheets were designed by Ove Meier and published by Arthur Jensens Kunstforlag in Copenhagen. The booklet bears the designation "Scrapbook No. 4411".

The booklet contains six sheets, which - estimated - are 35 x 35 cm. The motives are:

- The Royal Life Guard, in red gala, including a very large drawing of Christian X on horseback. (2 sheets, one of which is also the cover of the booklet)
- Army, field service - see later. (2 sheets)
- Army Air Forces (reconnaissance machine R-29 and a pilot); radio station, searchlight, a couple soldiers and officers as well as a 40 mm anti-aircraft gun from the navy. (1 sheet)
- The fleet - among other things, two drawings of an artillery ship, a torpedo boat, a 20 mm machine gun, a number of marines and Crown Prince Frederik (the later Frederik IX). (1 sheet)

On the back of the sheet with the Navy - and thus the back of the booklet - there is a range of historical information about the Norwegian Armed Forces. The six sheets are perforated on the left side and can thus easily be torn from the spine, which is held together with staples.

Ove Meier was a talented draftsman who used a simple but very clear drawing style. It is actually only a very large drawing of Christian X - on the cover - which is not very similar.

This is how the clippings came into my possession

I am in possession of the two sheets showing the Army on field service and they came into my possession in the early 1960s. My parents had, during a visit to some friends in Glostrup, seen a toy store with an apparently older stock. The next afternoon or a few days later, my father took me from Valby to Glostrup - I clearly remember the trip, because it was my first trip on one of the red DSB buses that ran from Valby Langgade Station, along Roskildevej, to Glostrup.

Among the store's inventory was a number of Tekno Falckbiler made of tin. I became the proud owner of an "ax wagon" - that is, the pioneer wagon that was part of the Tekno series. The wagon was equipped with two detachable axes, mounted on the side of the wagon. Furthermore, I also got a Falckman - the amusing tin figure whose arms and legs could be bent so that he fit behind the wheel of a Falck car. From a toy point of view, a rather fragile construction, unless you keep him in the first chosen position. On that account, my Falckman later lost one arm.

In addition, it became the two sheets with soldiers. My father, who was far-sighted and richer than I, bought the entire booklet. It is still - complete - in his possession. I just used it for comparison with my loose soldiers.

The purpose of my acquiring the two sheets was, of course, to cut out the soldiers so that I could play with them. Gradually, the soldiers were cut out - not an easy task for an 8 or 9-year-old boy - and mounted on wooden blocks with the help of drawing pins. They did well as toys and were a cheap way to acquire a large number of soldiers.

Uniforming

If you consider the soldiers and their equipment and material, you get a good impression of the Army

uniforming etc. after 9 April 1940. The field uniform was now Model 1923 and no longer the previous uniform systems.

Two of the Army's newest weapons are included - the Model 1941 machine gun and the Model 1939 Lynx armored car. The machine gun indicates that the sheets must have been drawn around 1941, unless the officer with the machine gun has replaced another figure.

There is a good representation of the Infantry and Cavalry support weapons, but you might miss a 37 mm anti-tank gun, to say nothing of any artillery.



Closing

Today it might have been more interesting if the sheets had been preserved intact. But it was a toy - and meant to be cut out. When I think at the same time of the pleasure I have had from the soldiers, I am in no way sorry that the sheets have not been preserved in perfect condition.

By the aforementioned comparison with the original scrapbook, I could state with satisfaction that all soldiers - despite combat efforts - were still present. A few with minor damage that could be easily healed - bent/broken sabers and cannon barrels.

I have now mounted the soldiers on five A4 sheets, so that they are almost back in a situation similar to their starting point. Søren Juul has helped me with the scanning of the sheets - thank you for that.

