

INTRODUCTION TO

THE GUARD HUSSAR REGIMENT'S MOUNTED SQUADRON





THE REGIMENTAL BADGE

The current Guard Hussar Regiment (GHR) was formed as a consequence of the new defense agreement of May 1999, where The Zealand Life Regiment (SJLR), The Danish Life Regiment (DLR), and the old Guard Hussar Regiment were merged on the 1st of January 2001, at the Antvorskov Base under its new name.

The new regimental badge (as seen above) was approved by Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II, in December 2000, and was given to all personnel at the Guard Hussar Regiment in June 2001.

The new regimental badge is a horse mask with King Christian IV's crown monogram on a badge, framed by a metal band with the motto "IN ACTIS ESTO VOLUCRIS" engraved, which means "Be Swift In Action".





THE GUARD HUSSAR REGIMENT'S COLOUR AND PENNANT

As the only regiment in the western world, The Guard Hussar Regiment has both a color and a pennant.

The color and pennant were on the 18th of September 2002 handed over to The Guard Hussar Regiment by Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II, as a replacement for the two colors and 1 pennant from the three previous regiments, namely the Zealand Life Regiment, The Danish Life Regiment and The Guard Hussar Regiment.

As something unique for the Guard Hussar Regiment, in addition to Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II's monogram (which is a norm for regiment colors) the color and the pennant carry two monograms in the bunting, namely King Frederik VI's monogram. This is to show that the king had been a commanding officer of one of the three original regiments (The Zealand Life Regiment).

The bunting of the pennant is roughly 1/3 the size of that of the colour, as a horseman must be able to hold the pennant with one hand.



THE MOUNTED SQUADRON ORGANISATION

Today The Mounted Squadron has approx. 75 horses at Antvorskov Base in Slagelse. The Mounted Squadron consists of two platoons, each with approx. 40 conscript Privates (with the exception of the administrative platoon, which consists of permanent staff only). The Mounted Squadron is the only unit in Denmark that offers a 12-month military service period for conscripts.

Furthermore, there are a number of permanent Officers, Non Commissioned Officers, privates 1st class and civilian craftsmen. (saddlers, farriers, veterinaries and music teacher).



THE MOUNTED SQUADRONS ASSIGNMENTS

The Mounted Squadron's main assignment is to have the mounted forces at the Sovereign's disposal. These assignments consist of escorting the Queen in connection with the New Years Levee, weddings, jubilees, birthdays, cruises with the Royal Yacht "Dannebrog" and foreign state visits. Furthermore, the Mounted Squadron also escorts foreign ambassadors, when giving their credentials to the sovereign; the escorting usually takes place in Copenhagen and Fredensborg.

In addition to royal assignments, the Mounted Squadron takes part, with its trumpeters and show-teams, in a number of domestic and international shows and events. A common presentation, given the resources of a talented and brave hussar, is the Hungarian post, where the horseman rides two horses simultaneously, standing with one foot on each horse.



THE GUARD HUSSAR REGIMENTETS FULL DRESS (GALLA) UNIFORM

In 1762 a war was brewing between Denmark and Russia. The coming battle was much feared by Denmark. Particularly, the Russian light cavalry; The Cossack, gave cause for much concern. Denmark did not have an equivalent light cavalry. However, they were aware of a new type of light cavalry, which was present in most European armies at the time; The Hussars.

They came from Hungary, which was part of the Austria-Hungary Empire. The Hussars had existed in the Austria-Hungary army since 1688. They were light cavalry, meaning they rode small, light horses and were armed with light scimitars and dressed in uniforms inspired by the Hungarian national costume. The Hussars were well qualified for reconnaissance, as well as dispatch and securing the flanks. The modern day Danish Hussars uniforms, still have a striking resemblance to the old Hungarian national costumes.



The Kepi with Ponpon, Plume, Cordon and Lanyard

The first Guard Hussar Regiment carried a so called "schachtelcap" as headdress, a high cylinder formed black cap, with a white trimming and a white feather. In the beginning of the year 1800, the cap was mounted with a brim, and as the years went by, the cap became smaller. In 1870 it got its present shape and was hereafter called a kepi. The original feather became a plume, which is attached to the kepi by a ponpon. When mounted, the kepi is secured by a lanyard, which is attached at the back of the kepi and around the hussar's neck.

Hussar jacket (DOLMAN)

Originally, the Hussar was dressed in a short pale blue jacket with cord adornment. This jacket was called a Dolman. On the front of the dolman, very close horizontal cords were set. As the Hungarian national costume did not have any buttonholes. Cording, round catches or sticks were used to hold the clothing together. In 1870 the dolman was discarded and replaced by the present hussar jacket. Where the dolman only reached the waist, the hussar jacket has long rounded lapels, like an ordinary jacket. The original pale blue colour of the dolman has been preserved in the hussar jacket. The decorative cording on the front is said to have the military effect of intimidating the enemy, as they are made to resemble the ribs of a skeleton.

The Fur (PELISSE)

A fur jacket forms part of the Hungarian National costume. It's a cloth jacket, lined with fur. The fur jacket can be worn in cold weather, or hung over the left shoulder in good weather (as we use it today). This jacket has been part of the Danish Hussar uniform since 1762. While officers carry a crimson fur with silver cords, of the same type as the hussar jacket from 1870, other personnel carry a scarlet fur with white cords.

Hussar riding breeches

When in uniform, pale blue riding breeches with a white stripe on the outer seam are worn. The blue breeches were introduced in 1822. Prior to that time, breeches in different colours were used.



Hussar riding boots

Short boots of soft leather were part of the Hungarian national costume. The bootlegs were kept up by a string, which was tied in front, above the bootleg. At the introduction of the Hussar Regiment in 1762, this type was used. Since 1889, The Guard Hussar Regiment has used ordinary black riding boots. Though in memory of the original string, they come with a white edging and a rosette at the front.

The Sabretache

The Hungarian national costume had very tight breeches, which is why there was no room for pockets. Instead, they had a pouch tied on to their belts, where they could keep their personal belongings. This pouch also became part of the military Hussar uniform. Eventually this pouch was equipped with a hard front, and decorated with the ruling monarch's monogram.

Saber

The original light scimitar was in 1843, replaced by a common saber for all the Danish mounted regiments. This type of saber is used in a slightly lighter model than the original saber model from 1843.

The Shabrack

A so-called shabrack is carried across the saddle. It is a cloth with a jagged edging with the ruling monarch's monogram. Apart from the monogram, the shabrack has not changed much since 1762.

The Double Bridle

The Guard Hussar's harnesses is decorated with small seashells called cowry shells. These come from the mouth of a river in Africa and were under the description "snogepander" introduced to the regiment in 1787. Apart from looking nice, these shells have the military function of protecting the horse against saber cuts.



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