

THE CAROLEAN CAMPAIGN

The Carolean campaign on Trondheim, 1718–1719, has seriously affected the Swedish-Norwegian border region and still lives on in the souls of the inhabitants of Jämtland and Trøndelag. The days of Sweden as a great power were coming to an end. In August of 1718 an army of Carolean soldiers gathered in Jämtland under the command of General Armfeldt with the mission to invade Trondheim and the region of Trøndelag within a period of six weeks. Mobilised in Duved were 10 073 soldiers, 6 721 horses and 2 500 cattle. A troublesome war project began: heavy equipment was to be transported across the border into Norway on poor roads and paths. In Norway the sconces of Stene and Skåne were taken and via Stjørdal the heavy and wet march continued towards Trondheim. Along the way the army was repeatedly attacked by Norwegian troops. The siege of Trondheim took a long time and both sides suffered from lack of provisions and diseases. All the years of poor harvests and suffering prior to the campaign only served to make the situation even worse. However, the actual battles had not resulted in many deaths.

Late in December, the army received news that the Swedish King Karl XII had been shot dead at Fredrikstens fort. On Christmas Eve, Armfeldt and his withered army found themselves in Haltdalen where they held vespers at a small stave church. The surrounding area was plundered for food and clothes. The situation was desperate in view of the return march to Sweden and once the troops were on their way a snowstorm broke out. 3 000 men froze to death in the border mountains between Tydal (Norway) and Handöl (Sweden). As a direct consequence of the campaign even more inhabitants of Trøndelag died of famine and diseases. In addition some 40 % of the able-bodied male inhabitants of Jämtland were wiped out.

Illustration: Alf Lannerbäck.



JÄMT-TRØNDESKA FÖRENINGEN
ARMFELDTS KAROLINER



TOURING TRAILS AND POINTS

A guide in the tracks of the Caroleans through Jämtland and Trøndelag

For more information on the Carolean campaign and related activities, please visit www.karoliner.com

TOURING TRAILS AND POINTS

Travel guide



Picture above: Ski touring in the mountains. Photo: Henrik Trygg.

Photo front page: Hiking in Sylarna. Photo: Mats Almlöf.

The texts are to a large extent based on Anders Hansson's *Armfeldts karoliner* (Norstedts förlag 2003, 2018). Translation into English by Klartext Eva Henricson.

This leaflet is published by Jämt-Trønderska föreningen Armfeldts karoliner, with support from:



IN THE CAROLEANS' TRACKS

Following in the tracks of the Caroleans may invite an understanding of the hardship suffered by the soldiers marching across massifs and along valleys, wearing full combat equipment and heavy packing during the cold autumn and winter months. Undertaking the entire invasion and retreat routes of more than 400 km is not something recommended for recreational purposes, be it on skis or hiking; some sections also lead through unmarked terrain. In this leaflet we describe a number of suitable trails, either by foot in the summer and/or on skis in the winter. The trails comprise parts of the invasion route from **Duved to Stene skans** in Verdal, and the retreat route from **Haltdalen/Nordpå to Handöl**.

The maps on the back of this publication include some marked routes, and also visitors' centres and other places with a connection to the history of the Carolean campaign. There are also Carolean exhibitions in a few places along the route which are not covered by hiking trails: in the old school in Hegra, and at Kristiansten festning in Trondheim (see layout map).

Please note that this leaflet is not intended as a touring map – are you intending to set off into the terrain you should acquire a more detailed large scale map that shows marked and unmarked trails.

