



Danish troops in Zeeland in 1813. Troopers of the Hussar Regiment and musketeers of Holstenske Infantry Regiment in service dress. Painting by Christian Würgler Hansen.

Danish Infantry of the Line and Light Infantry 1803-1814 The Perry Achievement

By Hans Chr. Wolter

This article has benefitted considerably from very qualified assistance from Mr. Jørgen K. Larsen and Mr. Ole Thureholm.

You can read the historical background in Militærhistorie – Krige, felttog og slag – Napoleonic Era – Denmark.

You can find the Perry figurines in Figurer og Modeller – Figurgalleri

1. Welcome in the Field!

Alan and Michael Perry, who are impressively keen on sculpturing and favouring 28 mm figures for wargaming and display, manage Perry Miniatures. Their company offers a wide range of high-quality metal and plastic figures from a number of historical conflicts. A glance at the website of Perry Miniatures:

<https://www.perry-miniatures.com/index.php>

8. Wargaming with Danish and Norwegian forces 1803-1814

Wargamers apply different rules set and different ways to represent units/armies. In the following are offered some general notes to consider when using and forming Danish and Norwegian wargame forces from 1803 to 1814, as several facts have to be considered to represent them in a correct way, to correspond to different set of rules.

Further, some comments regarding Danish and Norwegian forces in Black Powder and General de Brigade, and the new Sharp Practise 2 are provided.

The Danish Army

Danish infantry fought in line, just like the British, but in 3 ranks as Danish units were always closer to full strength at 800 (British should have had 1,000 – 1,200 men, but mostly had only 5-600, so the "2 deep" line emerged naturally. And so did the French from October 1813 onwards, which has passed almost unnoticed).

Both jaegers and grenadiers can skirmish (grenadiers can also be held back as a reserve or used to lead an attack). But as nearly all soldiers had 2 years of basic training + wartime service, so musketeers too had learned basic skirmish training. Any company could form a skirmish line for the battalion by deploying its third rank after the Prussian norm. By doing so the battalion did not "shorten the line" by deploying a complete company!

Danish infantry units fought/marched in line in battle - but marched normally with two companies abreast and one company in march column on each flank ("Line with refused flanks"). In this way the battalion could quickly form a full line or form a square. This formation could also march at the same speed as a column formation.

The second line/reserve normally stood in column with company front, but would if in line of fire also change to "Line with refused flanks" or to line if needed. Danish infantry (not Norwegian) was equipped with mainly M 1794 muskets (50,000 made), which had conical ramrod that did not need to be turned when used, and a self-priming pan. Further it had a screen at the pan to protect the eyes of the soldier standing to the left, so everyone could better aim when firing in line.

A quick lock bayonet attachment, so a bayonet could be mounted in seconds, was also found. In 1807-1810 a new model Musket (M 1807) added a new "inside" lock which was very simple to maintain, but more

importantly, was very resilient to damp and water, so the muskets could also be used in rain (30,000 made).

The terrain in Denmark and Schleswig-Holstein was mainly cultivated, broken and of a closed nature. Without room for larger formations the brigade was the main fighting formation. This was an all arms "battle group" so to speak, with normally 4 infantry battalions, a light battalion, and a cavalry regiment. Until 1808 8 regimental 3-pdr guns were a part of the brigade. From then on a full 10 gun 3 pd. "mounted battery" was part of the brigade. A mounted battery was akin to an Austrian cavalry battery, with all gunners mounted on guns and wagons. Beside this would normally be found an "Avantgarde" of light troops, a cavalry brigade of heavy cavalry, and finally an artillery reserve of 6-pdr field guns.

This was obviously not a weak force. Strong in both defence and attack, and the large amount of light infantry and close rank firepower, combined with long training, are the major assets of the infantry. Cavalry is well mounted and armed and aggressive in tactics. Perhaps artillery at first glance forms the weakest part, but it is generally manoeuvrable and there is normally plenty of it. Gunners are also well trained and will if needed fight until overrun.

