

The Danish Brigade in Sweden 1943-1945 - 1st - 4th Battalion, Part 1

Introduction

The four light battalions made up the Brigade's combat battalions. The following figures indicate the figures in the organizational charts, where the current strength figures could deviate somewhat.

The battalions were organized as follows: •

Chief with staff (54) 3 recoilless companies

• (165).

The staff company included, among other things:

• sanitary section consisting of: Doctors (2), junior doctor (1), nurses (2), sick bearers (12) and sanitary lots (2).

• 1 kitchen van, with motor vehicle driver and 5 kitchen lots.

The recoil plant companies consisted of: •

Chief with command group (27)

• 3 platoons, each with platoon sling (7), 3 recoilless rifle groups (8), machine gun group (8) and 47 mm mortar group (7).

The companies' tree included: • Driver

(1), Baggage wagon (1), Ammunition wagon (1) and kitchen wagon (1) with 5 kitchen lots.

Appendix 1 shows, based on Source 2, how the 2nd Company of the 4th Battalion was organized and manned. It is not clear when the overview is dated, but I assume that the figures are from early May 1945.

Armament

The brigade's combat battalions were light units whose heaviest weapons were 47 mm mortars. The armament was therefore traditional infantry weapons - pistols, rifles, submachine guns, light machine guns (or recoilless rifles, which was the contemporary Danish term) and light mortars.

The brigade's other units were equipped with similar weapons.

9 mm pistol M.40 S



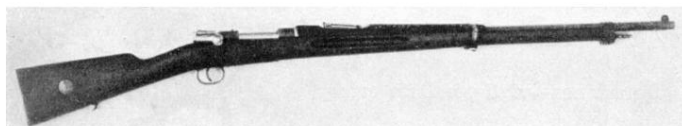
Swedish designation: *pistol m/40*.

The pistol - of the *Lahti* type - was a Swedish version of the Finnish submachine gun that was manufactured during the Winter War.

The pistol is described as almost a compromise between *Bayard* (the Danish *Pistol M.1910/21*) and *Para bellum* (*Luger*). The missing *Pistol M.1910/21*'s outward-facing cock, you had the magazine in the stock instead.

Used in the Danish army after the war, under the designation *9 mm pistol M.40 S*.

6,5 mm gevær M.96 S



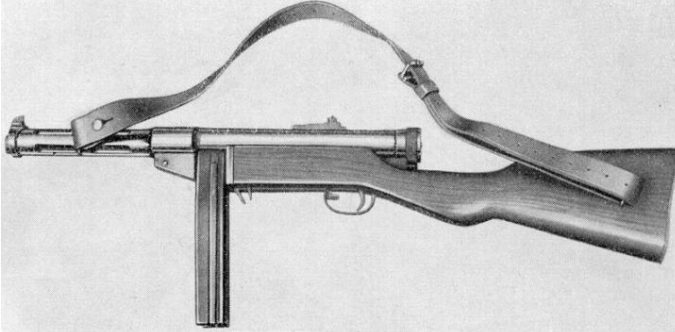
Swedish designation: *6.5 mm rifle m/96*.

The rifle was of the *Mauser* type and was the standard weapon in the Brigade.

The rifle was used in the Danish army after the war, under the designation *6.5 mm rifle M.96 S*.

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9mm submachine gun M 37/39 S



Swedish designation: *9 mm submachine gun m/37-39*.

The machine gun was of the *Suomi type*. It was of the same type as the Danish *submachine gun M. 1941*, only somewhat shorter and therefore lighter.

Used in the Danish army after the war, under the designation *9mm submachine gun M 37/39 S*.

6,5 mm rekylgevær M.37 S

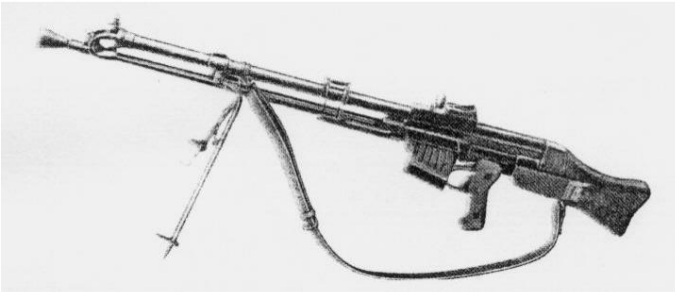


Swedish designation: *6.5 mm machine gun m/37*.

The recoilless rifle was a further development of the American BAR (Browning Automatic Rifle), which was introduced into the Swedish army in 1921.

The recoilless rifle fired with the same cartridge as the *6.5 mm rifle M.96 S*. The sight could be set for shooting at between 200 and 1,200 m.

Each recoilless rifle included: 12 magazines (with 20 shots), interchangeable barrel in holster and tool bag I and II.



6.5mm submachine gun w/40.

