

THE NORWEGIAN ARMY IN 1940

Norway had nearly disarmed during the 1920s and 1930s, and although it made efforts to correct major deficiencies in equipment, by the time of the German attack most items were still on order rather than in the force structure.

The German attack caught the Norwegians off balance, and efforts to mobilize during the battle produced chaos. Some units did mobilize, but it was haphazard, and the fact that the Germans early on overran the mobilization centers of the southern infantry regiments (and captured the muster rolls of their reservists) only added to the difficulties. Unit which did mobilize generally did so at partial strength, and sometimes without key equipment. For example, the Germans captured the depot of the 3rd Artillery Regiment at Trondheim with most of its artillery pieces, so the gunners who did manage to reach their units were equipped as infantry instead.

ORDER OF BATTLE OF THE NORWEGIAN ARMY, 1940

Command	Infantry	Dragoon Regt	Arty	Mnt Art	Eng
1 st Div	1, 2, 3 Regts	1	1 Regt (-)	--	--
2 nd Div	4, 5, 6 Regts, HMKG Bn	2	2 Regt	--	--
3 rd Div	7, 8 Regts	--	--	1 Bn	--
4 th Div	9, 10 Regts	--	--	2 Bn	Bergen Co
5 th Div	11, 12(-), 13 Regts	3	3 Regt	--	1 Bn
6 th Div	14(-), 15, 16 Regts, Alta Bn	--	--	3 Bn	2 Bn
Finmark Bde	I/12, II/14, Varanger Bns	--	II/1 Bn	--	--
Army Reserve	--	--	1, 2 Bns, 1 AAA Regt	--	1 Regt

HMKG = Hans Majeste Kongen Garde (King's Royal Guard Battalion)

NORWEGIAN TOE 1

INFANTRY DIVISION/BRIGADE, 1940

There were six territorial divisions before the war. Upon mobilization each would form a brigade (a 7th Brigade was formed as well) with the combat elements of the division. The regiments did not fight as complete units. Instead, regiment headquarters formed groups which controlled two to five battalions of infantry drawn from whatever regiments were available and supported by a battery or two of artillery, all serving under the general command of the brigade.

The Dragoon regiments which formed part of three divisions are treated separately. The reconnaissance squadron shown as part of division/brigade troops was generally detached from one of the dragoon regiments, and it could as easily be a horsed cavalry squadron.

Troop Quality: Regular (*Landverd* Trained)

Morale: 8, (*Landverd* 7, Finmark Brigade and HMKG 9)

DIVISION/BRIGADE TROOPS			
Headquarters	Headquarters	1 command stand 1 car	
	Headquarters Company	1 staff telephone wagon <i>1 supply wagon</i>	
	Reconnaissance Company	1 bicycle command infantry stand 2 recon bicycle infantry stands	
	0-1 Engineer Battalion	Headquarters 1 command stand 2-3 Engineer Companies, each 1 command engineer stand 2 engineer stands	
0-1 Mountain Artillery Battalion	Headquarters	1 mounted command observation stand	
	Headquarters Battery	<i>1 supply wagon</i>	
	2 Batteries, each	1 mounted command infantry stand	
		1 75L21 or 75L17 mountain gun and crew (ds) 1 pack animal stand	
1-3 INFANTRY REGIMENTS, EACH			
Regimental Troops	Headquarters	1 mounted command stand	
	Headquarters Company	1 staff telephone wagon <i>1 supply wagon</i>	
	3 Infantry Battalions, each (I, II, Landverd)	Headquarters 1 command stand Machine Gun Company 1 MMG stand 1 weapons stand 3 Infantry Companies, each 1 command infantry stand 2 infantry stands	
0-1 ARTILLERY REGIMENT			
2 Howitzer Battalions (I, II), each	Headquarters	1 mounted command stand	
	Headquarters Battery	<i>1 supply wagon</i>	
	2 Batteries, each	Headquarters	1 mounted command observation stand
		Headquarters Battery	<i>1 supply wagon</i>
		1 mounted command infantry stand 1 120L20/09 howitzer and crew (ds) 1 limber	
1 Field Gun Battalion (III)	Headquarters	1 mounted command observation stand	
	Headquarters Battery	<i>1 supply wagon</i>	
	2 Batteries, each	1 mounted command infantry stand	

		1 75L31 field gun and crew (ds)
		1 limber

NORWEGIAN TOE 2 DRAGOON REGIMENT, 1940

There were three dragoon regiments shortly before the war. Each was supposed to have two cavalry and two cycle squadrons, although squadrons were stripped out to give infantry divisions/brigades a cycle squadron. The actual field organization of 1st Dragoon Regiment is not known. 2nd Dragoon Regiment had to horsed and one cycle squadron while 3rd Dragoon Regiment had one horsed and two cycle squadrons, in both cases in addition to their two machine-gun squadrons.

Troop Quality: Regular

Morale: 8

DRAGOON REGIMENT		
Regiment Troops	Headquarters	1 mounted command stand
	Headquarters Squadron	<i>1 supply wagon</i>
		1 8cm mortar stand (battalion gun)
		1 cart
Horsed Section	Headquarters	1 mounted command cavalry stand
	1-2 Cavalry Squadrons, each	1 command cavalry stand
		2 cavalry stands
	1 Machine Gun Squadron (horsed)	2 MMG stands
2 machine gun carts		
Wheeled Section	Headquarters	1 command infantry stand
		1 light truck
	1-2 Cycle Squadrons, each	1 command bicycle infantry stand
		2 bicycle infantry stands
	1 Machine Gun Squadron (horsed)	2 MMG stands
		2 light trucks

NORWEGIAN TOE 3 ARMY RESERVE ARTILLERY, 1940

Troop Quality: Regular

Morale: 8

ARMY TROOPS		
1st Heavy Artillery Battalion	Headquarters	1 command observation stand
		1 car
	Headquarters Battery	<i>1 medium supply truck</i>
	3 Batteries, each	1 command infantry stand
		1 light truck
1 105L28 howitzer and crew (ds)		
	1 medium truck	
2nd Heavy Artillery Battalion	Headquarters	1 command observation stand
		1 car
	Headquarters Battery	<i>1 medium supply truck</i>
	2 Batteries, each	1 command infantry stand
		1 light truck
1 120L20/32 howitzer and crew (ds)		
	1 medium truck	