

The Great Nordic War, Røros 1718.

The poisonous smoke from the copper works melting house falls like a blanket over the mountain town and makes everyday life difficult for most. This little community possesses great values, making it a favorite goal for enemies. Rumors have it that the Swedes have mobilized forces, and that an attack on Norway is imminent. Røros has a small local territorial army consisting mainly of miners.

In the mountain village Vallbo on the Swedish side of the border, we meet Kalle and Ellen, a young couple in love who have plans and dreams for a future together. These dreams unfortunately must wait when Kalle is drafted into the army under the direction of General Lieutenant Carl Gustav Armfeldt. On his way to Duved's meeting place, he meets a Samisk girl who has seen him in a dream.

At Armfeldt's side is General Lieutenant Reinhold Johan de la Barre, a soldier of the same rank. These two have slightly different views on the issues, and often come in conflict with each other.

Ten thousand farmers and soldiers are gathered quickly in Duved, soon friendships are made between Kalle Lundgren, Pär Åke Lind, Niklas Bro and Håkan Modig.

The army then crosses the border to Norway, and at Stene Skanse (Fortification) and Skåne's skanse, battles commence.

The summer and autumn of 1718 have been plagued with heavy rains and this has caused major delays for the army, in addition, diseases begin to spread. Håkan has been infected with pneumonia and asks his good friend Niklas to put him out of his misery.

Outside Trondheim, patience is growing thin amongst restless soldiers who want to attack, but Armfeldt wants to wait.

He orders them to let De la Barre secure the way through Gauldalen, and, if possible, enter the mountain town of Røros.

In Røros there are chaotic scenes when the captain of the mountain troops, Mentzonius, will burn the fort and surrounding houses which are stocked with the Kings provisions, so there is nothing to be found if the enemy should come.

In the darkness of the night, the locals hide the copper, while the mountain troops that had been in Røros have left the town in the hope of stopping Armfeldt further down the valley. However, De La Barre had taken a detour and arrived in a defenseless town without resistance. Here he demands access to the towns copper supplies, if denied, Røros shall be burned to the ground. The locals in the mountain town try to hide that there is copper hidden, but they cannot fool De La Barre.

After the valuable copper has been secured, De La Barre receives word from a messenger that King Karl XII has been shot and killed at Halden. He makes a decision to march with his four hundred soldiers to meet Armfeldt. When Armfeldt receives the message about the king's death, he orders retreat, and walks over the Tydals mountains to Sweden. A severe winter storm and extreme cold sets in, and over three thousand peasants and soldiers freeze to death.