But as a small army in size, it was probably best suited for the defence of Denmark, not for war on a European battlefield – it would not endure for long, but probably give a good account of itself!

Norwegian Forces

In Norway conditions prevailed somewhat different. Using a set of brigade or skirmish rules, like Sharp Practise 2, will be the way to wargame the fighting in Norway.

Because of food and supply shortages only part of the army could be used for field service. In 1808-1809 small brigade formations composed of normally two "grenadier divisions" each of two grenadier companies, together with composite units of "regimental sharpshooters", jaegers and "Ski runner" battalions, and sometimes aided by regimental 1-pdr "Amusettes", formed the normal basic unit used for field service.

The musketeers and (dismounted) dragoons together with artillery were used to guard towns, fortifications and fortresses. Normally they did not take part in field actions.

As Norway was (and is) extremely broken and a difficult terrain to move in, the Swedish attacker was forced to use narrow roads, winding through hills, valleys and woods, and was often forced to stop or divert direction by several well-placed fortifications. As a consequence, they were stretched out, exposing them to attacks. Against them, the terrain-knowable Norwegians, moved and then outflanked/encircled several isolated Swedish formations and in a tactic just like the famous “Motti” (Literally; “Chop them up into smaller pieces”) tactic used in Finland in the winter war 1939-1940 “took out the opposition”. This normally forced other Swedish formations to retreat too. In 1814 the same tactics were used but because of bad overall leadership, although locally successful, yet so successful that Bernadotte offered better terms than first given. Finally, the fighting ended in a ceasefire and the acceptance of a Union with Sweden.

Again, the stock is a good and interesting force to wargame with; very flexible, aggressive and highly manoeuvrable units also in the winter. Its main drawback is its limited size and lack of effective supporting units – You have to apply surprise, not numbers, and in the end you have to win or you won’t stand a chance in the long run!

Wargaming rules

In General de Brigade each company should be 8 figures strong. This gives us a musketeer battalion with 40 figures and a light/jaeger battalion of 32 figures. All infantry units are classified as veteran units by 1813.

Den Kongelige Livgarde (Royal Life Guard) was a battalion with 4 small companies of 6 figures, i.e. a total of 24 figures. 1 figure in each company is a rifle armed sharpshooter, and together these can form an ad hoc company and act as skirmishers. The unit is classified as an elite unit.

Kongens Livjaeger Corps (King’s Own Jaeger Corps) was a 4 company battalion raised in 1801 by recruiting the sons of Copenhagen citizens. It was so successful that it was accepted into the Danish Army after 1807. The companies are 5 figures strong, i.e. a battalion with 20 figures. It is a light infantry battalion classified as a 2nd Line Enthusiastic unit.

The militia battalions of 1807 should have 6 figures in a company, i.e. forming a battalion of 30 figures. They are classed as Conscripts with the Levy Units modifiers.

In Norway infantry units are classed as Line (both musketeers and light/jaeger units). Ski troops can move 12" in skirmish formation.

In Black Powder the musketeer battalions are Large units (36-40 figures), and light/jaeger battalions are Standard Size units (24-30 figures). The same goes for militia battalions of 1807. Independent light/jaeger/grenadier companies are Tiny units (5-6 figures).

Musketeers can skirmish in terrain that they could normally not enter.

Stats for Black Powder:

Unit	Type	Size	Armament	Hand-to-Hand	Shooting	Morale	Stamina	Special
Denmark								
Musketeer Infantry	Regular Infantry	Large Unit	Smoothbore Muskets	6	3	4	3	First Fire, Reliable, Stubborn
Light/Jaeger Infantry	Regular Infantry	Standard Size	Rifled Muskets	6	3	4	3	Sharpshooters, Reliable, Stubborn, Skirmish
Grenadier Infantry Coy	Regular Infantry	Tiny Unit	Smoothbore Muskets	3	1	4	1	First Fire, Reliable, Stubborn, Skirmish
Light/Jaeger Infantry Coy	Regular Infantry	Tiny Unit	Rifled Muskets	2	1	4	1	Sharpshooters, Reliable, Stubborn, Skirmish
Royal Life Guard	Regular Infantry	Standard Size	Smoothbore Muskets	7	3	3	4	Elite, First Fire, Reliable, Steady, Stubborn
Royal Life Guard Sharpshooters	Regular Infantry	Tiny Unit	Rifled Muskets	3	1	3	1	Sharpshooters, Elite, First Fire, Reliable, Stubborn