Per Finsted

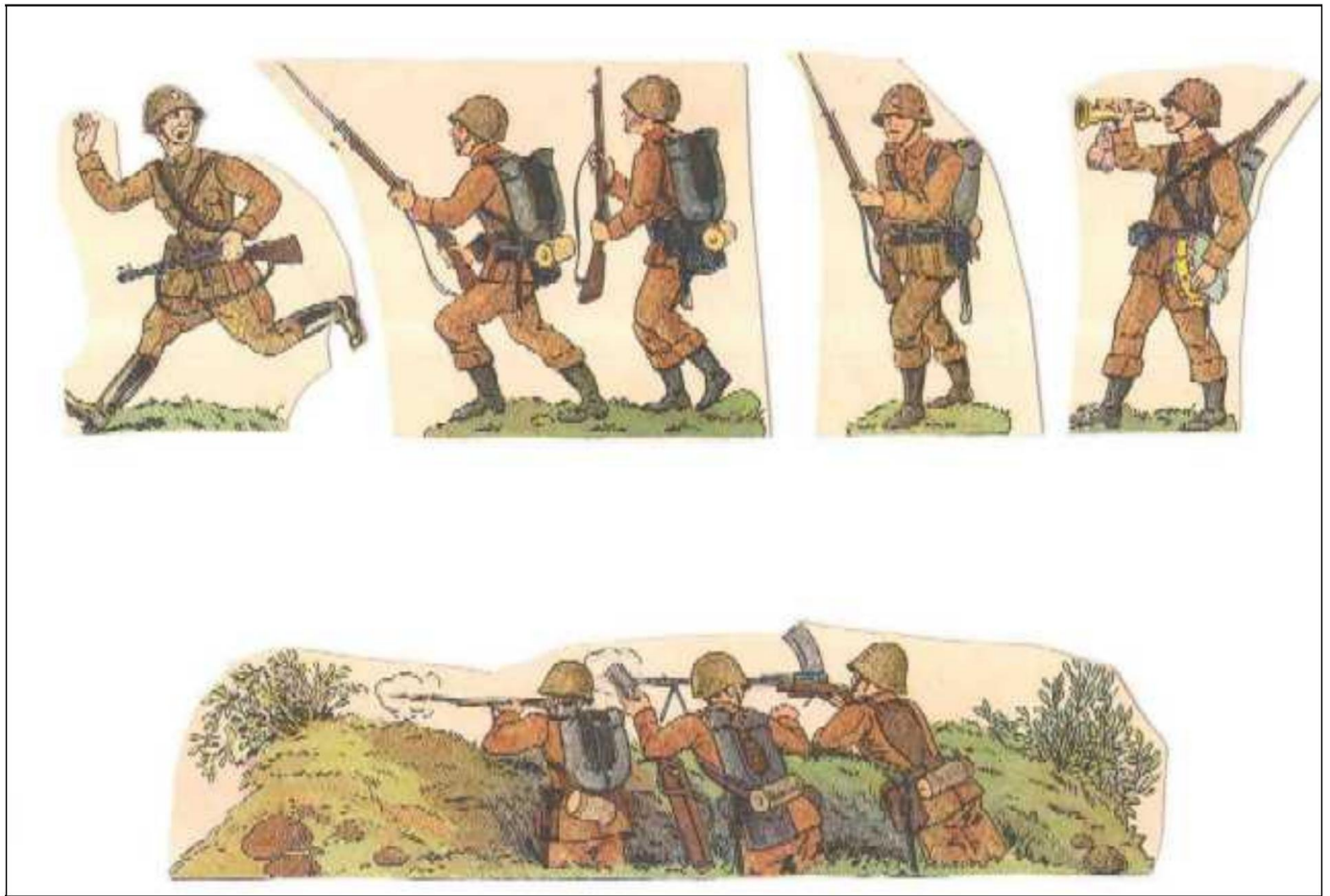
Postscript

The same Ove Meier later drew at least three sheets with CB figures (Civil protection - the predecessor of the later Civil Defense, which today has become the Emergency Corps). The sheets show CB's various tasks - fire, rescue and police service.

