

Also photographed in 1941, this corporal wears the M1923 enlisted ranks' khaki uniform with the M1939 lower collar and shoulder reinforcements, and his M1941 rank chevrons have khaki cloth backing. The rolled-up trousers worn over the M1923 brown leather marching boots were a Scandinavian fashion, believed to reflect manliness. He has an M1915 bayonet on his M1923 brown leather waistbelt. (Chakoten: Danish Society for Military History)

A few conscript NCOs and privates, including the Signals Bn and Balloon Park, were issued the M1923 khaki enlisted-quality uniform in the 1930s. It comprised a khaki sidecap with white and red wool national cockade; a tunic, with a shallower collar and shoulder-reinforcements from 1939; rolled trousers, rolled down when walking-out; brown ankle boots; a brown leather belt and bayonet scabbard, and a khaki enlisted greatcoat.

In 1940, however, most enlisted personnel still wore the M1915 light grey service uniform. The tunic had 8 front buttons and cuff and back-flap buttons; branch-colour collar patches and piping on the collar, front, shoulder straps, pointed cuffs and back flaps; and external breast pockets with pointed flaps. Rolled-up trousers were worn with M1930 black leather laced calf-length boots. The M1931 sidecap, M1888 belt, M1915 bayonet, and M1910 or M1915 enlisted greatcoat were also worn. The Life Guards retained their M1903 greyish-green uniform and kepi, and a braid-colour tent-hat tassel.

Field uniform

The service uniform was worn with different headgear and equipment. Officers and WOs wore the M1923 steel helmet painted light brown (from December 1938 sand was mixed in); the M1923 khaki enlisted sidecap with a silver-and-red officers' cockade; and M1923 infantry officers' equipment. Reserve NCOs and lower ranks wore the helmet, M1923 khaki or M1938 light grey sidecap, and infantry equipment. Crews of the Guard Hussars' armoured car squadron wore M1935 black leather jackets.

Rank insignia (see Table 9, page 41)

Officers wore rank insignia on very light brown silk-covered M1923 shoulder straps. Warrant officers were ex-NCOs carrying out special technical and administrative functions, but sometimes acting as deputy commanders of specialized weapons platoons; they ranked with but below corresponding subaltern ranks. They wore rank insignia on dark brown silk-covered shoulder straps. Reserve NCOs wore rank insignia on khaki shoulder straps with dark brown braid; officer cadets, undergoing six months' officer training, had khaki and light brown braid shoulder straps. On tunic and greatcoat cuffs conscript NCOs wore M1923 yellow cotton chevrons (from 1941 on a khaki backing), or M1916 red cloth chevrons.

Branch insignia (see Table 2, page 7)

The M1915 branch-of-service colours were: Infantry and Medical, red; Cavalry and Artillery, crimson; HTK, yellow; Engineers, black; Administration, light blue; and Veterinary, green.

On the M1923 tunic and various greatcoats, officers' and WOs' branch insignia were shown (obviously, too small for easy identification) on gold shoulder-strap buttons with a spiral rope design; Guards regiments wore King Christian X's cipher. Reserve NCOs and lower ranks wore branch insignia with regimental or battalion numbers on a single gold 'unit button' with a pebbled surface, on a coloured cloth backing identifying sub-unit (usually company-level), on the right upper breast. The company-colour backings were: 1st, red; 2nd, white; 3rd, light blue; 4th, yellow; 5th, green; 6th, violet; 7th, black. On the right breast Life Guards officers and WOs wore a gold-embroidered crowned royal cipher, while the HTK wore a crowned 'HTK' in a wreath. A commissioned military engineer wore

gold-embroidered compasses on a cogwheel on the collar. Other WO and NCO specialists had gold metal collar badges: engineer craftsman – microphone, on crossed axe and saw, on ring; HTK technician – crossed file and hammer on cogwheel; fARRIER (veterinary) – crossed hammers on horseshoe. Personnel seconded as Military Police wore on the left upper sleeve a blue armetlet with two black inner edgings.

