

The Danish Brigade in Sweden 1943-1945 - Field Police Detachment

Introduction

On Friday, May 4, 1945, at 10 p.m., the Chief of the Brigade's Intelligence Section, Lieutenant Colonel Nordentoft, telephoned the following order from General Gørtz, in Copenhagen, to General Knudtzon, in Stockholm:

"DANFORCE must come home tomorrow at 8 o'clock Danish time - i.e. at 7 Swedish time - to Helsingør. All materiel and all motor vehicles, also for forces that have not completed training, are brought along. Message to General Gørtz about whether this can be done, and message immediately before departure from Helsingborg. The brigade will remain in Helsingør until further notice. The field police detachment is wanted to be transferred among the first troops."

The Field Police Detachment

The Field Police Detachment was a fully motorized, military security police unit, consisting mainly of criminal police personnel, the majority of whom had served with the State Attorney for Special Affairs or the National Police Chief's Security Police.

The unit was established in the autumn of 1944, after consultation with British authorities, including the military intelligence service MI 6. The model was the English *Field Security Detachments* (FD) and the corresponding Swedish *fältpolisene* there, without, however, having the latter's traditional military police tasks, such as enforcement of order and discipline, traffic regulation and the like. The unit was, on the other hand, in cooperation with allied occupation troops, to neutralize nationally harmful Danish citizens, "werewolves" and others.

The head of the field police detachment was the senior detective, captain of the reserve Kaj J. Christiansen.

The field police detachment consisted

of: • Chief with command group (10), 1st Platoon (18) and 2nd Platoon (38) • 34 vehicles, including Ford passenger cars Model 38/39 and a number of motorcycles.



Field police soldier, Aarhus, 6 May 1945.
From [the Brigade Association](#) Homepage.

The divisions were divided into a number of district commands, whose areas of responsibility together covered the entire country. The larger district commands were further divided into a number of sections, each consisting of a section leader and an assistant. The idea was that upon returning home the unit should spread out to their respective areas of responsibility, and then start the clean-up work.

The armament included submachine guns, pistols, knives, batons, hand grenades, tear gas and smoke grenades as well as light explosives. In addition, police equipment such as handcuffs and whistles was added. When the unit was transferred to Denmark, it had to carry weapons and equipment for a further 280 men, so that the organization could be supplemented to the extent necessary.

The unit was dressed in the Brigade's field uniform, with a special armband.

During the mobilization, each man was equipped with an advance sum of DKK 1,000 and a suitcase with civilian clothes, as it was not a given that all tasks could best be completed in uniform.

Every policeman was awarded the rank of second lieutenant, if he did not already have a right military rank.

The creation took place in the deepest secrecy. Despite the fact that the field police detachment was directly subordinate to the Brigade, not even the Brigade's leadership was fully informed about the concrete tasks.

The chain of command went directly from the head of the Intelligence Section, Lieutenant Colonel Nordentoft, to the detachment commander and from here on to the individual district commands and section leaders. The intelligence section received its instructions, including arrest lists, from the Resistance. The working basis was a so-called "red" arrest list comprising 2,952 names of Germans and Danes who, due to their business, were in the "automatic arrest" category. In addition, there was a "grey" list with 8,101 names of persons whose guilt first had to be investigated more closely; The field police detachment was initially not to take any further interest in these persons.

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The field police detachment was equipped with all the operative police powers, which temporarily enabled it to operate outside both the Basic Law and the provisions of the Administration of Justice Act on personal freedom and the inviolability of the home.

Due to the members' police background, the training was primarily of a military nature, including practice of close combat and urban combat, as well as arrests and the like under war conditions. Training and instruction in the unit's tasks took place at the location in Håtunaholm, on a one-week course, which was carried out in two rounds, in November and December 1944.

Like most of the Brigade's other units, the Field Police Detachment was not a "standing" force, but a mobilization unit.

Mobilization and deployment



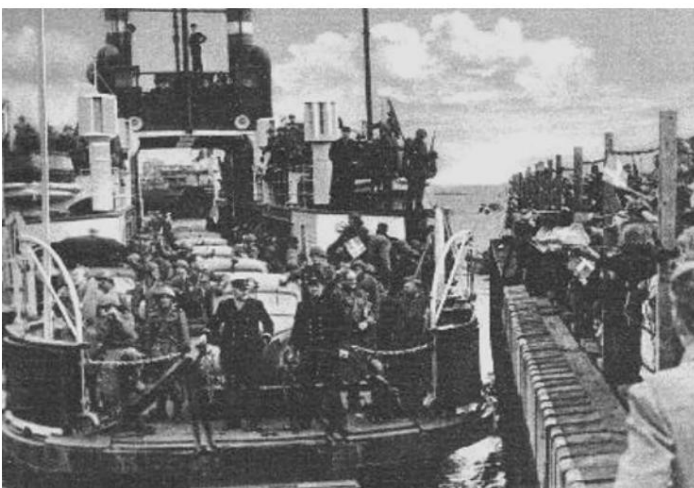
On 1 May 1945, the detachment's members received the long-awaited mobilization order and met at Ford's import garage in Malmö, which was the Brigade's main depot. The entire Field Police Detachment was now assembled for the first time.

