

<p>10:01:56 Yes, it did. This is bloody great.</p>	<p>Soldiers shooting, training.</p>
<p>10:02:02 <i>Narrator:</i> <i>In 1998 the forts and fortifications were taken out of service. Now they have either been turned into museums or shut down, or they have fallen into disrepair. Boden is still a military training centre but the soldiers have moved out of the old forts.</i></p> <p>10:02:20 <i>Göran Honkamaa was the last commandant of the Boden Fortress. Nowadays he is a fit senior citizen with a passion for sports.</i></p>	<p>Another fort in ruins</p> <p>Göran Honkamaa skiing</p>
<p>10:02:32 I am convinced that Boden Fortress was an important part of the Swedish defence.</p>	<p>Göran Honkamaa, Commandant of the Boden fortress 1993-1999</p>
<p>10:02:49 <i>Narrator:</i> <i>Sally Sundbom is the manager of the Rödberg fort, which has been turned into a museum and a conference centre.</i></p>	<p>Inside The Rödberg Fort. Walking in a corridor.</p>
<p>10:02:56 All you knew that the bare areas on the mountain tops around the city were forts. But you never knew what was in there.</p>	<p>Sally Sundbom , former secretary of the military high quarter 1988 - 2002</p>
<p>10:03:05 <i>Narrator:</i> <i>Sally was a secretary at Borden's defence department.</i></p>	<p>Sally in the corridor</p>

<p>10:03:11</p> <p>When I started to work as a secretary I worked close to the chief and the staff chief. I was very curious about the forts, because we had heard a lot about them. But the chief said I had to have a valid reason to be let in. And you don't he said.</p>	<p>Sally Sundbom. In a room in the Rödberg fort</p>
<p>Voice: Ready? 1, 2. Fire.</p>	<p>The firing room. Empty</p> <p>The big guns firing</p>
<p>10:03:38</p> <p>This is where the Swedish defence should be concentrated. In case of a crisis, the troops would move towards the border. That is why the Soviet Union was very interested in Boden during the Cold War.</p>	<p>Lars Eriksson Wolke. Military Historian Swedish high school of defence.</p>
<p>10:03:56 <i>Narrator:</i></p> <p><i>Thousands of soldiers have been taught how to make war in deep snow and temperatures down to -40 degrees Celsius in Boden. And the enemy has always been the same one.</i></p>	<p>Archive Soldiers in snow</p>
<p>10:04:17</p> <p>Every time they signalled to cease fire, you changed the direction of the tube from the firing direction to the east. That way you were always prepared to fight the Russians</p>	<p>Ralf Adolfsson on the roof of the Rödberg Fort with the great guns</p>
<p>10:04:38 <i>Narrator:</i></p> <p><i>The end of the nineteenth century. The great powers</i></p>	<p>Archive from colonies.</p>

<p><i>competed for profitable colonies. Sweden didn't have any colonies. But it did have Norrland, an area in the north the same size as the rest of Sweden. Forests and mountains. Useless wilderness considered to be barely worth defending. Until now.</i></p> <p>10:05:02</p> <p><i>The political map of the north was very different back then. Norway and Sweden had formed a union and Finland, once a part of Sweden, was a Russian Grand Duchy</i></p>	<p>Swedish wilderness</p> <p>Map</p>
<p>10:05:14</p> <p>Boden fortress was built with the primary purpose of defending the northern border through defending the Lule river. If a Russian army came from the then Russian Finland, it could be stopped here.</p>	<p>Stellan Bojerud. Lieutenant-colonel Served in Boden 1981-1983 Military historian</p>
<p>10:05:31 <i>Narrator:</i></p> <p><i>The industry in the south needed iron and timber. From the iron mines of Norrland, iron ore was exported to the rest of the world. The timber was sent down the rivers to the export ports. Now Norrland was worth defending.</i></p>	<p>Archive mines, timber, rivers</p> <p>Modern soldiers firing in the snowy forest</p>
<p>10:06:04 <i>Narrator:</i></p> <p><i>At that time the north was full of feelings of terror and suspiciousness. On both sides of the Russian – Swedish border. Stellan Bojerud quotes the Russian military high command.</i></p>	<p>Graphics: Map</p>
<p>10:06:17</p> <p>The Swedes are cowards. They are going to let the</p>	<p>Stellan Bojerud</p>

<p>Germans borrow their railroad tracks. A German army will appear at the city of Haparanda by the border. After the German invasion of Finland the Swedish army will enter as an occupation troop and occupy Finland, because that is something they've always dreamt of.</p>	
<p>10:06:37 <i>Narrator:</i> <i>Sweden never did occupy Finland. But the Germans did come - 40 years later. In spite of its neutrality Sweden let a German division made up of 15 000 men pass through the country from where it moved to the German-Russian front. But that was much later in 1941 during World War II</i></p>	<p>Archive: German troops on train passing through Sweden</p>
<p>10:07:02 <i>Narrator:</i> <i>In 1901 they started building the Boden fortress.</i></p>	<p>Stills from the building of the forts</p>
<p>10:07:07 The building of the forts was done in public. People could see where they were digging.</p>	<p>Stellan Bojerud</p>
<p>10:07:16 <i>Narrator:</i> <i>And people were curious. A neighbouring school came for an educational visit. They were given a guided tour, and afterwards they entertained the workers by singing the national anthem.</i></p> <p>10:07:32 <i>The. Flag that was raised over the building site was still Swedish-Norwegian. But in 1905 the union was</i></p>	<p>Stills</p>

dissolved. A few years later the mountain forts were ready and Boden was veiled in secrecy.