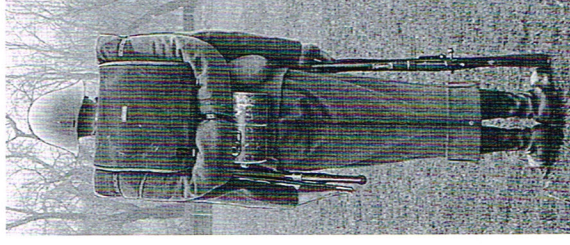
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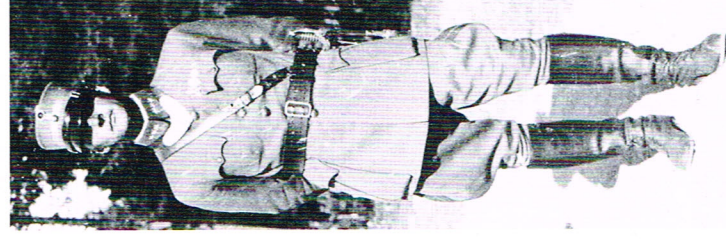
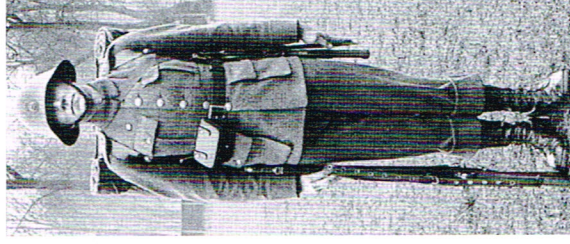
The partially mobilized Army (*Den Norske Hær*) had 25,000 men on 8 April 1940, expandable to 118,500 on full mobilization. The Minister of Defence, MajGen Ljungberg, the Army commander, MajGen Kristian Laake (replaced 11 April 1940 by Col Otto Ruge, immediately promoted major-general), and the General Staff constituted the Armed Forces GHQ. All males aged 18 were liable for military service, thereafter being liable for mobilization while aged 21–32 in front-line units (*Landje*), 33–44 in the territorials (*Landvern*), and 45–55 in the home guard (*Landstorm*). Only two-thirds of recruits were called up, and 84 days' recruit and 30 days' unit training was unrealistically short. There was a **General Staff** and nine branches of service:

Infantry: 16 regiments and 3 battalions. **Cavalry:** 3 dragoon regiments, plus 1 motorized MG and 6 bicycle companies. **Artillery:** 3 field and 1 AA regiments; 2 heavy and 3 mountain battalions, plus coastal artillery. **Engineers:** 1 regiment and 2 battalions, plus 6 engineer, 1 bridging and 6 signals companies. **Medical Corps:** 6 companies; 2 base and 13 motorized field hospitals. **Veterinary Corps:** 6 detachments. **Transport:** 7 motor companies, 6 ammunition columns and 6 ration supply detachments. **Supply:** 6 companies. **Air Service:** 1 regiment.

In 1916, Norway was divided into six military districts: 1st, South-East; 2nd, East; 3rd, South;



Front and rear views of an infantry private; although taken in 1941, they show many features of the 1940 field gear. He wears the M1923 helmet, M1923/39 enlisted ranks' tunic, M1923 trousers and marching boots. The M1923 brown waistbelt, with support straps for his M1939 backpack, has a single ammo pouch for his Krag-Jørgensen rifle, and an M1915 bayonet and M1869 entrenching tool on his left hip. The rear view shows his M1923 khaki greatcoat strapped to his backpack, above the M1938 gasmask canister, and an M1895 water bottle behind his right hip. (Chakoten: Danish Society for Military History)



This Norwegian captain in barracks is wearing the M1934 officers' service uniform with breeches and dismounted officers' laced boots. As duty officer he wears from a brown leather strap a silvered gorget with a gold Norwegian lion motif, and the M1906 officers' sword with gold and dark blue sword-knot. The qualification badges above his left breast pocket, including marksmanship and marching proficiency, suggest that he is a commissioned former senior NCO. (Norwegian Armed Forces Museum)