The waiting period of the next few days was characterized by a certain uncertainty as to where and when the deployment would take place. It was assumed that English *field security detachments* would accompany the advancing troops who were expected to soon cross the Border.

Parts of the Field Police Detachment, Malmö, May 1945.
From Source 3.

However, the number of English units sent to Denmark was extremely limited, as the *21st Army Group* (Montgomery) did not want to commit troops there, but rather send them east to stem the advance of Russian forces to the west.

The detachment was ordered to send 20 men, with local knowledge of Southern Jutland, to the English forces in Northern Germany.



Just as the men were about to board the train to Stockholm, from where they were to depart for Germany with an English bomber, a counter order came.

Because of the German capitulation, they instead wanted the detachment transferred together with the Brigadier, among the first units.

The first Danish ferry docks at Helsingør harbour, 5 May 1945.
From the [Brigade Association Homepage](#).

The picture shows, among other things, some of the vehicles of the Field Police Department.

After returning home, the majority of the detachment's personnel, in English, were sent to the border, in order - in cooperation with their English colleagues on the German side of the border - to control the large number of German soldiers and others who was on his way back to Germany.

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Danish border police and a field police section in Kruså, 6 May 1945.

From Source 4.

The control work at the Danish-German border thus became the Field Police's most important effort, and it succeeded, together with other units from the Brigade, in arresting around 1,000 of the wanted persons on the red list, among other things.

Among the Field Police Detachment's most prominent captures was the German military commander in chief in Denmark, Colonel General Lindemann, who was arrested in Silkeborg in July 1945 by two detectives, assisted by a major from the English intelligence service.

On 20 June 1945, the task was over and border control passed to the Border Gendarmerie, which was assisted by military units.

The field police detachment was assembled at the Intelligence Service's headquarters in Trommesalen in Copenhagen, where Lieutenant Colonel Nordentoft thanked the policemen for their efforts before they were dispersed to their respective duty stations, at which per 13 May 1945 civilian police reinstated.

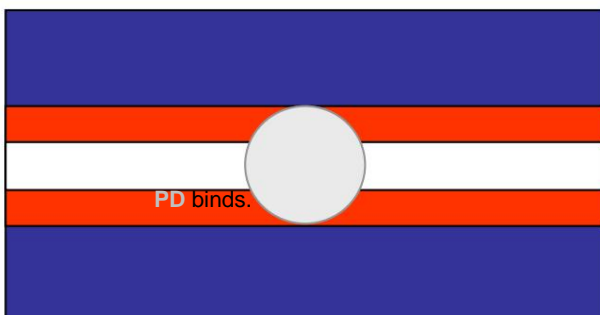
Conclusion If

you are interested in the Swedish *field police units*, which by the way were the model for the organization of the first military exile unit in Sweden - a Norwegian field police unit - I can recommend the thesis *Fältpolis - För orden och sätet - Om uppsättandet av en Svensk fältpolis during the emergency period* by Per Iko .

Sources

1. *The Danish Brigade in Sweden 1943-1945* by KV Nielsen, published by The Danish Brigade Association, 1985, Copenhagen 1985, ISBN 87-981346-4-7. 2. *1½ years with the Danish Brigade* by lieutenant colonel PAF Norup (the brigade's chief of staff), *Militær Tidsskrift* 1947, page 271-308 and 353-406.
3. *The Brigade - The Danish Brigade in Sweden 1943-1945* by Knud JV Jespersen, Gyldendal, Copenhagen 1993, ISBN 87-00-14924-1.
4. *Danish soldier in Sweden 1943-1945 - The Danish Brigade, as I experienced it* by Erik Frost (ed.), published by Den Danish Brigade Association (DANFORCE), Copenhagen 1989, ISBN 87-88214-230.
5. *Scandinavian Middle Arrow* by Harry Söderman, Catalog and Magazine Printing, Stockholm 1945.

Per Finsted



Principle sketch of the Field Police Detachment's special arm volume. Own production, after photo in Source 3.

The gray circle does it next to the shiny coat of arms, in white metal, which was worn in the middle of the Freedom Fighter arm-