



05_Stadsmuren slik kunstneren Lennart Karlsson framstiller den_DSC_4078.JPG

THE STRÖMSTAD DEFENCES

The stones you can see on the spot are more dramatic than they seem to be. The stones are the last remains of a defensive wall that once enclosed Strömstad. It was erected after a raid by Tordenskiold's squadron had thwarted Karl XII's plan to invade Norway in 1716 by sinking the Swedish transports with their loads of weapons and other supplies.

Fresh stores were laid up in Strömstad to supply an army 30,000 strong for a period of six months. They included 40,000 tons of oats and 30,000 of other cereals and an entire brewery to meet the military's need of ale, 600 tuns per day.

Such large stores had to be protected. Five batteries of cannon were installed overlooking the sea. The landward side was secured by a wall that began at the stream Strömsån and stretched through the hills around the town until it met the sea.-

Karls gatan once had a gate and a drawbridge across the moat. North of the gate was an earthen dyke; to the south a stone wall stretched over the hill Korpeberget. A military barracks was built east of the church. Here was the Buddenbrock redoubt.

But it all went wrong. Karl XII was shot at Halden 1718. Following summer Bohuslän was briefly occupied by the Dano-Norwegian forces. When they withdraw in the autumn they destroyed the fortifications. The ruins were used by the townsfolk for houses, wharfs and paving. The fortifications were forgotten. They were last mentioned by one of Linnaeus' assistants, Pehr Kalm, who visited the town in 1742.