Distances trails (approximate)

Duved – Skalstugan:	39 km
Skalstugan – Stene skans	36 km
Nordpå – Gressli	15 km
Gressli – Tydalen	8.5 km
Tydalen – Østby	7 km
Østby – Storerikvollen	19.5 km
Storerikvollen – Blåhammarens fjällstation	14.5 km
Blåhammarens – Rundhögen	7.5 km
Blåhammarens – Storulvåns fjällstation	10 km

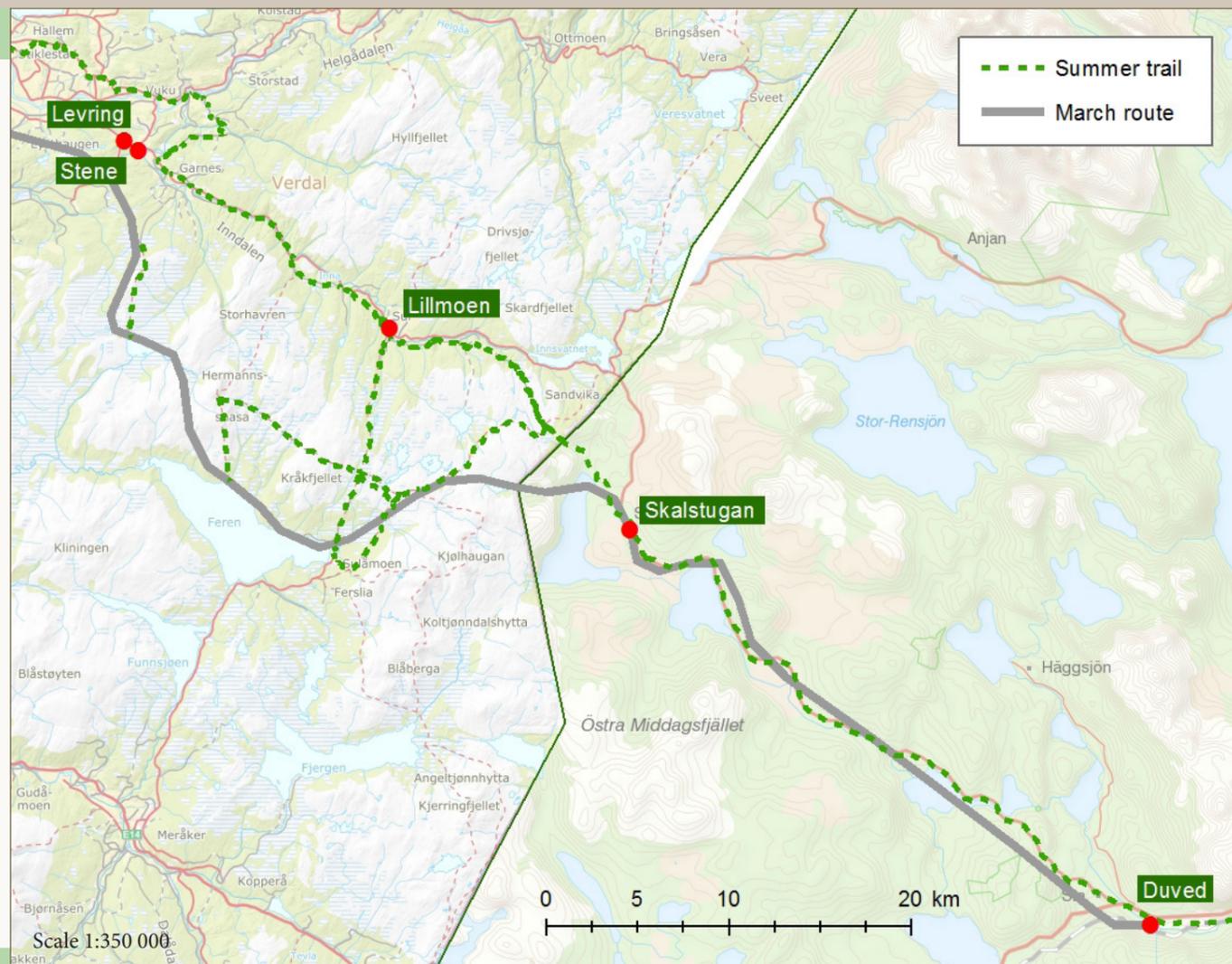


DUVED – STENE SKANS

The sponce in Duved was the gathering point for the Carolean army and from there the campaign on Trondheim started on 18 August 1718. The march ran via Skaltugan, and onwards to the sponce Stene skans in Verdal. Despite the troops deployed at all the strategic routes, the Caroleans succeeded in slipping up and surrounding the sponce. The sponce was taken on 1 September 1718, and Armfeldt gained the opportunity to send for provisions from Sweden and provided an important base on Norwegian territory whence the onward march on Trondheim could be planned.

