The Swedish Army 1939-1945 - Artillery

Introduction

This is my take on what 3rd Army Corps, which was assigned to carry out Operation Rädda Denmark, had field artillery at its disposal:

Division Artillery - Stamenhed: *Wendes Artilleriregemente (A 3)*	**Belong**
3rd Artillery Regiment: 3 divisions, equipped with 10.5 cm howitzers w/40	I. Division
23. Artillery Regiment 1): 3 detachments, equipped with 10.5 cm howitzers w/39	XI. Division

Brigade Artillery - Stamenhed: *Småland Artillery Regiment (A 6)*	**Belong**
1 section, equipped with 10.5 cm howitzers w/39	7th Motorized Brigade
1 section, equipped with 10.5 cm howitzers w/39	8th Armored Brigade

Corps Artillery - Stamenhed: *Småland Artillery Regiment (A 6)*	**Belong**
1 section, equipped with 10.5 cm cannon w/34	3. Armekorps
1 division, equipped with 15 cm howitzers m/39 or 15 cm howitzers m/40	3rd Army Corps

Mobile and stationary coastal artillery, cf. *The Swedish Navy 1939-1945 - Coastal artillery.*

As far as *Hjälp till Danmark - Militäre och politiska obänderbinder 1943-1945* (Source 1) states, 2 divisions of field artillery were to be deployed, north and south of Helsingborg respectively, to cover the initial attack. The divisions were deployed north of the dividing line between I. and XI. Division.

10,5 cm let felthaubits m/ 39.
From Source 4.

A large number of other pamphlets were also included in the Swedish field artillery, mainly of an older model and/or randomly introduced in the form of seized export orders. A description of these types is, however, outside the primary purpose of this article, namely to give an impression of the field artillery that could have participated in Operation Rädda Denmark.

10,5 cm haubits m/39

If the pamphlet looks familiar, it is not surprising, as it is the German *Leichte Feldhaubitze 18 (le FH 18).* In Swedish service they were designated *10.5 howitzers m/ 39.*

In the years 1940-42, a total of 142 pamphlets were purchased in Germany, distributed as follows: In 1939: 24, in 1940: 8 and in 1942: 110

The Pjecen had an effective firing range of 10.5 km, and was used in Sweden right up until 1982, in the meantime, however, equipped with a new type of gun barrel with muzzle brake.

The crew consisted of a pamphlet commander and 6 men.

Terrain car w/ 42.
From Source 5.

The pamphlets were purchased with preforms, but these were largely used for 10.5 cm howitzers m/40, while the m/39s were motor towed.

In 1943, 587 units were purchased in Germany. trucks of the type Klöckner-Humbolt-Deutz A3000.

Some of these were used as gun tractors for 10.5 cm howitzers m/39.

Artillery tractor m/ 40 and 10.5 cm howitzer m/ 39.
From Source 7.

The Boden Artillery Regiment (A 8), which provided a corps artillery section with 10.5 cm howitzers m/39, used German half-track cannon tractors of the type Demag D7 (SdKfz 10), of which the Swedish army acquired 24.

Artillery tractor w/ 43.

From the Wermland Military Historical Association.

The German artillery tractor formed the model for the *Artilleritraktor m/ 43* manufactured by Volvo .

10,5 cm haubits m/40

Recruits from the Royal Svea Artillery Regiment (A 1).

From the Association of Standby Time 1939-1945.

This pamphlet was marketed by Bofors in the 1930s and the Dutch defense placed an order for 16 to be used in the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia). Correspondingly, Siam (now Thailand) ordered 16 units.

In the background, a *Terrängbil m/ 42* can be seen towing a *10.5 cm howitzer m/ 40H* 2).