Originally, the Brigade was intended for recoilless rifles of the *type 6.5 mm Kosprutgevär m/40*, which were manufactured by *Svenska Automatvapen (SAV)*.

The recoilless rifle was hastily put into production and therefore suffered from a number of childhood illnesses; it was already not popular with the Swedish soldiers.

The childhood illnesses were not reduced by initially inexperienced commanders who had no experience with the Swedish gas pressure principle, as well as an intensive use - all personnel had to be forced through shooting training within a few weeks.



Shooting training with 6.5 mm recoilless rifle M.37 S.
From Source 1.

Every recoilless rifle thus came to fire from sunrise to sunset, whereby several rifles endured far more shots than one could reasonably expect from any recoilless rifle.

The brigaders were strongly dissatisfied with the recoilless rifles and a crisis of confidence quickly developed in the weapons that were stored in Swedish depots. If the re-cooling gun didn't work, what about the other equipment?

In order to radically remove the mistrust, the Brigade's materiel section brought the matter up to the Swedish authorities, who quickly exchanged all delivered and stored weapons for *6.5 mm carbine guns m/37*.

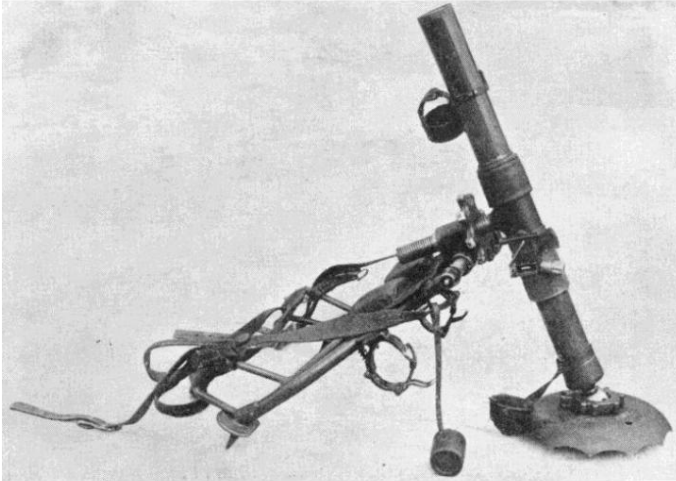
Used in the Danish army after the war, under the designation *6.5 mm recoilless rifle M.37 S*.

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The Norwegian police troops in Sweden received approximately 480 recoilless rifles of the same type¹. The satisfaction was apparently not much greater here, but the weapon did survive the war and was then handed over to the *Heimevernet*, where it was given the designation MG40.

Among other things, the Norwegians also had 6.5 mm machine gun m/37, and although the two guns are similar, the magazines were not interchangeable.

47 mm mortar M.40 S



Swedish designation: 47 mm grenade launcher m/40.

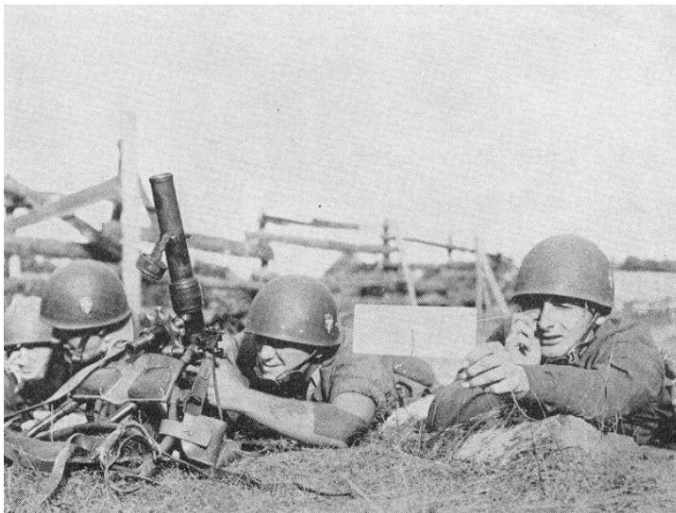
The mortar was of Swedish construction; it was transported in straps on the back, the mortar stand acting like the stand in a rucksack.

For the mortar, 47 mm high-explosive grenade M.40 S was used, which (with shock tube and charge cartridge) weighed 0.69 kg.

Accessories: 1 helper bag and 5 grenade boxes.

The mortar itself weighed 11.9 kg and the maximum firing range was approx. 500 m.

Used in the Danish army after the war, under the designation 47 mm mortar M.40 S.



Shooting with a light mortar.
From Source 1.

Signal guns The

brigade's material requirements of 27 April 1944, cf. Source 6, predicted a need for 248 signal guns. Of these, 4 were immediately taken from the Swedish stocks and handed over, while the rest would only be available after manufacture. The signal pistols had the Swedish designation *lyspistol m/292*.

¹ Weapons technical material for the Norwegian police troops in Sweden 1943-1945 by Walter Svendsen, Norwegian Weapons Historical Society, Yearbook 2003, Oslo 2003, ISBN 82-90867-20-4 (pages 7-27).

