

## The Danish Brigade in Germany 1947 – 1958.

The British 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division, perhaps better known as the Desert Rats, moved into Itzehoe Barracks in Northern Germany on 5 May 1945. Division HQ and The Kings Royal Irish Hussars occupied the barracks until July 1946. In July the 27<sup>th</sup> Heavy regiment, Royal Artillery and the Control Commission of Germany (CCG) took over. Later on the 334<sup>th</sup> Forward Observation Battery (FOB) and 3<sup>rd</sup> Parachute Battalion from 6<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division also came to Itzehoe.

In autumn 1948 the forces in Northern Germany were reorganized, and a Norwegian brigade (482<sup>nd</sup>) from Harzen moved to Schleswig-Holstein. One of its infantry battalions was moved to Itzehoe and almost all British units left the barracks.

The Danish Occupation Force was established 7 October 1949 with HQ in the small town of Jever in East Friesland. It was soon decided to move the brigade to Itzehoe.

The Danish Brigade arrived at Itzehoe Barracks on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1949. First company in was 2<sup>nd</sup> Company from 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion commanded by Captain Mathisson. Soon that day the Danish colours at a ceremony by the new Danish commandant, Lieutenant Colonel S. Clausen, replaced the Norwegian colours. After a break for 86 years Danish soldiers again manned Itzehoe Barracks after the withdrawal in December 1863.

The other units soon arrived as well: During November- January 1<sup>st</sup> Company from 3<sup>rd</sup> battalion and 6<sup>th</sup> Company from 2<sup>nd</sup> Pioneer Battalion as the rest of the forward party. They were soon relieved and from 1950 – to 1952 more units moved to Itzehoe to form the brigade:

### Danish Brigade in Germany:

<b>Brigade Staff</b>	100
<b>9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment</b>	
- HQ	28
- 6 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion	619
- 13 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion	611
- 7 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion	586
<b>Jutland Dragoon Regiment</b>	126
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment</b>	
- HQ	37
- 6 <sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion	200
- 4 <sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion	168
- Elements of 12 <sup>th</sup> Field Artillery battalion	141
<b>14<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion</b>	148
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Pioneer battalion</b>	134
<b>The Signal battalion</b>	176
<b>Military Police</b>	126
<b>Repair and Depot facilities, medical Corps personnel</b>	250
<b>Officers and NCO's</b>	500
<b>Observers and liaison</b>	250
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.200</b>

So it is safe to say, that main elements from the Danish Army served in Northern Germany in this period (Read my article on the reorganization of the Danish Army after WW2). There was little to do for the soldiers, just guard duties, parades and exercises.



*Warrant Officers from The Guard Hussars,  
note uniforms model 1944 battledress with shoulder flashes*

From 1952 the brigade was reduced to around 1.500 soldiers and renamed The Danish Command.

In 1953, on 11<sup>th</sup> of April, the Norwegian contingent held their closing parade on Schleswigland Airfield after completing exercise VIKING II with the Danish Brigade.

25 March 1958 the Danish Brigade held their closing parade and the Danish part of the occupation of Germany after WW2 ended.