The pamphlets for Holland and Siam were produced but not delivered because of the war. They were now seized by the Swedish state and then entered the Swedish army as *10.5 cm howitzers m/ 40H* (Holland) and *10.5 cm howitzers m/ 40S* (Siam). In 1941, a further 210 were ordered, designated *10.5 cm howitzers m/ 40.*

The pamphlets can be distinguished from each other by the fact that the "Swedes" have a wavy upper edge on the shield, whereas the

others had an even upper edge. The Siamese version had wheels with spokes (of wood), while the Dutch and Swedish were equipped with plate wheels (of metal) in the style of the German light field howitzer. Another difference was that the howitzer tube on the Dutch and Siamese pamphlets could not be pulled back in transport position.

Horse-drawn cannon w/ 02.
From Source 8.

Part of the Swedish field artillery was horse-drawn, thus also 10.5 cm howitzers m/39 in certain departments.

In this connection, the designs from the older 7.5 cm cannon m/02 and from the 10.5 cm howitzer m/39, which were delivered from Germany, incl. performances.

The crew consisted of a pamphlet commander and 6 men; in the horse-drawn version, in addition to train constables, an additional reserve crew of 3 was included.

15 cm haubits m/ 38.
From Sveriges Television's website.

15 cm felthaubits m/38

In 1938, the army ordered 16 copies of this Bofors pamphlet, to be included as corps artillery at A 6.

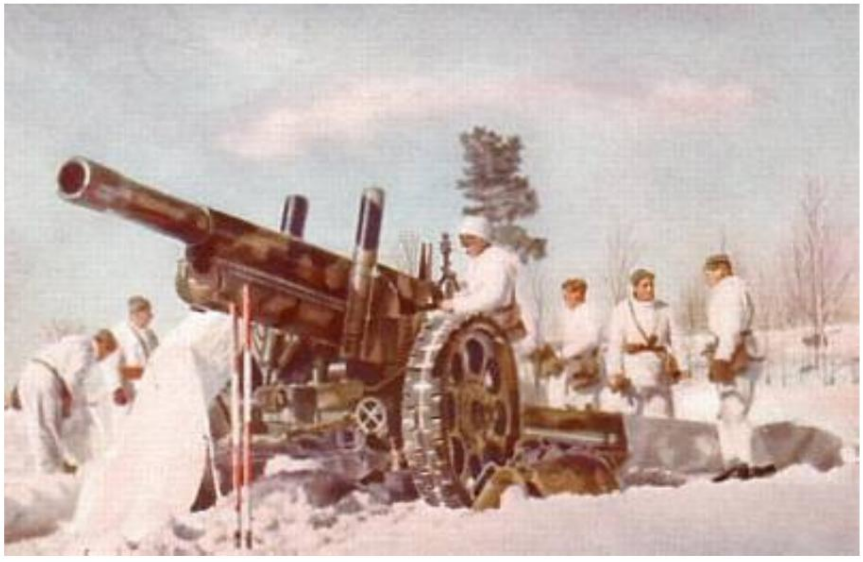
The pamphlet had a reach of approx. 11 km and weighed approx. 4.2 tons. Charges 1-6 were used.

The crew consisted of a pamphlet commander and 8 men.

During transport, the legs of the creature rested on a prop.

All-terrain tractor w/ 40.
From the Wermland Military Historical Association.
Volvo's TVB - *Terrain tractor m/ 40 was used as the cannon tractor.*

15 cm felthaubits m/39



15 cm felthaubits M/ 39 or M/ 39B.
From a postcard found for sale on the Internet.

The pamphlet was basically the same as the m/38 version, just without a shield. It was originally exported to Austria in a number of 28.

After the Anschluss, the former Austrian pamphlets were bought back - in 1939 and 1940 - and now entered the Swedish army (in A 6) under the designation 15 cm howitzer m/39.

The M/39 was not equipped with a shield and had greater vertical and lateral freedom than the m/38

the edition.

