

## The Danish Brigade in Sweden 1943-1945 - Order Police Department

### Introduction

In many ways, the situation of the police after 19 September 1944 was comparable to that of the Army and Navy after 29 August 1943. However, the situation was even worse for the policemen, as the German side sought to arrest all policemen, and then send them to concentration camps in Germany. However, a number of police officers managed to escape to Sweden.

In advance, there were around 150 police officers in Sweden, mainly from the Ordenspolitiet. Of these, 43 had signed up for the Brigade, while the rest were employed in the "refugee community".

After 19 September, the number of escaped police officers rose to a good 250 men. The brigade expected the policemen to report for duty here, but it did not happen, on the contrary.

The reason for this was that it was being considered to establish an independent law enforcement unit. These considerations gave rise to various unrest on the internal political lines, where the established organisations, including the Brigade, did not look kindly on the establishment of an independent organisation. A letter from the acting Danish Prime Minister, Vilhelm Buhl, delivered via the head of the Intelligence Section, Lieutenant Colonel Nordentoft, put an effective stop to further plans.

Calm could once again descend over the excited moods and the Order Police Department saw the light of day on 22 October 1944.

### The Order Police Department

The Order Police Department

consisted of: • Chief with command group (38) consisting of: Staff, order group and craftsman group • 2 half-commandos consisting of: Leader with assistants (10), 3 platoons of 4 groups of 6 men (72).

Police Commissioner Ejnar Kelnæs became head of the department, which gathered in the warehouse in Ryds Brunn.



*Exercise in searching.  
From Source 3.*

The uniform consisted of turncoats and other military equipment in line with the Brigade's units. The police equipment included gags and handcuffs. The commanders were additionally equipped with binoculars, a compass and a map bag.

Each man was armed with a machine gun and pistol; each platoon also had 10 guns. The department had hand grenades, smoke devices, tear gas bombs, explosives, etc. at their disposal.

From the start, the training was based on purely police skills, but gradually gained a more military dimension.

One had to expect to be deployed in the second line after the Brigade's units had passed an area. Actual combat actions could therefore become necessary, e.g. fighting smaller German forces in a house or clearing properties and neighborhoods that the military units had passed by.

Arrests of Schalburg people and HIPO people who were likely to resist were also to be made by the Police.

### The end The

Order Police Department remained in Ryds Brunn, when the rest of the Brigade was gathered in Skåne (Häckeberga) and on 4 May 1945 at 23.45 the following message came in from Stockholm:

*"Orders are available from Denmark to be with the Danish forces in Helsingør as far as possible at 08.00 on the 5th. (at 07.00 Swedish time). The Swedish Prime Minister has given an undertaking that this will be sought to be completed. The order police are getting ready to march to Helsingborg. Necessary means of transport for motor transport are requested as soon as 1. Military area. Arrival in Helsingborg must be aimed at 06.00. Notification as soon as possible to the Brigade Staff when the force is ready to march, and then the order to march."*

In accordance with its provision, however, the Order Police Department was only transferred to Helsingør on 6 May 1945.

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In Copenhagen, a parade was held for the Chief of the National Police and then for General Knudtzon, who thereby said goodbye to the Order Police Department.

The force remained together, as an emergency command, under the direct command of the National Police Chief, and parts of the force were sent out for raids in, among other places, Haslev, Hillerød, Copenhagen, Ringsted and Korsør.



In addition, the force carried out various guarding tasks and blocking tasks. The last mentioned included Amalienborg Slotsplads when Garden first pulled up and since when Montgomery visited København.

On 16 August 1945, the Ordinance Police Department was disbanded and the personnel could return to their duty stations.

*The police guard force at Amalienborg is taken over by the Royal Life Guard. At the same time glossy image, kindly lent by Gert Strande Sørensen.*

### Sources

1. *The Danish Brigade* edited by Niels Grunnet and Bent Demer, H. Hirschsprungs Forlag, Copenhagen 1945. 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.

Per Finsted



*Practicing police tactics in the Håttunaholm settlement. From Source 3.*

The brigade's light battalions also practiced so-called police tactics, so that they could be deployed during riots and the like.

The commitment in this part of the training was, although it might indicate the courage set, not great, but it was experienced as a welcome break in the hard and intensive field training.