

The Carden-Loyd tank in Denmark

Introduction

As an addition to my description of Britain's model of the Carden-Loyd tank, here is a mention of the Danish outcome of the case.

The Carden-Loyd tank in Denmark

In 1929, lieutenant colonel Andersen-Høyer from the Härens Tekniske Korps (HTK) had, during a study trip to England, been promised the loan of a light tank of the Carden-Loyd type from Vickers Fabrikkerne. One had to pay £200 for transport and hire - an amount which would be refunded if it was decided later to buy Vickers tanks.

In August 1932, a Carden-Loyd Patrol Car Mk VI [1](#)) with associated track-driven trailer arrived from England. The tank was equipped with a water-cooled Model Vickers machine gun and was designated FP 4 (Trial Armored Car number 4).



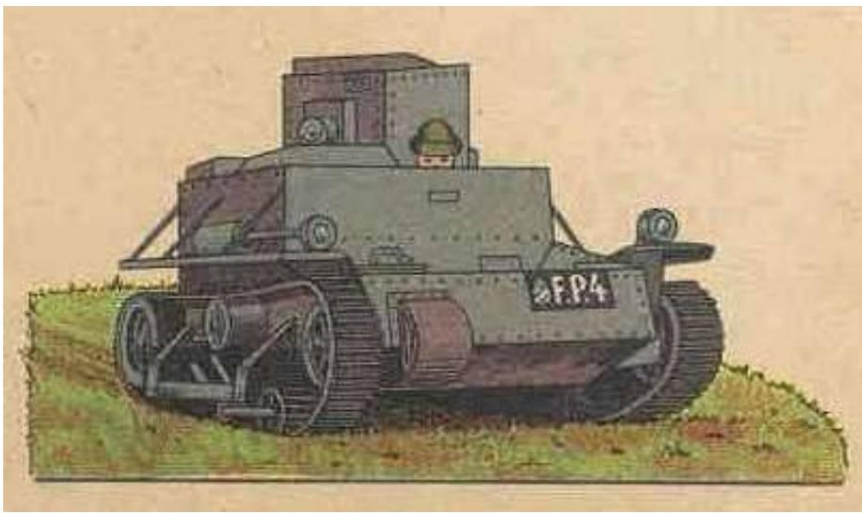
When the six-week rental period expired, HTK could conclude that

- the off-road properties were poor, it was
- impossible to control on the road, the
- belts wobbled, to put it mildly.

The best that could be said was that it was cheap to purchase (DKK 20,000) and run (approx. DKK 1 per kilometer).

The rented FP 4. is seen together with the tracked trailer.

The crew is from the Gardehusar regiment.



The rented FP 4 was immortalized by the cartoonist Adolph Holst, as part of the clipping sheet *Danske Bilder. Artillery. Series 2, Number 6.*

The sheet from which the drawing originates was kindly lent by Niels Blangsted-Jensen and scanned by Søren Juul.

Despite the negative experiences, it was decided to purchase two unarmed tanks of the same model, as it might not be fair to make a final judgment on the vehicle after a trial period of only six weeks. Various equipment was also acquired.

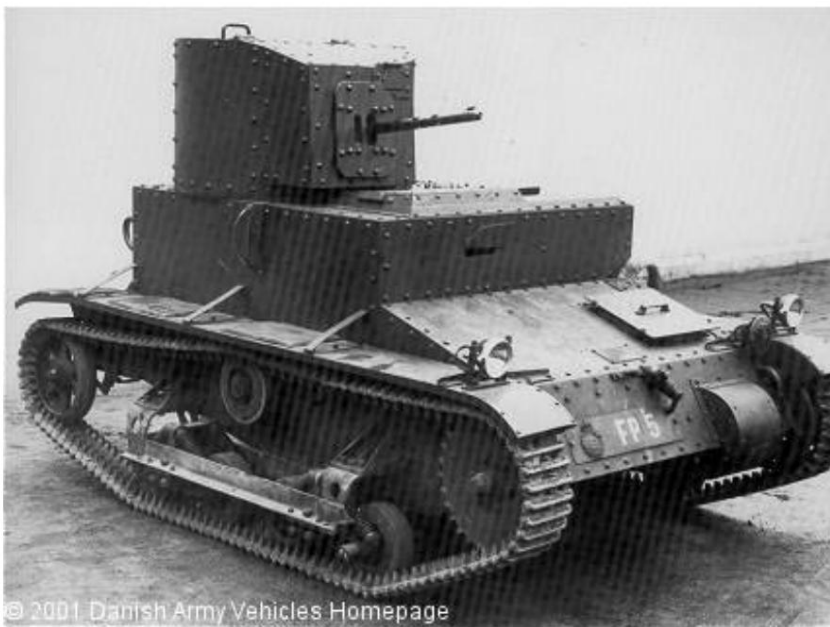
The tanks that arrived at HTK in August 1933 were designated FP 4 and 5. An 8 mm Model Madsen machine gun was mounted in the turret.