The Swedish army now found the former Austrian pamphlets better than the pamphlets (m/38) they had purchased themselves, and a planned order of 32 m/38 was changed to 85 pieces. m/39, which was designated m/39B. In one important respect, however, the m/38 was better, namely that during transport the howitzer tube was carried in a retracted state, resting on the legs of the gun, while on the Austrian version it was transported on a separate two-axle carriage.

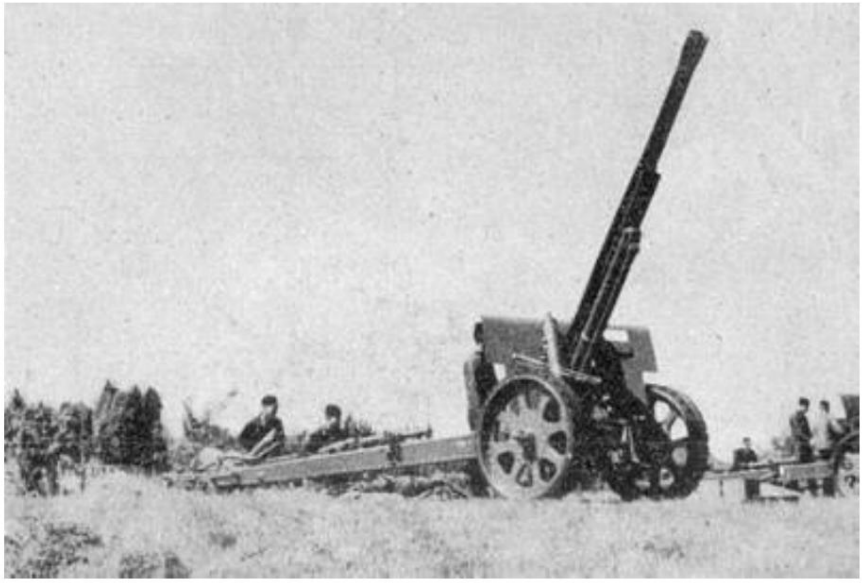
The howitzer tube from a 15 cm field howitzer m/ 39 is pulled by an Allis-Chalmers track-driven tractor m/ 42.
From Source 10.

This inappropriateness was changed by the m/39B, which in this respect became like the m/38. In position, the m/38 and m/39 can be distinguished from each other by the fact that the m/39 versions are not equipped with a shield.

The track-driven *Allis-Chalmers* tractor was manufactured under license by Landsverk Fabrikkerne in Landskrona.

Similar to the 15 cm howitzer m/38, the 15 cm howitzer m/39 was towed by a Volvo TVB gun tractor - *Terrängdragbil m/ 40.*

10,5 cm kanon m/34



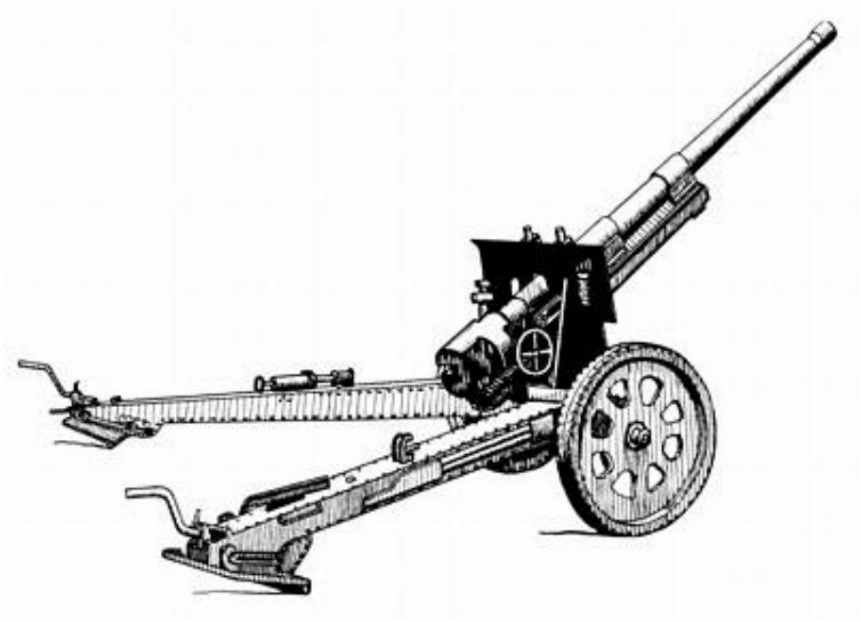
10.5 cm Kustardille barrel m/ 34.
From Source 2.