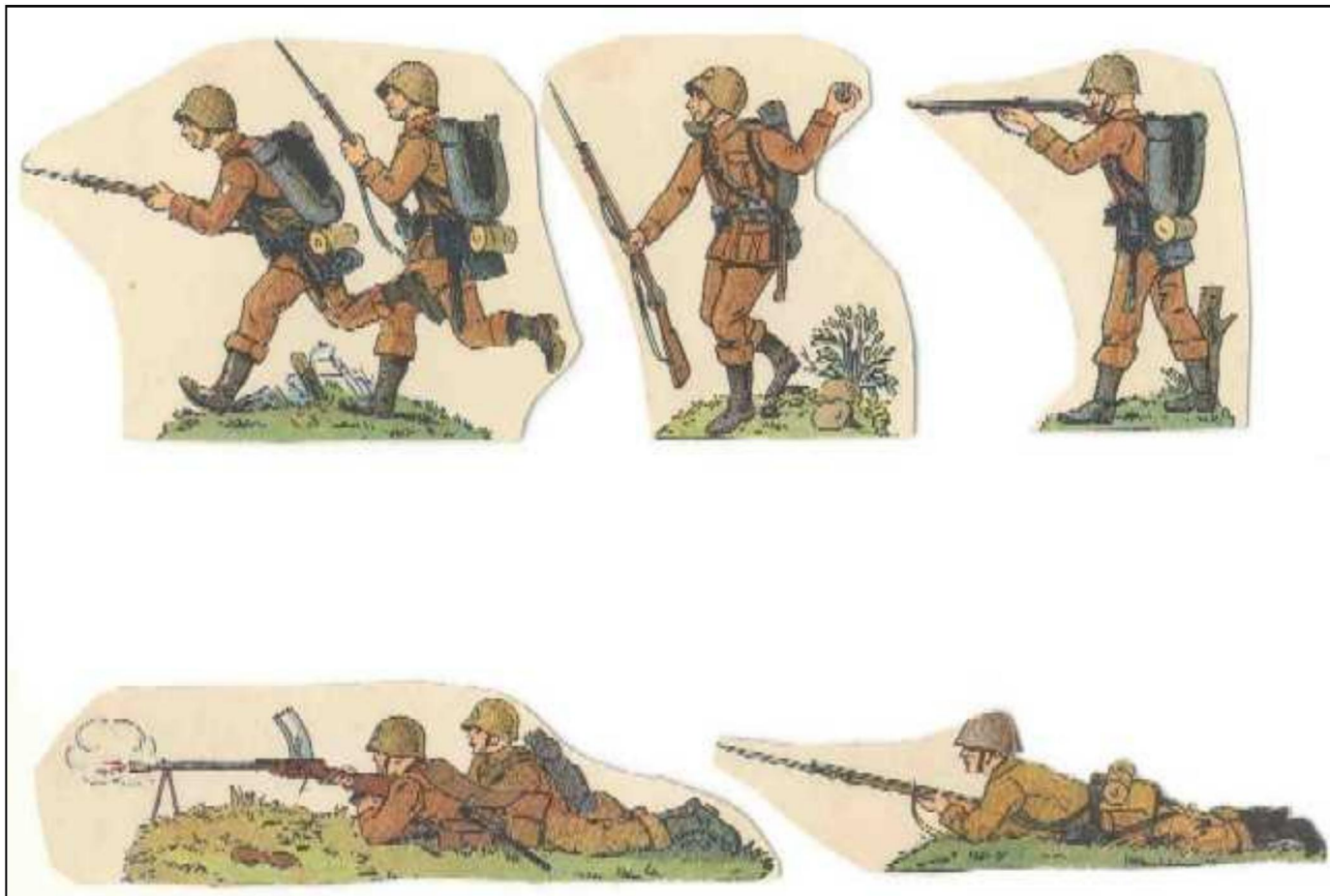
My father came into possession of copies of the three sheets when, some years ago, he assisted Edward Ryan with the book *Paper Soldiers* (New Cavendish Books, London, ISBN 0-904568-96-2) (see for example <http://www.newcavendishbooks.co.uk>) which, to my knowledge, is the only compilation of scrapbooks from many different countries. It turned out to be a rather expensive affair (GBP 50.00) which I have seen little of during various visits to bookshops in London.

