



2\_Dynekilen\_Tordenskiold i Dynekilen by Carl Neumann.jpg

## THE BATTLE OF *DYNEKILEN*

*For several years before the battle of Dynekilen Karl XII (Charles XII) had been secretly laying plans to invade Norway, aiming straight at Christiania (Oslo), after his mis-adventures elsewhere in Europe. Dynekilen was a safe harbor in which to await the order to attack. At half-past seven on the morning of 27th June 1716 the Swedish admiral*

***Strömstierna woke with a start to the thunder of cannon and shouts that the Danish and Norwegian fleet had entered Dynekilen. Nor were his officers better prepared — they had been carousing on Rhenish wine after three days of wedding festivities.***

In the early dawn Tordenskjold's fleet had weighed anchor at Koster. Sailing fast he had managed to take his boats safely in to Dynekilen and anchor them at the harbour entrance. The Swedes were taken by surprise and fought desperately against superior odds. By two o'clock that afternoon virtually the entire Swedish supply fleet had been sunk, burnt or taken. How many Swedes had perished or been taken captive nobody can say. Tordenskjold's losses amounted to nineteen dead and fifty-seven wounded.

Later the same evening, helped by an easterly breeze, Tordenskjold set out to sea again. Not a single boat had been lost. Instead he was sailing off with nine captured warships and five transports, fully laden with cannon and ammunition.

A Swedish army that had been repulsed from Fredrikshald a few days earlier was now cut off from aid by land and by sea. The munitions and supplies from their transports were in the hands of the enemy.