In 1934, the coastal artillery acquired 4 pcs. PCS. of this pamphlet. The army procured in the years 1936-40 procured

60 pcs. and another 8 pcs. in 1944.

The Coast Artillery Pamphlets - *10.5 cm Coast Artillery Gun w/ 34* - was handed over to the Army in 1942 (for A 7); the pamphlets were designated *10.5 cm cannon m/ 34M* (M for Marinen).

The gun mount was the equivalent of *the 15 cm howitzer m/ 38* and *m/ 39,* incl.



10,5 cm kanon m/ 34.
From Source 3.

The pamphlet had a range of 17 km and weighed approx. 4 tons. The grenade weighed 15.5 kg. One shot with charge 1-3.

The case in which the charges were placed was approx. 76 cm long. If you only shot with charge 1, remove charges 2 and 3 from the case beforehand.

Before loading, the shell and case were put together (unit cartridge).

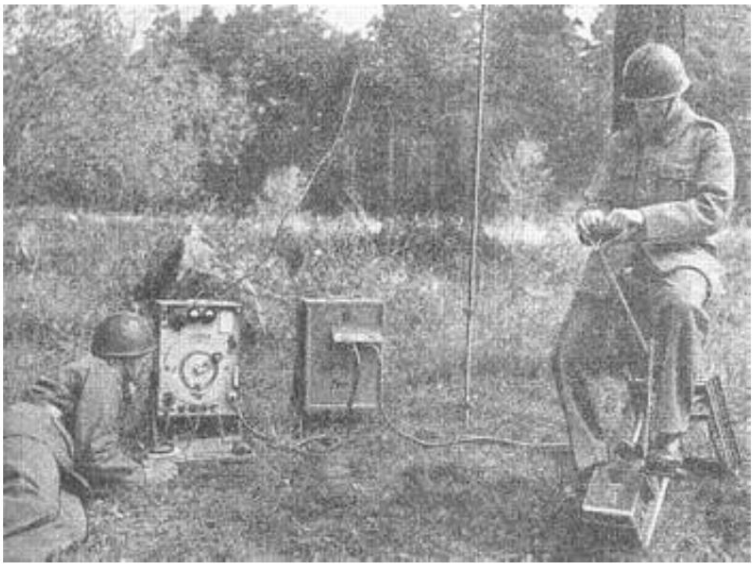
All-terrain tractor w/ 40.
From Source 5.

The cannon was exported to Hungary, where it was introduced under the designation *10.5 cm Kanon 31.M,* and Switzerland, which licensed *the 10.5 cm Kan Modell 35.*

The crew consisted of a pamphlet commander and 6 men, as well as 4 men in reserve.

Summary	**10,5 cm 38 haubits m/39**	**10,5 cm kanon m/34**	**15 cm haubits m/39**	**15 cm haubits m/40**	**10,5 cm haubits m/ 39**
Weight, approx.	1.985 kg	1.970 kg	4,2 t	5,2 t	4 t
Range, effective	10,5 km	10 km	11.1 km	14.3 km	17 km
The weight of the grenade	15,5 kg	15,5 kg	37 kg	41,5 kg	15,5 kg
Charging	1-6	1-6	1-6	1,6	1-3
Crew	7	7	9	9	7

Signal equipment



15 watt portable radio station w/ 39.
From Source 10.