From Duved (or even starting from Åre) a hiking trail runs along the road Skaltugevægen up to Skaltugan, and from there onwards to Stene skans. At Skaltugan is a memorial at a site where dead Caroleans were buried, and the trail also runs past Lillmoen/Litlmoen near Sul, where another memorial is erected at the site of a Carolean grave. Note that the marked trail on the map from Skaltugan and onward does not follow the route of the Caroleans – they marched south of Mt Kråkfjellet along Lake Feren in order to avoid being spotted. There is also a recently finished trail that follows the Caroleans' route, signposted from Skaltugan, at the time of printing we were unable to mark it on the map. A few crossing trails serve to connect the route across Lillmoen with Feren, making it possible to enjoy the scenery at the lake.

In the vicinity of Stene skans is the farm Levring gård, the site of the legend about 'Stor-Ingvald' who took cover at the farm during the Swedish siege. Ingvald is said to have fought bravely despite having both his legs cut off and a memorial stone to him is found at the farm.

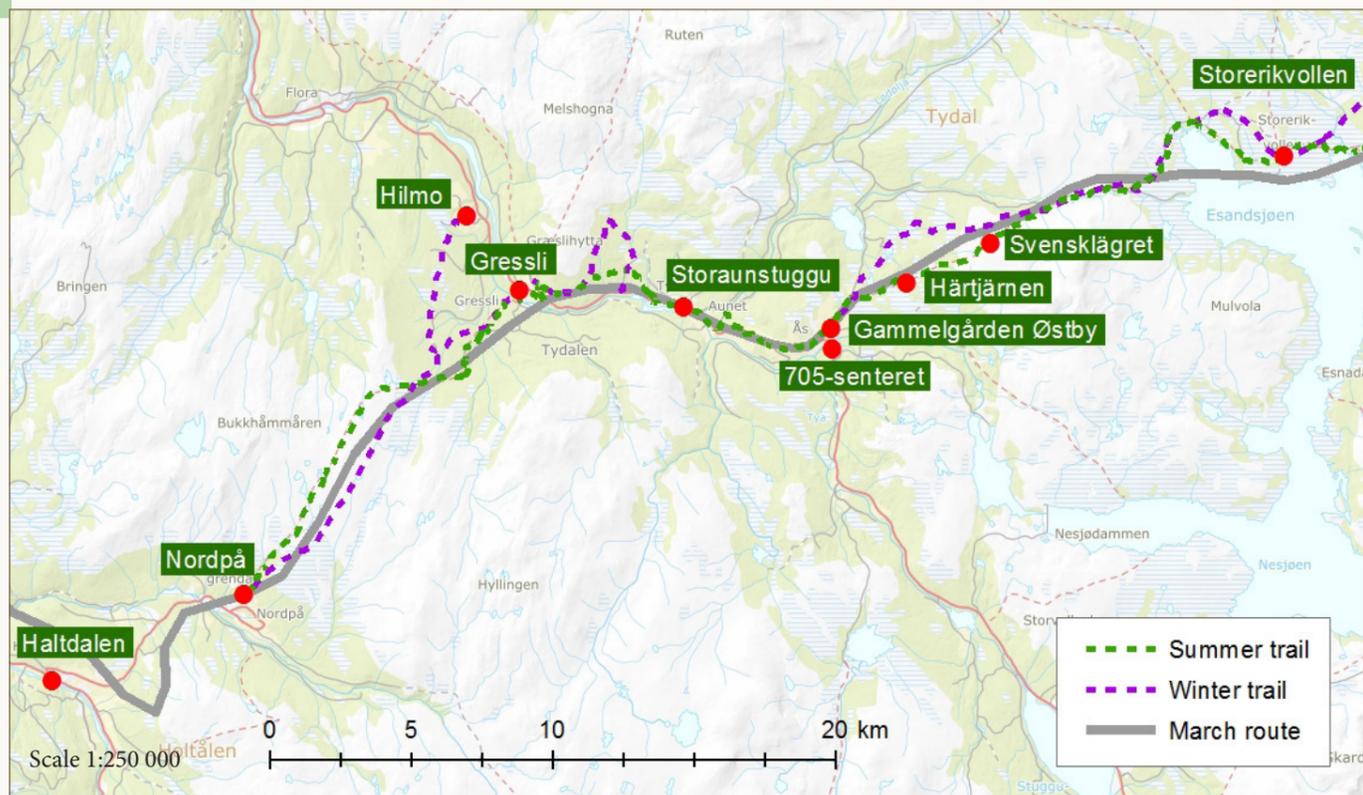


NORDPÅ – STORERIKVOLLEN

The retreat route of the Caroleans, after receiving information about King Karl XII's death in late December 1718, started off from Haltdalen. In order to avoid enemy troops on their way from Røros up to Trondheim the only possible route back to Duved was to head northeast across the mountains.

The route Haltdalen – Riksgränsen (the national border) can be followed entirely, by foot or on skis, starting at Nordpå Fjellhotell. The route runs across Mt Bukkhammeren, where Armfeldt's troops were scattered in the snowstorm, on to Neadalen, the valley with the villages Gressli and Hilmo – where the army was reunited and progressed towards Tydalen. In Tydalen the trail runs past the lodge Storaunstuggu, where according to legend Armfeldt stayed overnight before New Year's Eve. In Tydal is also the '705-senteret', and the exhibition 'Karolinernes hærtog i Tydal'. The next stop after Tydal is Østby, and during a visit to Gammalgården it is possible to view another Carolean exhibition.