² Preliminary information suggests that the signal gun in question should resemble the Swedish *light gun m/18*, only with a shorter barrel. The pipes on *light gun m/18* were later generally shortened, after which the designation became *light gun m/18-40*. (Correspondence with Matts Persson, February/March 2004.)

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Hand grenades

The brigade's hand grenades were of the type *språnghandgranat m/39*, which was a Swedish licensed production of the German shaft hand grenade, probably *Stielhandgranate 39*. The German hand grenade was approx. 40 cm long and weighed approx. 625 g.

Other Swedish weapons

The following weapons were part of the Brigade's reserve stocks, which were brought to Denmark, but were apparently not handed over to the brigaders.

The reserve stocks were "mobilization stocks", for use by newly established units in Denmark.

6,5 mm karabin m/94 S



Swedish designation: *6.5 mm carbine w/94*.

The carbine corresponds to the *6.5 mm rifle m/96*, only with a shorter barrel.

Used in the Danish army after the war, under the designation *6.5 mm carbine M.94 S*.

6,5 mm gevær M.38 S



Swedish designation: *6.5 mm rifle m/38*.

Used in the Danish army after the war, under the common designation *6.5 mm rifle M.38 S*.

The rifle was a shorter version of the *6.5 mm gevär m/96* and used the same ammunition. .

Conclusion

Part 2 of this paper deals, among other things, with the soldiers' personal equipment.

Sources

1. *The Danish Brigade* edited by Niels Grunnet and Bent Demer, H. Hirsprungs Forlag, Copenhagen 1945.
2. *The Danish Brigade in Sweden 1943-1945 - 2. Company of 4. Battalion* by Erik Hegnhøj, published by Den Danske Brigadeforening, Copenhagen 1995, ISBN 87-90214-01-3.
3. *Swedish weapons in the Danish army 1946* by Captain IV Vorsting, Dansk Artilleri-tidsskrift, 4th booklet, August 1946, side 105-122.
4. *The Danish Brigade in Sweden 1943-1945 - 3rd Company of the 2nd Battalion* by Svend Jørgen Nielsen, published by Den Danish Brigade Association, Copenhagen 1995, ISBN 87-90214-06-4.
5. *Some experiences and memories from the Danish Brigade's material acquisitions* by captain, weapons engineer, Einar Lund and captain HC Engel, Dansk Artilleri-tidsskrift, 5th issue, October 1946, pages 155-189.
6. *Aid to Denmark - Military and political relations 1943-1945* by Ulf Torell, Allmänna Förlaget, Stockholm 1973, ISBN 31-38-01693-1.
7. *The Brigade - The Danish Brigade in Sweden 1943-1945* by Knud JV Jespersen, Gyldendal, Copenhagen 1993, ISBN 87-00-14924-1.
8. *1½ years with the Danish Brigade* by lieutenant colonel PAF Norup (chief of staff at the Brigade), Militær Tidsskrift 1947, pages 271-308 and 353-406.
9. The now defunct "Mats' Weapons Page" (Mats Persson) - Description of Swedish weapons.

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The Danish Brigade in Sweden 1943-1945 - 1st - 4th Battalion, Part 1, Appendix 1

2. Company/4. Battalion (May 1945) (Total 137 men and 4 lots)

Company	1. Division (35)	2. Division (45)	3. Division (42)
commander Captain JMJ Lyng	Platoon leader Second-in-command Machine gunner	Delingsfører Næstkommanderende Maskinpistolskytte Maskinpistolskytte Fodordonnans 1 Fodordonnans 2 Fodordonnans 3 Fodordonnans 4 1.	Platoon leader Deputy commander Machine gunner Machine gunner Fodder Ordnance 1 Fodder Ordnance 2 Fodder Ordnance 3
Commando Group (10)	1. Recoil rifle group Group	Rekylgeværgruppe	1st recoilless rifle group
Deputy Commander Commanding Officer Machine gunner Machine gunner Machine gunner Food ordinance Food ordinance Food ordinance Bicycle Ordnance Bicycle Ordnance	leader Machine gunner Recoil gunner Recoil gun assistant Supply 1 Supply 2 Supply 3	Gruppefører Maskinpistolskytte Rekylgeværskytte Rekylgeværhjelper Forsyner 1 Forsyner 2 Forsyner 3 Forsyner 4 2. Rekylgeværgruppe 2. Rekylgeværgruppe	Squad leader Machine gunner Recoil gunner Recoil gunner Recoiler 1 Recoiler 2 Recoiler 3 Recoiler 4 2nd Recoil rifle group Group leader Machine gunner Recoil gunner Recoil gunner Recoiler
	Gruppefører Gruppefører	Rekylgeværskytte Maskinpistolskytte	Recoiler 1 Recoiler 2
	Rekylgeværhjelper Rekylgeværhjelper Forsyner 2 Forsyner 1 Forsyner 2 Group Group Leader Group Leader Rifle Assistant Recoil Rifle Gunner Assistant Supply 2 1 Supply 3 Supply 2 Supply 4 Supply 3 Supply 4	Rekylgeværhjelper Forsyner 2 Forsyner 1 Forsyner 2 Machine Gunner Recoil Assistant Supply 2 Supply 3 Supply 4 Mortar 1 Pioneer 2 Machine Gunner Supply 1 Supply 2 Supply Guns Group	Recoiler 3 Recoiler 4 3rd Recoil rifle group Group leader Machine gunner Recoil gunner Recoil gunner Recoiler Recoiler 1 Recoiler 2 Recoiler
Train (4 + 4 lottery tickets)	Machine Gunner Group Mortar	Driver 4 Mortar helper Mortar	
Leading Kitchen van (w/engine driver) Baggage van (w/driver) Ammunition wagon (with motor wagon's 4 kitchen lots driver)	supply 1		
	Machine gun group		Machine gun group
	Group leader pioneer 1 pioneer 2 Machine gunner Provide 1 Provide 2 Provide 3		Group leader pioneer 1 pioneer 2 Machine gunner Provide 1 Provide 2 Provide 3
	Mortar group		Mortar group
	Group leader Machine gunner Mortar shooting Mortar helper Mortar supply 1 Mortar supply 2		Group leader Machine gunner Mortar shooting Mortar helper Mortar supply 1