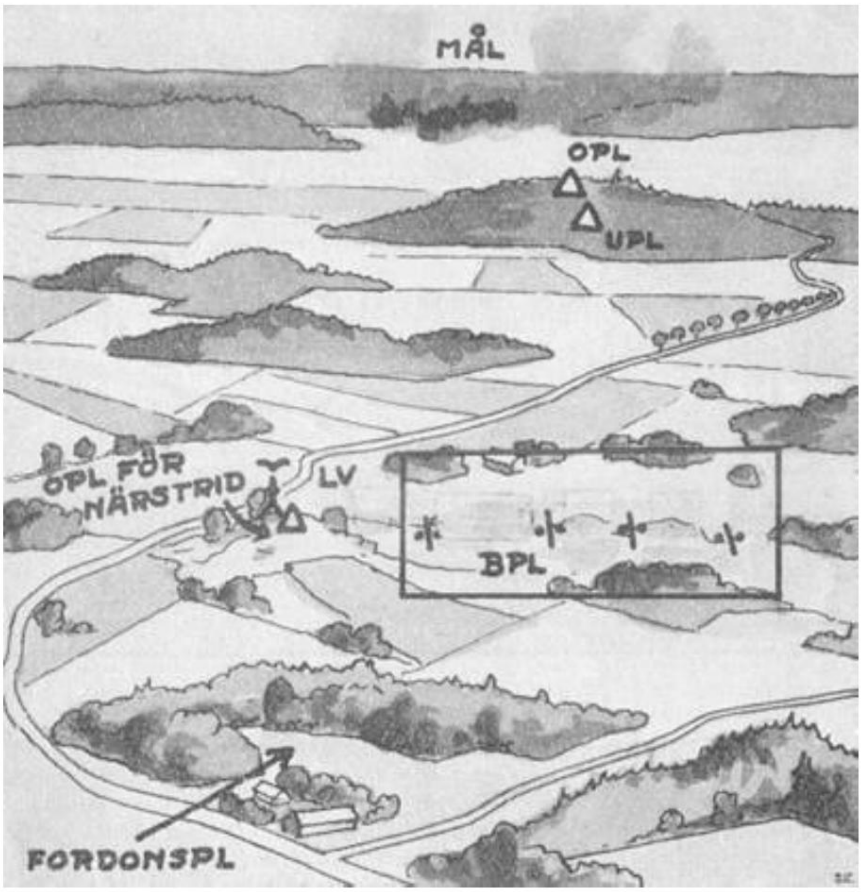
3 watt portable radio station w/ 39.
From Source 11.

The following main types were used for the artillery Range with best antenna conditions (Source 12)

	Radiotelephony	**Radiotelegraphy**	**Best antenna conditions**
15 Watt Portable Radio Station w/39 (15 w Br w/39)	30-40 km	70-100 km	Antennemast

3 Watt Portable Radio Station w/39 (3 w Br w/39)	10 km	15-25 km	Rod antenna

3 w Br m/ 39 was specially developed for use in artillery target reconnaissance.



Principle sketch - The battery in position.
From Source 2.

Battery in position

Abbreviations;
OPL: Observation stations
UPL: Command post
BPL: Kanonlinje
VEHICLE PL: Wagon line
LV: Anti-aircraft machine gun

The battery is usually placed 1-3 km behind the units it is supposed to support.

From the gun line, field telephone connections are laid out to observation posts and the command post; the lines are duplicated with radio connections.

The battery commander is in the command post, from where he directs the battery's battle.

Principle sketch - The cannon line.
From Source 2.

The battery is secured against air attack by setting up anti-aircraft machine guns, here set up at the observation post, which must secure the battery against threats in the flank.

Detail of the cannon line, with the four blurred leaflets. Behind the gun line is the battery's firing center, from which field telephone cables are laid out to observation posts and command posts.

The individual artilleryman's equipment, 1941

Swedish captain of the artillery, in uniform Model 1939.
From Soldier's Instruction for the Infantry, 1939.