10:08:02 Narrator:

In this picture from 1908 the king of Sweden, Gustaf V, is conversing with a friendly and interested person. The man's name is Assanovich and he is a Russian military attaché. The king was unaware of the fact that Assanovich was also a spy and an author. Two years later he published a book for an exclusive circle of high ranked Russian officers. In it he carefully described secrets of the Swedish defence, including Boden Fortress. The book also includes a Russian-Swedish phrase book, with phrases that might come in handy for a visiting Russian army.

The union flag changing to the Swedish flag

Still the king and the spy

Sign **Gustav V King of Sweden 1907-1950**

The book containing Swedish military secrets

Translation from the book: *Anybody who tries to escape will be shot!* **TC 10:08:34**

10:08:39

It isn't the forts themselves that are secret. That type of fort can be found all over Europe, including Russia. The basic construction was well known. What was classified was how long the ammunition and food supplies would last. And the biggest secret of all was probably how the toilets were constructed. You see, it turned out during the First World War that the forts by Liège had to surrender after a few weeks due to full latrines.

Stellan Bojerud

10:09:18 Narrator:

But the forts had water closets. At least in that aspect Boden was well prepared for war.

Water closets flushing

10:09:28

<p><i>When the First Worlds War came, the soldiers trained for gas attacks, just like the soldiers by the western front. But Sweden was neutral and north Sweden and Boden was quiet. Russia was in the midst of a revolution. The Czar was overthrown.</i></p> <p>10:09:46</p> <p><i>But in Sweden the royal family was firmly seated in the saddle. Gustaf Adolf, the crown prince, visited Boden and handed out medals.</i></p> <p>10:10:00</p> <p><i>The small town of Boden rapidly grew bigger.</i></p> <p>10.:10:17</p> <p><i>It had several regiments...</i></p> <p>10:10:28</p> <p><i>.. and a magnificent railroad station</i></p>	<p>Archive: Soldiers training.</p> <p>Archive: Parade with the king</p> <p>Stills from Boden town</p> <p>The Railroad station of today</p>
<p>10:10:37 Narrator:</p> <p><i>The military had demanded a railroad. No railroad – no fortress.</i></p> <p>10:10:46</p> <p><i>The crown prince came to visit again in 1924. The town’s citizens greeted him in their own way, and the military greeted him in theirs.</i></p> <p>10:11:08</p> <p><i>Then it was time for dinner.</i></p>	<p>Archive: Railroad station in the twenties.</p> <p>The crown prince arriving.</p>
<p>10:11:14 Narrator:</p> <p><i>At that time the political situation in northern Europe</i></p>	<p>Graphics Map</p>

<p><i>had changed. Norway had become a sovereign state in 1905 and Finland in 1917. There was no Swedish-Russian border anymore. But the military went on enlarging the bunkers and fortification and the hypothetical enemy was still the same...</i></p>	<p>Archive: construction work</p>
<p>10:11:36</p> <p>We are at the fort Leåkerfästet, five kilometres north of Boden. It was built as flank protection for the larger forts. Degerberg fort is about two kilometres down that way. Leåkerfästet was supposed to protect against enemies coming from there, that long valley there, and trying to sneak up to Degerberg fort. If the Russians came, this fort was strategically situated. The lake Vittjärsträsket is one kilometre away in that direction. So this way would be the enemies only choice.</p>	<p>Göran Honkamaa, Former high commandant of the Boden fortress</p>
<p>10:12:17 Narrator:</p> <p><i>For eighty years nobody but the military was allowed into the fort Leåkersfästet. Today, nature is quickly taking back what man put so much effort and money into creating.</i></p> <p>10:12:45 Narrator</p> <p><i>In 1997 the last shots were fired through these openings.</i></p>	<p>Fort in ruins</p>
<p>10:12:50</p> <p>When it was dark outside we used something called “fixed fire”. The weapon was mounted here and aimed at a certain point. That way you could run over here and pull the trigger and know that you would cover a</p>	<p>Göran Honkamaa. Showing details of the fort.</p>

