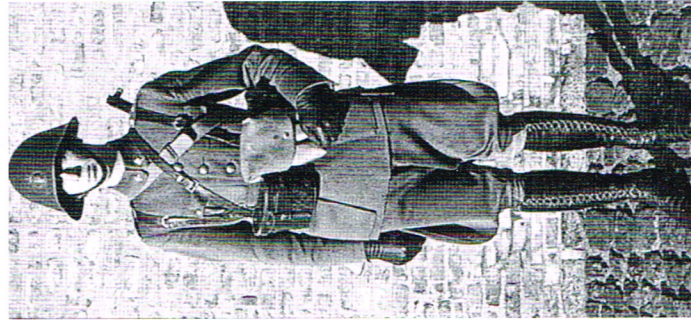


RIGHT An LMG gunner and a rifleman practising firing drill during an exercise. Both wear M1923 helmets and M1915 grey field uniforms, with light field equipment – note the M1910 black greatcoats rolled on their backs and strapped around their mess tins. (Chakoten: Danish Society for Military History)

BELOW 1941: a Danish captain wearing M1923 officers' khaki field uniform with M1923 steel helmet. The tunic is worn here with the collar closed and the officers' star, and rank insignia on the shoulder-straps. Note the infantry officers' brown lace-up boots; the belt worn with both cross-braces as support straps; cased binoculars; and a brown canvas magazine pouch for the sub-machine gun slung behind his left shoulder (the Finnish M1931 Suomi was manufactured in Denmark as the M1941 Madsen-Suomi). He has a holstered M1923 Bergmann-Bayard pistol at his right hip, and an M1938 gasmask slung from his right shoulder. (Chakoten: Danish Society for Military History)



airfield, shooting down one aircraft and destroying or damaging 25 others as they tried to take off.

The Danish public were ashamed of Denmark's surrender after this short resistance, at a cost of 16 killed and wounded for 203 German casualties. The Germans permitted a smaller navy and an army of 3,300 Life Guards and cadre personnel under LtGen Ebbe Gørtz. The occupation was increasingly resented, so when the Germans attempted to occupy army barracks on 29 August 1943 the Danish Army resisted, losing 26 killed. The Life Guard defended Gothesgade and Jægersborg barracks in Copenhagen and Sorgenfri Castle; the Engineer Regt, Ryvangen in Copenhagen; Jutland Division's 6th & 20th Inf Bns, Nyborg and Albanigade in Odense; the Guards Hussars, Næstved, and 4th & 5th Inf Bns engaged the enemy three times at Odense. Meanwhile the Navy, under VAdm Aage Vedel, scuttled 32 ships – virtually the entire fleet. The Danish armed forces were disbanded, but Denmark was now firmly in the Allied camp.

## UNIFORMS & INSIGNIA

### Officers' service uniform

The M1923 khaki ('yellow-brown') service uniform was introduced on 24 February 1925. Officers wore a superior quality peaked (visored) cap, with a brown leather peak and gold-buckled chinstrap with two bronze standard buttons (i.e. with the Danish coat-of-arms of three lions and nine hearts). An oval red-silver-red national cockade was worn on the crown above a very light brown (practically off-white) silk cap band, with a gold standard button within a gold-embroidered oak wreath on a khaki cloth backing: the wreath's two branches had four leaves for general officers, three leaves for field officers and two for subaltern (company) officers.

The closed-collar service tunic could also be worn open with a khaki shirt and tie. It had 6 bronze standard front buttons, external pleated or unpleated breast pockets and unpleated side pockets, all with square or scalloped buttoned flaps, and plain square buttoned cuffs. Shoulder straps covered with very light brown braid had gold metal rank insignia and branch buttons, and the collars a gold 4-point star for generals and combat branches. Plain khaki riding breeches were worn with M1923

**Table 2: Danish Army selected branch insignia 24 February 1925–29 April 1943**

Branch	Collar insignia	Officers' & WOs' spiral-rope branch button	Other ranks' pebbled unit button
General officers	Star	Crown, 3 lions, 9 hearts	-
General Staff officers	Star	Crown, cannon on crossed rifle & sabre on wreath	-
Life Guard Regt/Bns	Star/rosette	Crown, royal cipher 'CRX'	*/(1941) Crown, 1-3LB
Infantry Regt HQs/Bns	Star/rosette	Crown, crossed rifles on spade	Crown, I-VII/ Crown, 1-28
Infantry Pioneer Command/Bns	Star/rosette	As Infantry	ibid*/(1941) Crown, 1-2FP
Guards Hussar Regt (Cavalry)	Star/rosette	Crown, cipher 'CRX'	*
Jutland Dragoon Regt (Cavalry)	Star/rosette	Crown, crossed carbine & sabre	*
Transport Bn	Star/rosette	As Jutland Dragoons	*/Crown, T
Field Artillery Regts/Bns	Star/rosette	Crown, flaming grenade above crossed cannons	Crown, I-III/ Crown, 1-9, 11, 12
AA Artillery Regt	Star/rosette	As Field Artillery	Crown, 10, 13, 14, (1941) Crown, winged crossed cannons
Engineer Regt/Bns	Star/rosette	Crown, crossed carbine & spade on ring	*/Crown, 1-6
Signals Bn	Star/rosette	As Engineers	(10.5.1926) Crown, isolator, lightning bolts
Army Technical Corps (HTK)	Star/rosette	Crown, flaming grenade above compasses, on crossed rifle & sabre, on cogwheel	*
Air Service HQ/Bns	Star/rosette	(1939) Crown, 3 lions, 9 hearts, (12.5.1943) Crown, winged propeller	(23.1.1934) Crown, winged propeller/Crown, 1-2
Administration	Staff of Mercury	Crown, crossed sabre and Staff of Mercury	*
Medical Corps	Staff of Aesculapius	Crown, crossed sabre and Staff of Aesculapius	*
Veterinary Corps	Staff of Aesculapius on horseshoe	Crown, crossed sabre and Staff of Aesculapius on horseshoe	*

\* Same branch badge as the branch button.

brown leather equipment, e.g. riding boots, belt with cross-brace, and a holstered pistol on the right hip, or an M1910 sabre with silver braid sword-knot on the left.

The khaki 'tent hat' had very light brown piping and wide silk braid, and the national cockade. The M1910 black, M1915 light grey, or M1923 khaki superior quality double-breasted overcoats with turn-back cuffs were worn in cold weather.

### Enlisted ranks' service uniform

Warrant officers wore the officers' uniform with a much darker brown braid on the peaked cap and tent hat, and a gold collar rosette. Reserve NCOs bought officer-quality khaki uniforms, or wore the issued inferior quality enlisted version; these were worn without collar insignia, the peaked cap having a gilt unit button between two single oak branches. They wore an M1888 black leather belt, and the M1910, M1915, or M1923 enlisted ranks' greatcoat with plain cuffs. Officer cadets wore this uniform but with officers' cap-band silk and tent-hat braid.