From Østby the route continues along the valley below the northern slopes of Mt Øyffellet, to Lake Essandsjön. There are several places bearing names reminding of the campaign, such as 'Hærtjärnen' (Hærtjønnå – The army tarn) and 'Svensklägrret' (the Swedish camp). To the north of Lake Essandsjön is the lodge Storerikvollens fjällstation, a node for touring the area.



STORERIKVOLLEN – HANDÖL

From Lake Essandsjön the retreat continued up to the border, to the area around the River Enan where camp was established. Already here soldiers started to die from frostbite. After spending the night at Södra Enbågen (a bend in the river) the Carolean army was dispersed. Some opted to continue northbound along the river towards Handöl, while others headed straight east across the massif. It was in this latter group that most lives were lost. Those who headed north, first arrived at Norra Enbågen, in the area where the small rivers merge, Enan and Ranglan. The ghastly weather continued and more and more soldiers perished here as well. Those who survived made it on various means up to Handöl, but this was not the end of the hardship - the small number of farms in Handöl were unable to accommodate the thousands of men freezing to death and many more died in Handöl or on the way from the village.

Parts of the retreat routes can be reached via the hiking or winter trails that connect the mountain lodges of Storulvån and Blåhammaren. In the area around Enan/Ranglan are several memorials; such as the monument at the summit of Mt Bustvalen/Bustvola, and the one at Gräslidvalen. In the vicinity of the small rivers there is also a plain wooden cross. The easiest way to reach the monuments is to start off from Rundhögen or the lodge Blåhammarens fjällstation. The adventurous may also go to the shieling Järvbäcksvallen which is said to be haunted by Caroleans. There are also reports of ghosts at Rundhögen – somewhere by the nearby stream, exhausted Caroleans are reputed to have buried a war chest, and people searching for this treasure have seen a mystic mumbling figure attempting to catch them.