The overview originates from Source 7, which of course has *the Soldier's Instruction for Artillery, 1941* as a source.

See Source 7's Personal Equipment, 1941, for information on the various uniform items issued to artillerymen.

Artillerymen

- Carbine m/94, or rifle m/96, with accessories 40 cartridges
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- Belt, bayonet and cartridge case

Specialists - signalling, observation and sanitation

- Pistol m/07 and pistol holster 28
- cartridges
- Waist belt
- Bayonet

Special equipment, provided certain functions

- Compass and protractor
- Signal whistle
- Card case
- Binoculars
- Field light
- Measuring tape

Observationsfly

A reconnaissance aircraft of the type S 14 (Fieseler Fi 156 Storch).
From Source 13.

To what extent, if at all, did the corps artillery in particular cooperate with e.g. reconnaissance aircraft, currently not available.

However, the aircraft capacity was present in the form of e.g. reconnaissance aircraft of the type S 14 (Fieseler Fi 156 Storch), which was originally purchased as a training aircraft, but which was later transferred to connection and reconnaissance tasks.

In 1944-45, the Air Force had a total of 20 aircraft of this type, which were distributed with a number to the Flying Divisions F 3, F 6, F 8, F 9, F 11, F 12, F 17 and F 21.

Sources

1. *Aid to Denmark - Military and political relations 1943-1945* by Ulf Torell, General Förlaget, Stockholm 1973, ISBN 31-38-01693-1.
2. *Citizen's book on national defense* by Erik Malmström (ed.), General Staff, Stockholm 1939.
3. *Heere pocket book* by Kurt Passow, JF Lehman Verlag, Munich/Berlin, 1939.
4. *Second World War and Sweden - History and myth-making* by Jan Linder, Swedish Military Historical Library, Luleå 2002, ISBN 91-974056-3-9.
5. *Historic Military Vehicles Directory* af Bart Venderveen, After the Battle, London 1989, ISBN 0900913-57-6.

6. Historical units - from the Swedish Armed Forces (the Swedish Army's official website).
7. Mats' Weapons Page - specielt Breech-loaded Guns and Cannon used by the Swedish Armed Forces and Cars in the defense.
8. The artillery in Sweden during the readiness, from Pansarcentralen v/Thorleif Olsson.
9. At one time a larger image collection was available via Wermlands Militär Historiska Förening's website, but unfortunately it has not been possible for me to trace this source.
10. Landsverk - From forge to large-scale industry 1850-1992 - an exciting piece of industrial history as well as pictures of the military equipment that was produced.
11. Grön Radio - A virtual museum about Swedish military radio stations.
12. A compilation of the army's light radio stations from the 1920s to the 1960s by Sven Bertilsson, Försvarets Historical Telecollections.
13. Reconnaissance aircraft S 14 Fieseler Fi 156C Storch, from the Swedish Military History Library.

Supplementary material about the Swedish defense of the period

- Operation Save Denmark
- The Swedish Army 1939-1945 - Infantry
- The Swedish Army 1939-1945 - Armored troops
- The Swedish Army 1939-1945 - Artillery
- The Swedish Army 1939-1945 - Luftvärnsartilleriet
- The Swedish Army 1939-1945 - Engineer troops
- The Swedish Navy 1939-1945 - The Navy
- The Swedish Navy 1939-1945 - The coastal artillery
- The Swedish Air Force 1939-1945 - Operation Rädda Denmark
- The Swedish Air Force 1939-1945 - Experiments with airborne units

Per Finsted

To note:

1) The artillery regiments that were created during the war carried the base regiment number + 20, while the equivalent for the infantry regiments was the base regiment number + 30.
The infantry regiments were assigned a regimental name, while the same does not seem to have applied to the artillery regiments.

2) The caption on the website indicates that it is a *10.5 cm howitzer m/39,* but this is not correct in my opinion, as the upper edge of the shield is clearly different from the shield of the German light field howitzer.