Perhaps the three CB sheets were part of a booklet in the style of Denmark's Army and Navy and one can only

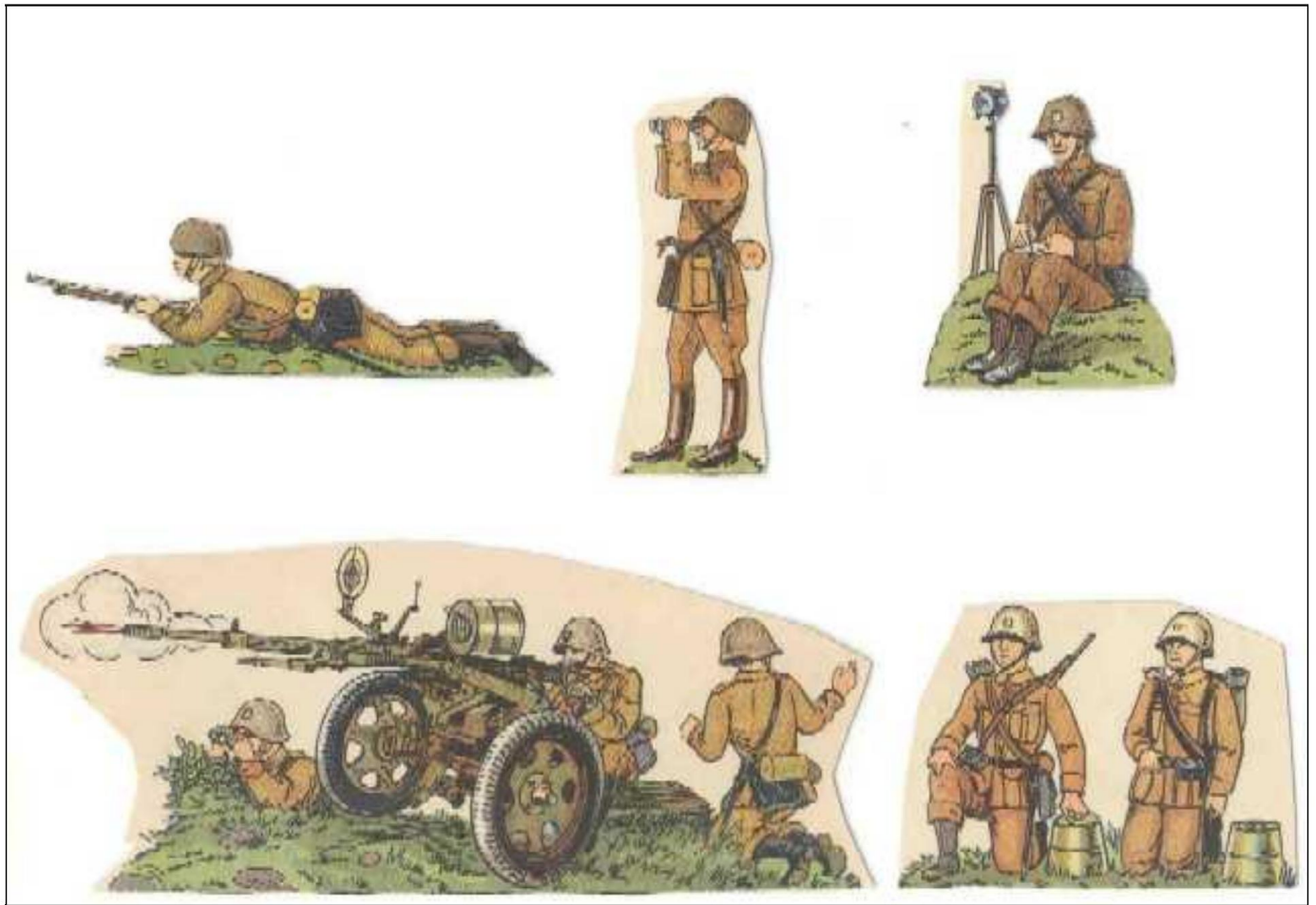
guess the remaining content. If any of the association's members can shed further light on this matter, I would like to hear about it.