Produced on the basis of an overview from Source 2. It is not clear from this when the overview was dated, but I assume that it is about figures from early May 1945. In relation to the source, I have adjusted the designations of certain functions, so that they to a greater extent reflects current language use.

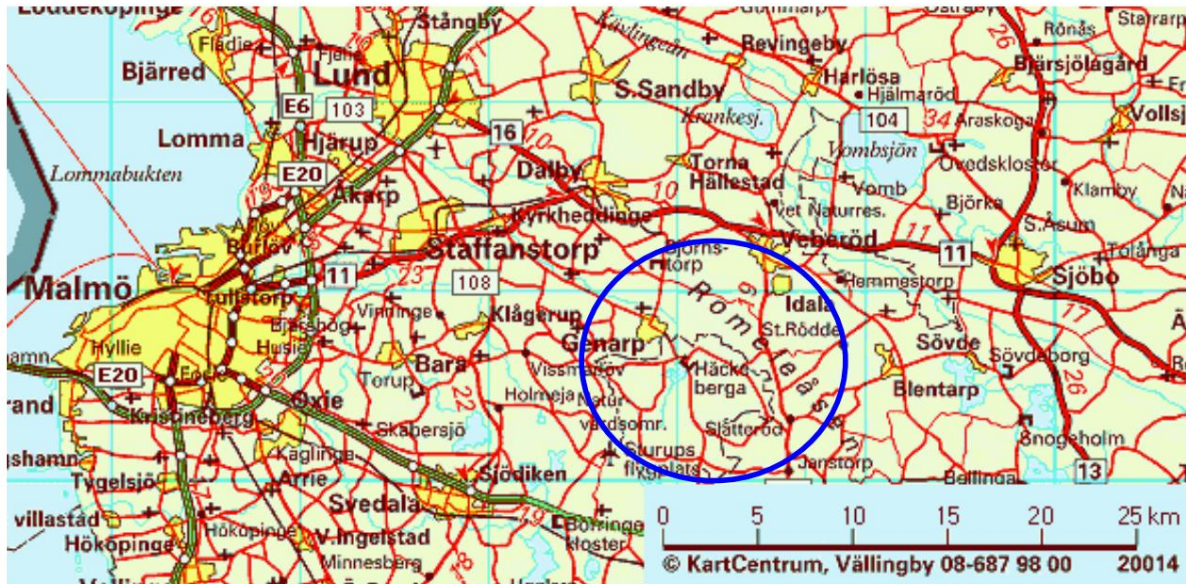
The Danish Brigade in Sweden 1943-1945 - 1st - 4th Battalion, Part 2

Introduction

The brigade in full. The majority of the Brigade's equipment, including weapons, ammunition and the Brigade were - for the first and last time - gathered in Scania in mid-April 1945.

The camp was located between the towns of Genarp and Veberöd, with Häckeberga Castle as the central location. The camp was arranged in Swedish military tents, set up by Swedish soldiers.

Over the next few days, mobilized vehicles, which had hitherto been stored in Swedish military depots, or depots under Swedish control, were now handed over.



From www.skandetourist.com (defunct).

About equipment etc.

The soldiers' personal equipment is illustrated by a series of photographs from the May Days 1945, taken from the source material.



Breaking up from the emergency camp in Skåne.
From Source 1.

The soldiers are probably a recoilless rifle group, gathered behind one of the camp's Swedish militia tartlets.

- A: Recoil rifle M.37 S.
- B: Backpack and spade.
- C: Rifle M.96 S.