The two new Carden-Loyd tanks were of a different version than the leased version [2](#)) and in poor mechanical condition. It looked like a breach of contract. Vickers had to send fitters to Copenhagen several times to correct errors and deficiencies. It was particularly wrong with the road wheel system, the cooling system and the exhaust.

During exercises, there were also problems with the 4-wheeled block wagons, which were used for road transport of the tanks. The assigned Ford trucks were not powerful enough. They tried with stronger trucks of the International and Fordson types, and chose the latter.

The Training Department states in its report that the Carden-Loyd tanks have so far been a great disappointment, and it is doubted that they will ever be useful.

HTK concludes that the Army needs such a cheap armored vehicle, and that the purchased vehicles should therefore be used until better vehicles appear.



The two tanks were henceforth used for technical trials and displayed at exhibitions, among other things in connection with animal shows [3](#))! In 1937, the tanks were given the status of emergency vehicles.

FP 5 survived the Occupation and is today on display at Tøjhusmuseet.

For many years the tank was on display outside, but is now on display in the Armoury.

Furthermore, in recent years it has been supplemented with one of the 4-wheel block wagons that were used for road transport.

Closing

FP 4 and 5 took part in the Army's autumn manoeuvres, and from one of these exercises comes the following, at once amusing and instructive account [4](#)):

"A conscription reserve hornblower was on loan to the tank force. The tanks were not equipped with radios, so another means of signaling was necessary. The reserve hornblower was carried forward, seated on the tank. His job was to blow a predetermined signal if a given bridge was found intact .

Suddenly, a bag full of water-driven chalk lands right next to the tank! Although the bag did not hit the tank, it - and not least the good spare horn - was splashed with chalk.

When he looked up, he saw an airplane - a biplane - which, with its engine switched off, had dived towards the tank.

The story went on to say that the loud laughter of the aircrew could be heard as they flew on, and the poor spare hornblower spent the rest of the exercise getting his uniform clean again."

Speaking of the story - Not so long ago, Swedish TV4 broadcast a *Cuckoo and Gokke* film - unfortunately I didn't catch the title - where the two unfortunate heroes served in the American army, around 1940. They participated, among other things, in a major exercise during which water-dried chalk was also used to mark aircraft bombs. It was no less hard on the two gentlemen!

Sources

1. *Armored weapons in Denmark* by Ole Drostrup, Tøjhusmuseet 1991, ISBN 87-89022-20-3.
2. *The automobile in the army 1908-1983* by Frank Pedersen, 1983.
3. The photographs of the rented FP 4 and FP 5 come from the website <http://www.armyvehicles.dk>.

Per Finsted

Notes

- 1) *The export version of the Carden-Loyd tank differs from the version produced by Britains in that it is enclosed and equipped with a turret in which the machine gun is located.*
- 2) *On the rented FP 4, the engine and tower were located on the right side of the carriage. On the new tanks, both parts were now located on the left side of the tank. (Note the location of the exhaust pipe as well as the gearing to the drive shaft/wheels.)*
- 3) *According to reports, the tanks were transported around to the various animal shows in moving vans.*
- 4) *The soldier who witnessed the incident told EC Finsted much later.*