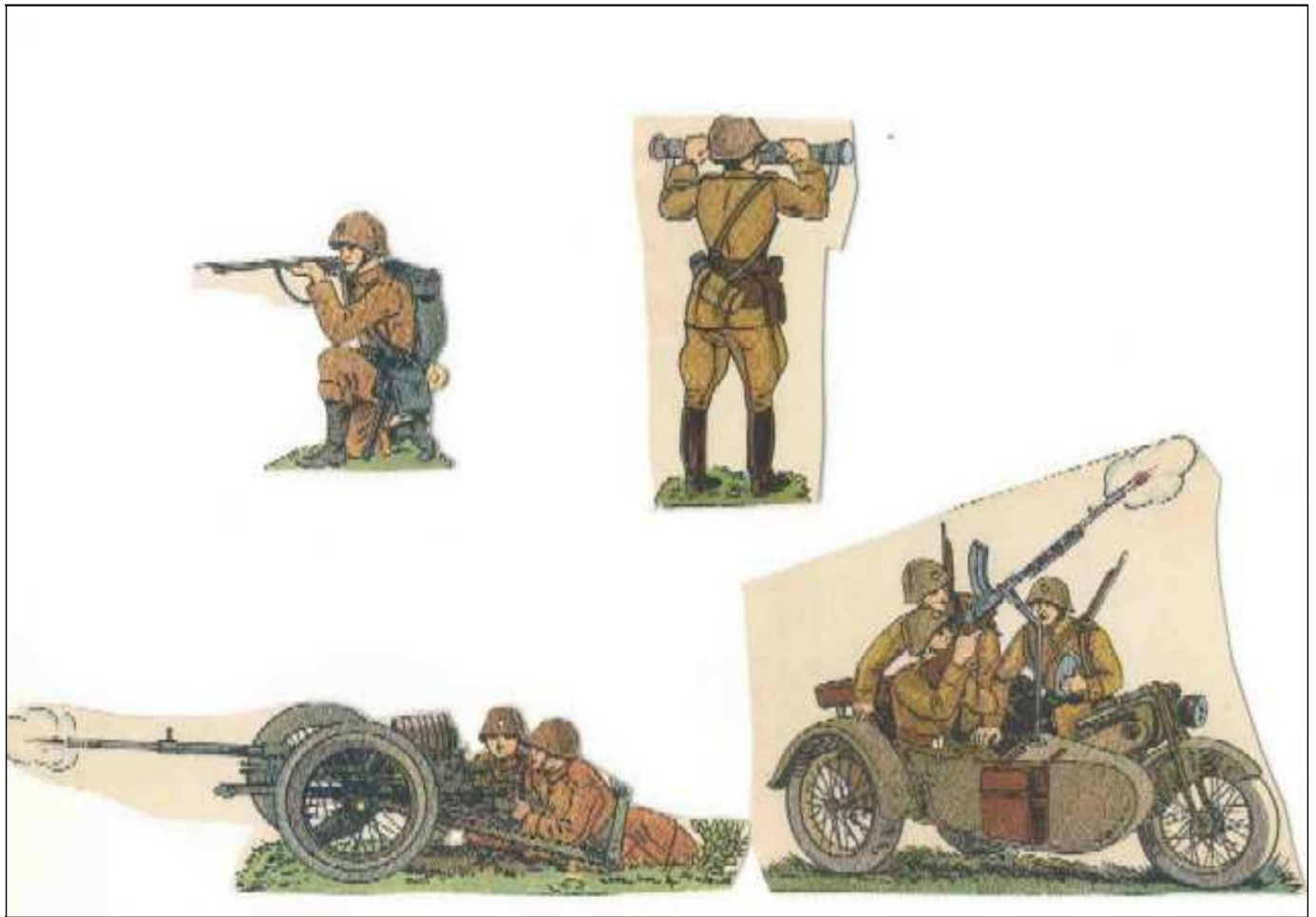
Officer (with Model 1941 submachine gun), recoilless rifle group and spare horn blower (equipped with both drum and signal horn).



