



Scan10068 - Kopi.TIF

The fortification was built to protect the connection between Prestebakke and Berby and to stop movements from southern Enningdalen. Whether there were direct skirmishes in connection with the fortification is unclear, but it became a bone of contention between the Norwegian and Swedish forces in the war of 1808. This is proof of its strategic importance. Swedish forces, counting 1400 men, moved forwards across Vassbotten in April 1808. They immediately took control of Berby, Prestebakke and Ende fortification. When the Norwegian forces attacked Prestebakke on 10 June, mock and diversionary attacks were executed against Berby to draw attention away from Prestebakke. During these skirmishes the fortification was under the control of the Swedish forces.

After the fighting at Prestebakke on 10 June, a ceasefire agreement was reached. The Berby river and the Idde fjord formed the border between the two armies. On 14 June the ceasefire ended at five o'clock in the morning. Two Swedish companies attacked, led by Lieutenant Colonel Skjöldebrand and Colonel Brändström. They occupied Berby and Prestebakke – and the Ende fortification – without significant resistance. This meant withdrawal to the positions before the fighting took place at Prestebakke on 10 June!

On 22 June the Norwegian troops prepared for an attack on Ende, but the Swedes retreated from the fortification on 23 June. Berby was also quite quickly evacuated by the Swedes. On 24 June 1808 there were allegedly no enemy soldiers in the Idd area! The remaining Swedish troops withdrew across the border to Sådhuset north of Mon in Töftedals parish where they remained over the summer.

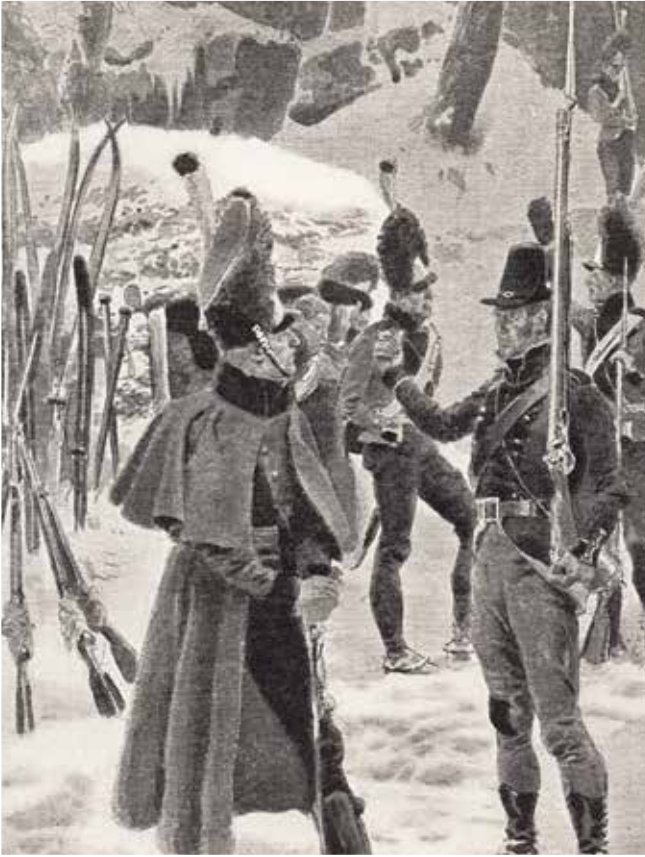
The Ende entrenchment redoubt was probably built on an older facility from the 18th century.

The war of 1808

The Napoleonic wars are ravaging Europe. England rules the waves and is Napoleon's only real opponent. France establishes a trade blockade of England and keeps pressuring neutral powers such as Denmark-Norway and Sweden to close their ports to British ships.

Denmark-Norway has a substantial armada. England offers an alliance in return for handing over the fleet to England. Denmark declines, and in 1807 England attacks, occupying Sjælland and bombarding Copenhagen. The fleet, numbering 37 ships and some small boats, is seized and taken away.

Denmark-Norway is now left without a navy, and enters into an alliance with France and Russia. England and Sweden, on the other hand, have entered into an alliance. Sweden is now attacked on three fronts. In February 1808, twenty-four thousand Russian troops march into Finland, which for



Feltvakt april 1808_A Bloch 0912.tif

time of severe crisis in Norway. Crops fail, and the importing of grain is thwarted by the British blockade. Bark and moss are regularly added to the flour to make it last longer. The mortality rate rises dramatically.

On 9 December 1809 a peace treaty is entered into in the Swedish city of Jönköping.

Visit Ende entrenchment (skanse) which was part of the hostilities during the war of 1808.

centuries has been part of Sweden. Denmark declares war on Sweden on 14 March.

The Norwegian border to Sweden is guarded by signal posts and guard deployments, for example at Prestebakke and Svinesund. There are spies along the border on both sides, and they have an efficient network with contacts in Gothenburg and Strömstad. Women supply information, as they are able to listen to conversations between officers and soldiers without raising suspicion! Regular communication with Sweden is blocked.

Supplies and equipment for the soldiers are scarce during the entire war. Reports describe soldiers virtually naked, lacking shirts, socks, pants and shoes. No leather for soles of shoes is to be found. The tails of uniform tunics are cut off and used for repairs. Scrapped tents become sheets and shirts. The gear of the dead and missing is distributed to those still alive.

Injuries often end in gangrene and amputation. More soldiers die from infections, sickness and epidemics than war injuries. 1808-09 is a