On the back of the recoilless rifleman (A) is his field bottle.

The soldiers are wearing the Brigade's field uniform, which was later named M/44 Swedish, and the Swedish m/37 steel helmet.

However, not all brigadiers were so "exclusively" equipped; some had to cope with the noise that they had used during the training.

At midnight, on the night between 4 and 5 May 1945, the Brigade receives orders to break up and move to Helsingborg. Malmö was originally set to be the port of embarkation, but that was changed at the 11th hour. A series of quick improvisations by Danish and Swedish staff officers then made it possible to get the Brigade's land and naval forces together in Helsingborg on the morning of 5 May 1945.

The Danish Brigade in Sweden 1943-1945 - 1st - 4th Battalion, Part 2



The transport to the port in Helsingborg took place partly in the Brigade's own vehicles and partly in Swedish military trucks; Swedish police and military units provided directions etc. Early in the morning, Scanians gathered along the marching roads and many believed that the war had now come to Sweden.

The units were brought together with a view to - peaceful - crossing. The order was thus, first the 1st - 4th Battalion (the combat battalions), then the 5th (heavy) Battalion and then the other units.

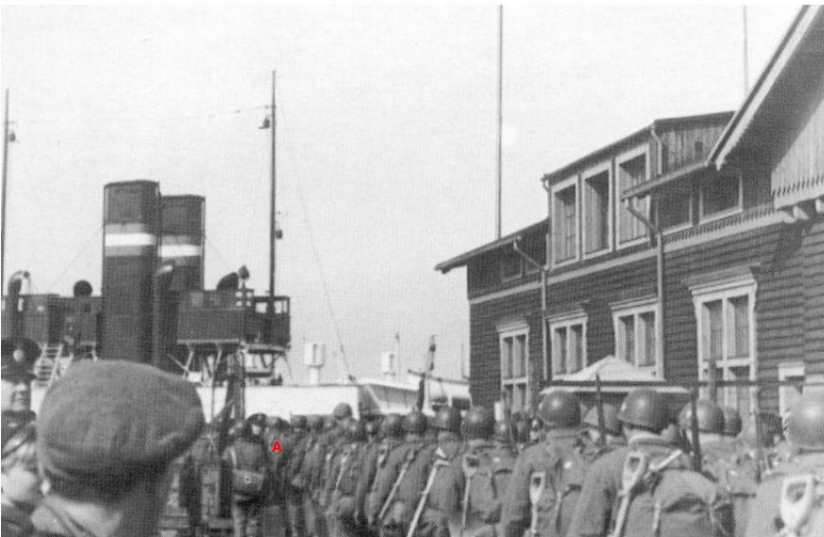
Light mortar group in Helsingborg, 5 May 1945. From Source 1.

Soldier A carries a grenade case in each hand; soldier B may also be equipped, but only the box in his left hand can be seen in the picture.

The picture also gives an impression of the brigadier's other equipment - the rucksack and the long Swedish field spade.

The transport to Denmark took place on purely Danish keel. During the time in Sweden, various plans were drawn up for how the sailing was to take place - in terms of war or peace; on Swedish ships, on Danish ships or a combination.

Gradually, however, so many Danish ships had come to Sweden (dealt with later in a paper on The Danish Flotilla) that it was not necessary to use Swedish vessels.



On the way on board a Danish ferry (DSB ferry *Dan* or *Svea*), which was used in the transport. From Source 3.

The flotilla's transport capacity included, among other things, the DSB ferry *Store Bælt* and the steam icebreaker ferries *Holger Danske* and *Mjølner*. The latter served as command ship at the crossing.

Soldier A carries a sanitary bag on his back, possibly the Paramedic's Bag II, which actual paramedics were equipped with. The soldier appears to be giving a message to a naval officer.

Not all soldiers sailed in "first class", but were transferred in the Flotilla's cutters.

The 1st Company of the 1st Battalion was designated as the vanguard and was assigned 7 small armed cutters. It was assumed that the Resistance movement held the most important parts of Helsingør harbor, mining was unknown, 3 German submarines had been observed in the Sound, and Kronborg was covered with Germans. We boarded at 08:30. Attack targets: Various points in the harbour, and when these were occupied a narrow bridgehead was to be formed around the harbour. The 2nd and 3rd Company were to follow in larger cutters and had the task of expanding the bridgehead and forming the battalion's reserve... (From Source 3.)

The Danish Brigade in Sweden 1943-1945 - 1st - 4th Battalion, Part 2



K-boats 1 on their way to Denmark. From Source 4.

The cutter's anti-aircraft machine gun (A) is of the type 8 mm Machine gun M.36 S.

Crossing. From Source 4.

Crouched on the deck of a cutter, the soldiers are on their way to Helsingør. They each carry a pair of spare boots

The life jackets that were delivered on boarding were part of the equipment that had been purchased for the Flotilla, with a view to the crossing.