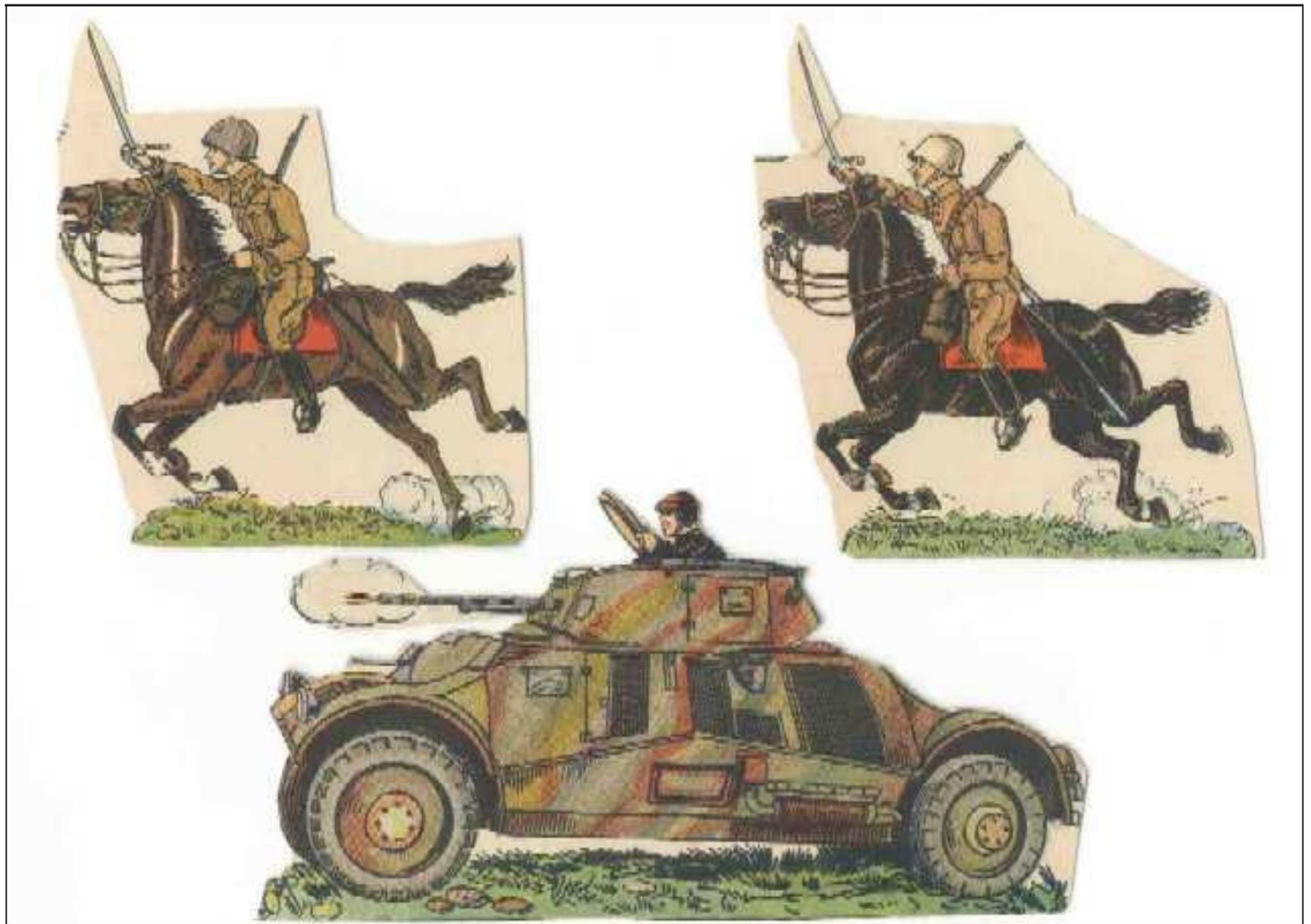
Recoil Rifle Group.



Electric signal station and officer with binoculars and security guard. 20 mm machine gun in the universal design and two feeders (with extra magazines).



20 mm machine gun and motorcycle (Nimbus) with recoilless rifle in air target shooting. The range finder (among other things used with the infantry's heavy weapons) and safety man.



Two hussars or dragons and an armored car Model 1939.