King's Own Jaeger Corps	Regular Infantry	Standard Size	Rifled Muskets	5	3	4	3	First Fire, Reliable, Skirmish
Militia Infantry	Regular Infantry	Standard Size	Smoothbore Muskets	4	2	5	2	Freshly Raised, Wawerng
Norway Musketeer Infantry	Regular Infantry	Standard Size	Smoothbore Muskets	6	3	4	3	Brave, First Fire, Stubborn
Light/Jaeger Infantry	Regular Infantry	Standard Size	Rifled Muskets	6	3	4	3	Brave, Stubborn, Skirmish
Grenadier Infantry Coy	Regular Infantry	Tiny Unit	Smoothbore Muskets	3	1	4	1	Brave, First Fire, Stubborn, Skirmish
Light/Jaeger Infantry Coy	Regular Infantry	Tiny Unit	Rifled Muskets	2	1	4	1	Brave, Stubborn, Skirmish
Ski Infantry	Regular Infantry	Standard Size	Smoothbore Muskets	6	3	4	3	Brave, First Fire, Stubborn, Skirmish

In Sharp Practice 2 the focus is on “telling the stories of heroes”. Fortunately the Danish Army of 1813 had its own heroes as well. Captain Jess commanding a jaeger company in Oldenborgske Infantry Regiment and Captain Wegener from Slesvigske Jaeger Corps II were both mentioned in dispatches after Zarrentin 18th September, and they both received a medal after Klein Zecker 30th September. Captain Wegener was in front at Boden on 4th December.

We present two Danish core forces for Sharp Practice 2. One is an all Danish force, the other is a combined Danish-French force.

Danish Infantry Battalion (+)
Leader, Status III
One Group of 8 Grenadiers, Regulars, Muskets
Two Groups of 8 Line Infantry, Regulars, Muskets
Leader, Status II
Two Groups of 8 Line Infantry, Regulars, Muskets
Leader, Status I
One Group of 6 Jaegers Skirmishers, Light Infantry, Rifles/Muskets
Point Value: 57

An example could be Dronningens Livregiment I led by Colonel F.E.H. Cronhelm and the Jaeger Coy from Dronningens Livregiment II (Captain Flitner).

French-Danish Light Column Force
Leader, Status III Three Groups of 6 Danish Jaegers Skirmishers, Light Infantry, Rifles/Muskets
Leader, Status I One Group of 8 Danish Line Infantry, Regulars, Muskets
Leader, Status II Two Groups of 8 French Voltigeurs, Conscripts & Volunteers, Muskets
Points Value: 56

Danish and French forces were sometimes combined, e.g. at Zarrentin on September 18th, 1813.

But you can make your own force. We provide you with the numerous possibilities here:

Danish Line Infantry					Type	Regulars
Points Value	6	Weapon	Musket		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing Volley	Step out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	Yes	2	3	3	Sharp Practice, Stubborn
Danish Line Infantry Skirmishers					Type	Skirmishers
Points Value	8	Weapon	Musket		Size	6
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing Volley	Step out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	No	-	3	-	Sharp Practice
Danish Grenadiers					Type	Regulars
Points Value	7	Weapon	Musket		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing Volley	Step out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	Yes	2	2	3	Sharp Practice, Stubborn
Danish Grenadiers Skirmishers					Type	Skirmishers
Points Value	8	Weapon	Musket		Size	6
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing Volley	Step out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	No	-	2	-	Sharp Practice
Danish Jaegers					Type	Regulars
Points Value	6	Weapon	Rifle*		Size	8

Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing Volley	Step out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	Yes	2	3	3	Sharp Practice, Stubborn
Danish Jaegers Skirmishers					Type	Light Infantry
Points Value	8	Weapon	Rifle*		Size	6
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing Volley	Step out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	No	-	3	-	Sharp Practice, Stubborn, Tactical
Danish Sharpshooters					Type	Regulars
Points Value	7	Weapon	Rifle*		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing Volley	Step out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	Yes	2	1	2	Sharp Practice, Stubborn, Tactical, Good shots
Danish Sharpshooters Skirmishers					Type	Light Infantry
Points Value	12	Weapon	Rifle*		Size	6
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing Volley	Step out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	No	-	1	-	Sharp Practice, Stubborn, Tactical, Good shots
* From 1811 half rifles, and half muskets						
Danish Life Guard Infantry					Type	Elite
Points Value	8	Weapon	Musket		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing Volley	Step out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	Yes	2	2	2	Sharp Practice, Stubborn
Danish Life Guard Sharpshooters					Type	Light Infantry
Points Value		Weapon	Rifle		Size	6
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing Volley	Step out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	No	-	2	-	Sharp Practice, Stubborn, Good shots
Danish Landevaern Infantry					Type	Militia
Points Value	3	Weapon	Musket		Size	10
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing Volley	Step out	Drill	Characteristics
No shock	Yes	No	-	-	-	Poor shots, Weedy Coves
Danish Kings Own Rifle Corps					Type	Conscripts & Volunteers
Points Value	4	Weapon	Rifle		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing Volley	Step out	Drill	Characteristics

No shock	Yes	First only	-	2	-	Hearth & Home, No bayonets
Danish Kings Own Rifle Corps Sharpshooters					Type	Skirmishers
Points Value	7	Weapon	Rifle		Size	6
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing Volley	Step out	Drill	Characteristics
No shock	Yes	No	-	2	-	Hearth & Home, No bayonets
Norwegian Line Infantry					Type	Conscripts & Volunteers
Points Value	5	Weapon	Musket		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing Volley	Step out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	First only	3	2	3	Aggressive, Stubborn, Tactical
Norwegian Line Infantry Skirmishers					Type	Skirmishers
Points Value	7	Weapon	Musket		Size	6
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing Volley	Step out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	No	-	3	-	Aggressive, Stubborn, Tactical
Norwegian Grenadiers					Type	Regulars
Points Value	6	Weapon	Musket		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing Volley	Step out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	First only	3	2	3	Aggressive, Stubborn, Tactical
Norwegian Grenadiers Skirmishers					Type	Skirmishers
Points Value	8	Weapon	Musket		Size	6
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing Volley	Step out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	No	-	2	-	Aggressive, Stubborn, Tactical
Norwegian Jaegers					Type	Conscripts & Volunteers
Points Value	6	Weapon	Musket		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing Volley	Step out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	First only	3	2	3	Aggressive, Stubborn, Tactical
Norwegian Jaegers Skirmishers					Type	Light Infantry
Points Value	7	Weapon	Musket		Size	6
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing Volley	Step out	Drill	Characteristics

Always	Yes	No	-	3	-	Aggressive, Stubborn, Tactical
Norwegian Sharpshooters					Type	Light Infantry
Points Value	7	Weapon	Musket		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing Volley	Step out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	First only	3	1	2	Aggressive, Stubborn, Tactical, Good shots
Norwegian Sharpshooters Skirmishers					Type	Light Infantry
Points Value	12	Weapon	Musket		Size	6
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing Volley	Step out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	No	-	1	-	Sharp Practice, Stubborn, Tactical, Good shots
Norwegian Ski Infantry					Type	Conscripts & Volunteers
Points Value	6	Weapon	Musket		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing Volley	Step out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	First only	3	2	3	Aggressive, Stubborn, Tactical
Norwegian Ski Infantry Skirmishers					Type	Light Infantry
Points Value	7	Weapon	Musket		Size	6
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing Volley	Step out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	No	-	2	-	Aggressive, Stubborn, Tactical

Happy figure handling and wargaming!