The picture shows the legendary commander of the 1st Battalion, Captain HJ C. Jensen, nicknamed *Marok ko-Jensen*, because as a young man he had served in the Foreign Legion.

Here he is seen on the dock in Helsingborg, together with one of the Brigadier's two English liaison officers, who, now that their presence has become official, has put on his English battle dress.

In the waist belt, the captain carries a chair holster (A), two hand grenades (B) and a field hat (C).

End The

landing in Helsingør was completely peaceful and a large crowd welcomed the brigadiers home, with flags and greetings - "Welcome home! Do you have any Swedish cigarettes?"

Many, especially private brigadiers, were very disappointed that they had not reached home "in time". They had hoped that they could help throw the Germans out of the country, and now it was all going so peacefully. During the march into Copenhagen the following day it was to become more serious for some units, but more on this in a forthcoming paper on the 5th (heavy) Battalion.

Read also about the Brigade's homecoming in the article by Erik Sinding *When the Brigade came home from Sweden*, which can be found on pages 50-57 in the anthology *Frihedskampens Veteraner*, Commemorative Edition, 29 August 2003.

¹ The K-boats were 9 Danish coast guard cutters that had escaped to Sweden on 29 August 1943.

The Danish Brigade in Sweden 1943-1945 - 1st - 4th Battalion, Part 2



1. Battalion vanguard on the quay in Helsingør.
From [the Brigade Association's website](#).

The officer on the right wing has his field binoculars² (A) around his neck. In his belt he carries a pouch for machine gun magazines (B); he also carries two hand grenades and a gun pouch; the machine gun is worn overhung, on the right hip. Like the other soldiers, the commanding officer wears his brigade badge (C) on the right breast pocket springfold. The gunners wear a leather cartridge belt (waist belt) (D) of the Swedish model; the cartridge bags could hold 40 cartridges per PCS.



Brigade badge and cockade (metal) for the field hat (slanted hat).

The image of the Brigade badge comes from a sadly defunct page about the Armed Forces department badges; the image of the cockade comes from the Tom my Hjortkær Hansen [Collectors page](#).



Sources

1. *The Brigade - The Danish Brigade in Sweden 1943-1945* by Knud JV Jespersen, Gyldendal, Copenhagen 1993, ISBN 87-00-14924-1.
2. *The Danish Brigade* edited by Niels Grønnet and Bent Demer, H. Hirsprungs Forlag, Copenhagen 1945.
3. *The Danish Brigade in Sweden 1943-1945 - 1st Company of 1st Battalion* by Jens Wolff, published by Den Danske Bri gadeforening, Copenhagen 1995, ISBN 87-90214-02-1.
4. *Some experiences and memories from the Danish Brigade's material acquisitions* by captain, weapons engineer, Einar Lund and captain HC Engel, Dansk Artilleri-tidsskrift, 5th issue, October 1946, pages 155-189.

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² The following rather special story is connected to the Brigade's field binoculars. Binoculars had to be purchased on the open market, but there were none to be had. A Swedish businessman who had helped with other acquisitions announced that he could get binoculars of acceptable quality and at a reasonable price - from Germany! The brigade had to have binoculars, so a rather large order was placed, which was telegraphed to the German supplier. However, the trade relations did not last long and after part of the binoculars had been delivered, came the big bomb attacks on Berlin. One fine day, Brigaden received a letter from the Swedish businessman, who briefly announced: "We regret not being able to complete the received order for binoculars, as our supplier is no longer able to deliver for easily explained reasons." (From Source 4.)

The Danish Brigade in Sweden 1943-1945 - 1st - 4th Battalion, Part 3

Introduction

Part 2 of this paper more or less left the battalions on the dock in Helsingør Harbour, so it is fitting to end the account of the 4 light battalions by following them to their destinations in Copenhagen.

From Helsingør to Copenhagen



On 6 May 1945, the battalions were transported by train from Helsingør to Copenhagen (Hellerup). The brigade's other motorized and bicycle-borne units advanced under their own power.

Brigadier at Helsingør Station, 6 May 1945. From [the Danish Brigade, Publisher Din Book, Dragør.](#)

The specific circumstances of the drum are not known, but I think I remember that in a *Billedblad*, perhaps a special issue from the 20th year of Liberation, there is a color edition of the photograph.

If anyone has the picture in color, I'd love to hear about it.

The battalions were discharged at Hellerup Station, from where - after some waiting - they set off on different routes towards their destinations¹ :

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. Battalion: | Havremarkens School, Husumgade (Nørrebro) |
| 2. Battalion: | Frankrigsgades School (Amager) |
| 3. Battalion: | Oehlenschlägersgades School (Vesterbro) |
| 4. Battalion: | Matthæusgades School (Vesterbro) |



A true hero's welcome was planned and everywhere the soldiers were met by happy citizens who welcomed them home.

Sure, they weren't the direct liberators, but they were still the largest allied force that had reached Denmark so far, so there was every reason to cheer.

