

The Danish Brigade in Sweden 1943 - 1945 - The brigade's banner

Introduction

A Danish timber wholesaler, HK Kjær, who was resident in Sweden and strongly interested in Nordic cooperation, offered to present the Brigade with a banner. The donor's wish was that the flag should show a common Nordic touch.

After various considerations, the proposal was discussed with the Swedish Army Museum and the Riksheraldikerämbetet. In the first instance, the wish for the Nordic style was opposed here, citing Finland's political position, and the Brigade's subsequent wish that the name of the Swedish king should be displayed together with the corresponding Danish one was also rejected, as the name of Swedish kings is not allowed appear on the flag of a foreign nation.



Principle sketch.
Own production.

The tab

The compromise was a banner that in appearance came as close to the Danish banners as possible, with King Christian the 10th's name in the upper left corner and the inscription THE DANISH BRIGADE.

The design of the inscription was discussed between General Knudtzon and the Brigade's Swedish partner, docent Harry Söderman. The brigade's official designation was *the Military Refugee Command*, but that didn't sound right in relation to a banner; another option was to include the word *police troops* in some variant.

From the Swedish side, the designation DEN DANSKE BRIGA DE was accepted, which then became the official designation for the Danish unit.

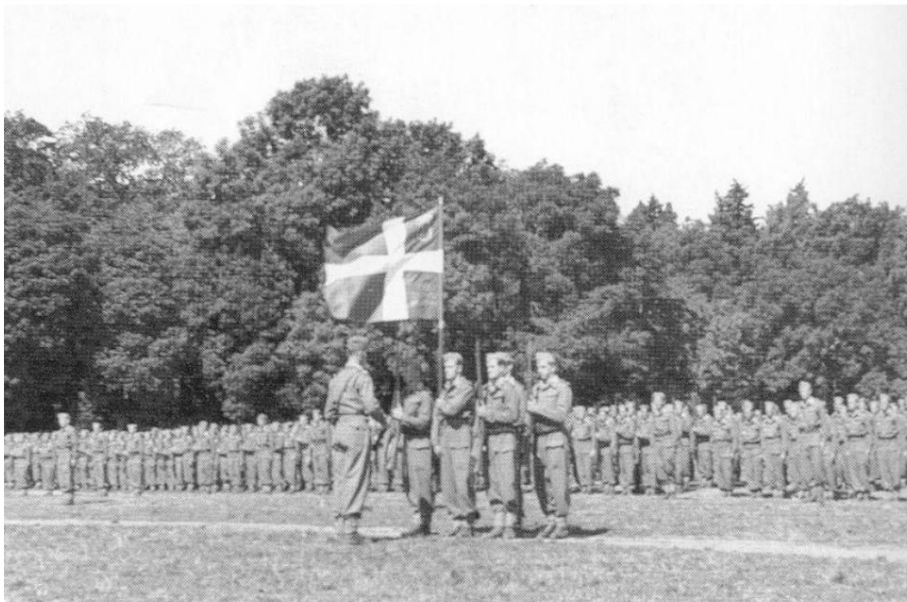
Right up until the end, the Command for Military Refugees was used on all official papers. Later, when the cooperation with the allies really took shape, the designation DANFORCE was also introduced.

After these considerations about the design of the fan, one could inform the giver that one accepted to receive his gift.

The connection to Sweden was marked by a silver plate on the flagpole, on which the Swedish coat of arms was engraved.

A closer look at the photo below reveals, however, that the C in the name is apparently not wrapped around the R, as shown in the sketch.

Initiation



The flag was officially inaugurated at a ceremonial parade in the settlement Sofielund, on Frederic Day on 6 July 1944, where General Knudtzon and Harry Söderman were present.

The parade was repeated in the settlement Hätunaholm, on Isted day, 25 July 1944.

The flag parade in Hätunaholm, on Ice Day, 25 July 1944.
From Source 2.

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Conclusion

When the Brigade returned home, a Swedish committee headed by Major General G. Lindström handed over a silver ring to place ring on the flag pole. The inscription read:

*To Vänner
från Vänner
svenska Officerare
och Non-Officerare
1945.*

The silver ring was attached to the flagpole at a ceremony on 6 July 1945.

Here the regimental commander, lieutenant colonel FL Hvalkof, hammered in the first nail, with the words: "As I hammer in the first nail, I remember and thank the Swedish officers for all the help and kindness during a exile in Sweden."

Officiant JP Jensen drove in the second nail, with the words: "As I drive in the second nail, I thank Swedish non-commissioned officers for the beautiful flag plate for the Brigade's flag."

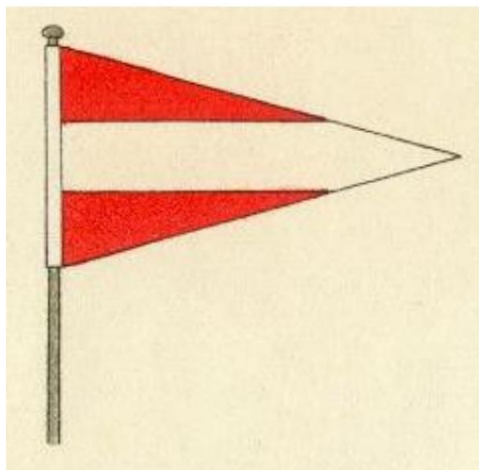
After the Brigade's disbandment on 10 July 1945, the flag was handed over for storage at Tøjhusmuseet.

Sources

1. *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.
2. *The Brigade - The Danish Brigade in Sweden 1943-1945* by Knud JV Jespersen, Gyldendal, Copenhagen 1993, ISBN 87-00-14924-1.
3. *Skandinaviskt Mellanspil* by Harry Söderman, Katalog och Tidsskriftstryck, Stockholm 1945.

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Postscript



In *Marinen i Sverige 1943-1945* it is mentioned that a naval officer was sent to receive orders at the Brigade in Helsingborg on 5 May 1945.

Outside the hotel where General Knudtzon had posted his quarters, the naval officer noticed the general's stand.

Unfortunately, history does not say anything about how this stand looked, but one possibility could be that General Knudtzon led the Danish stand for a *divisional general*, unless a specially similar stand was made for the general.

Another possibility could of course also be that it was about Brigaden's fan, but here we are probably out on the wild side of speculation...

Stands for a divisional general.
Textbook for Army Privates, 1946.

¹ *The Navy in Sweden 1943-1945* by Commander WW Christensen, published by the Danish Brigade Association, Copenhagen port 1995, ISBN 87-90214-13-7.