Brigadier at Hellerup Station, 6 May 1945. From [the Danish Brigade, Publisher Din Book, Dragør.](#)

The march routes were published in the newspapers so that the march in could have maximum effect.

An unfortunate consequence of this measure was that various subversive elements - HIPOs, desperate Germans and/or other gun-mad elements - thus gained a basis for planning fire attacks and sniping operations against the Brigade's units.

However, to what extent this is an actual planned and to some extent coordinated effort, or whether it was spontaneous reactions, cannot be directly determined from the sources.

¹ From *Brigadebladet*, No. 2, April 1989.

The Danish Brigade in Sweden 1943-1945 - 1st - 4th Battalion, Part 3



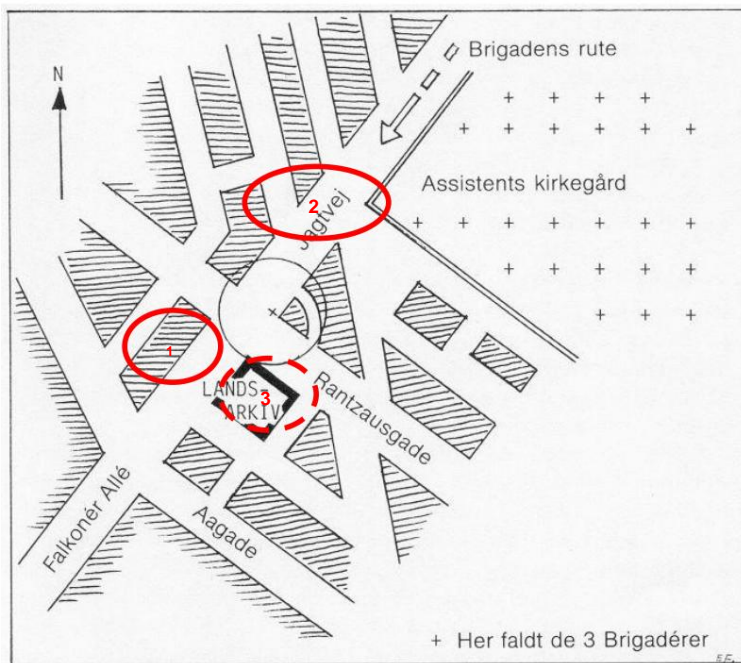
Brigadier on Lyngbyvej, 6 May 1945. From Source 1.

The area looks somewhat different today, but as far as I can identify the houses, it is immediately south of the intersection Lyngbyvej - Haraldsgade/Sejrgade (behind the tram).

If I'm right, the row of houses on the left side of the picture is today replaced by a somewhat lower, set back shopping centre.

Firefight

The 4th Battalion broke out from Hellerup Station at 7 p.m., where it marched along Strandvejen, Østerbrogade and Jagtvej towards Matthæusgades School in Vesterbro.



The marching formation consisted of an advance guard, on foot and on bicycle, followed by the 1st and 2nd Kom pagni in marching column. 3rd Company completed the formation, in single column.

When the company, at approximately 8.15 p.m., is at the intersection Jagtvej - Rantzausgade, fire is opened, with automatic weapons, against the column - from the houses opposite the Landsarkivet (1) and from the house roofs behind (location not further specified) (2).

The details of the subsequent operation are not entirely easy to find out, but it is clear that the brigadiers' intensive training in urban combat really benefited them.

There are also reports of (later) scattered shooting from the Landsarkivet's garden (3).

The map sketch comes from Source 3.

Private 308 Hirsch Reib Zneider (5 January 1919) is killed on the spot, by a shot in the heart, while two others - Private 236 Fred dy Helge Otto Mønsted (20 November 1924) and Private 4088 Arne Olesen (22 August 1919) - gets badly hurt. In addition, 14 others are slightly injured and one is shocked.

The two badly wounded subsequently die of their wounds - 4088 Arne Olesen, who was wounded in two rounds, dies on 8 May 1945 and 236 Freddy Helge Otto Mønsted dies on 12 May 1945.

After the shelling, the brigadiers immediately seek cover; the injured are provided with first aid and brought to a hastily set up connection point in a green business.

The enemy's position (1) is secured to a flag-decorated balcony on the fourth floor, and a fierce fire is now directed at the balcony and the surrounding windows. At the same time, smaller patrols are sent in to search the farms, while others try to get into position on the roofs of the surrounding properties.

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After 20 minutes, the enemy has been defeated or disappeared. 5 enemies were killed in the area and 4 had been captured. An unknown number were injured, including some of the many spectators.

The entire area is searched, after which the march is resumed - the formation is now more war-like - in two single columns, along the house walls.

Around 23.30, the 4th Battalion finally arrived at Matthæusgades School.

Brigaders during wartime advance in Copenhagen, 6 May 1945. From Source 1.

The rear soldier appears to be a recoilless rifleman, carrying the change pipe bag on his back.

Other engagements

1st and 3rd Battalions were exposed to sniping activity from suspected HIPOs at their destinations, which were however quickly brought down. During the clean-up operations, the brigadier spared neither cartridges nor hand grenades, now that they finally had the opportunity to fight enemies, on top of that of the very worst kind.

The 1st Battalion had 2 slightly wounded, one of whom was the later army chief, then First Lieutenant ACB Vegger, who was hit by a stray shot in one cheek.

Source 1 quotes the general as later saying that his comrades - on the basis of his forced dressing - asked if he had been operated on for a dental abscess...

Sources

1. *The Brigade - The Danish Brigade in Sweden 1943-1945* by Knud JV Jespersen, Gyldendal, Copenhagen 1993, ISBN 87-00-14924-1.
2. *The Danish Brigade* edited by Niels Grunnet and Bent Demer, H. Hirschsprungs Forlag, Copenhagen 1945.
3. *Danish soldier in Sweden 1943-1945, The Danish Brigade - as I experienced it* by Erik Frost, published by Den Danish Brigade Association, Copenhagen 1989, ISBN 87-88214-230.

Per Finsted



The memorial stone at the National Archives (March 2004).

The Danish Brigade in Sweden 1943-1945 - 1st - 4th Battalion, Part 3

Postscript



Sergeant Strange Garset, from the 1st Battalion, photographed on Østerbrogade on 6 May 1945.

The picture comes from the magazine *Frihedskampens Veterans*, No. 172, March 2003, where Strange Garset briefly mentions his experiences at the Brigade in Sweden.

In the article, the date is given as 5 May 1945, which is hardly correct, as the battalion first arrived in København on 6 May 1945. I have therefore allowed myself to cite the date as indicated.

The sergeant is armed with both a machine gun and a chair. He also carries two hand grenades in his belt.

The Brigade badge can be seen on the right breast pocket spring fold.

The Brigade armband is worn around the right upper arm.

Brigade armbands and Freedom fighter armbands The now

defunct website for the Resistance in Northwest Funen 1940 - 1945 had a special section on Freedom fighter armbands and the following report is partly based on this source.

The Danish Brigade in Sweden originally had its own armband, which was produced in at least 5,000 pieces. specimens. The original armbands were sewn in Sweden, by the brigade staff's female office staff, as they did not want to give the order to a tailoring company for reasons of secrecy.

The brigade armband is of thin red fabric, 11 cm wide, with 23 mm wide white edging bands. In the middle is an embroidered label 6x3 cm with a crown and the name "DANMARK" in white. The brigade armband was only handed out in a small number on 4-5 May 1945 and then immediately withdrawn again. The brigadiers were then given the well-known blue-red-white armband, with the metal Reich coat of arms sewn on.

In the images shown in this paper, armbands of both types are worn. In the photo from Helsingør Station, it appears that the Brigadiers are wearing Freedom Fighter armbands, while the other images show the Brigade armband in use. Unfortunately, I am not familiar with the units in question shown in the photos, but the different armbands may suggest that some units wore one type of armband while other units used the other type.



The brigade armband was later adopted as the Home Guard association's armband M/1947 (pictured).

Previously, the embroidered tag had been removed and a 1 cm wide white central stripe was sewn onto the red fabric. The change was carried out at *Magasin du Nord*, formed DKK 0.19 per armband.

The picture comes from the *Home Guard's Uniformshistorie* by F. Løvschall, Skandinavisk Bookforlag, Odense 1984, ISBN 87-7501-178-6, which partly contains further explanations for the transformation of the armband, partly indicates more sources for the history behind and variants of the Freedom Fighter armband.

/Per Finsted

The Danish Brigade in Sweden 1943-1945 - 1st - 4th Battalion, Part 4

A color image...

In Part 3 of this paper I referred to a recollection of a color image in which the drummers of the Brigade were included. Quite by chance I came across a booklet which was published as a supplement to Berlingske Tidende 2 May 1970 on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Befrielsen, and therein was the picture I was thinking of. However, it turned out not to be from Helsingør, but from Copenhagen.

About the drums



I am ashamed to say that I do not know the details of the drums, which of course have their own history.

They look like Danish military marching drums, but are deeper and have a "silver-coloured" drum shell.

For comparison, a drawing is brought Ove Meier from Source 2:



Spare horn blower from Livgarden.

Conclusion

If anyone knows the detailed history of the drums, the drummers etc., I am very interested in hearing more.

Sources

1. *Spring, flag and freedom*, supplement to Berlingske Tidende 2 May 1970 on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Denmark's Liberation.
2. *Denmark's Army and Navy, Scrapbook no. 4411*, drawn by Ove Meier, Arthur Jensens Kunstforlag, Copenhagen, without year (approx. 1941).
3. Brief historical sketch of Livgarden's Tambour Korps, [Livgarden's website](#), see *Guard Company*.

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