<p>certain area of the terrain.</p> <p>10:13:15</p> <p>This fort has been here since 1910, and it has done its job in that it has preserved the peace. Preserving peace is the most important thing for the defensive forces. We should prevent war. The defence should be so good that the enemy doesn't even consider attacking.</p>	
<p>10:13:38 <i>Narrator:</i></p> <p><i>“ There is a place on earth Where the sun never gives you a smile. The name of this place is Boden I never want to go there Not even for a little while.”</i></p>	<p>Soldiers shooting, training in the snow. Poem (written by hand” on the screen. Every participant has to add the text in his own language)</p>
<p>10:13:48 <i>Narrator:</i></p> <p><i>This poem by an anonymous author might not win a Nobel prize, but it's probably one of Sweden's most famous attempts at poetry.</i></p> <p>10:13:58</p> <p><i>Boden was always dreaded by people up for military service.</i></p> <p>10:14:13</p> <p><i>As always the common soldier neither knew nor cared much about big politic. He was busy managing his everyday life.</i></p> <p><i>Eilert Gezelius collects old postcards from Boden. Some of them written by soldiers.</i></p>	<p>Soldiers training</p> <p>Eilert Gezelius, Lieutenant at the Boden fortress 1969 - 2004.</p>

<p>19:14:13</p> <p>“Dear Mother. This is hell on earth. It is forty degrees cold. Please send more clothes.” The postmark is from 1914 when the first world war broke out.</p>	<p>Eilert Gezelius reading a postcard.</p> <p>Postcard with freezing soldiers</p>
<p>10:14:13 <i>Narrator:</i></p> <p><i>In today’s shops, it’s hard to find postcards with funeral processions. Postcards with naked soldiers on horses aren’t easy to find either</i></p>	<p>Post cards with funeral procession</p>
<p>10:14:46</p> <p>Voice of Eilert Gezelius : “The first time you put your uniform on, you look like a hobo. It might feel better when we’re used to them. Today we got one portion of green peas and half a raw herring for breakfast.”</p>	<p>Post card with soldier in shabby clothes.</p> <p>Postcard with the dining hall.</p>
<p>10:15:06 <i>Narrator:</i></p> <p><i>It was popular to put polar bears on the postcards. It didn’t matter that there were no polar bears in Boden. Most draftees were from the south and knew very little about Norrland.</i></p> <p>10:15:20</p> <p>Voice of Eilert Gezelius : “Wish you were here, we could ski and shoot polar bears. I hope that you, mom and dad are all well.”</p>	<p>Post cards with polar bears in the streets of Boden (Fake)</p>
<p>10:15:30</p> <p>Last night there was a real racket here. They all ended up in the cage.”</p>	<p>Iron door closing. Graffiti on the door:</p>

	<p>“Time goes by, the way it must, But much too slow, hope I don’t rust.”</p>
<p>10:15:46 <i>Narrator:</i> <i>Borden’s first airplane was a big event in 1912.</i></p> <p>10:15:52 Voice of Eilert Gezelius “There was a lot of excitement in the nearby villages. People had to pay from 5 up to 25 öre for a better seat sit.”</p>	<p>Postcard with old airplane</p> <p>.</p>
<p>10:16:01 <i>Narrator:</i> <i>Airplanes meant better opportunities for reconnaissance. But in Boden in the 1920s, a balloon was used for this purpose.</i></p>	<p>Archive: Enormous balloon.</p>
<p>10:16:11 The balloon was used for fire guidance. We have five forts here in Boden. In order to co-ordinate the fire we had to have some sort of system. That is what the balloon was for. It was quite big, about 27 meters long and 6 meters across. We usually let it rise to about 600-1 000 meters with a telephone wire hanging from it. That way you could direct all fire from the different forts in Boden.</p>	<p>Göran Honkamaa in front of the balloon house</p> <p>Archive: Balloon in the air.</p>
<p>10:16:49 <i>Narrator:</i> <i>The balloon is gone, but the house it was kept in is still there.</i></p>	<p>Soldiers firing in front of the balloon house</p>
<p>10:17:33 <i>Narrator:</i></p>	

<p><i>Boden is more than 1000 km away from the general staff in Stockholm. A new invention, the Radio became the solution of the communication problem.</i></p> <p>10:17:43</p> <p>We are in the radio bunker, which is located at the center of Boden Fortress. It was built in 1916, mainly for coast radio. It was from here that the first radio broadcast in Sweden took place in 1921 when Gustaf V was here to celebrate Luleås' centenary. This bunker has a high security level. It can stand for artillery fire and small aerial bombs. It was used for various defense purposes until 1975.</p>	<p><i>Ext bunker.</i></p> <p>Göran Honkamaa walking in a bunker</p> <p>Poster with a mole. (Text: "Be careful. The mole is working")</p>
<p>10:18:26 <i>Narrator</i></p> <p><i>In Boden all soldiers must learn how to ski. Several of those who came from the south had never worn a pair of skis before, and had to start with the basics.</i></p> <p>10:18:53</p> <p><i>It wasn't easy.</i></p> <p>10:18:58</p> <p><i>But eventually they learned.</i></p> <p>10:19:06</p> <p><i>After all it could have come to the real thing.</i></p>	<p>Archive: Soldiers skiing</p> <p>Sign: "Skigymnastics"</p>
<p>10:19:17 <i>Narrator:</i></p> <p><i>In 1944 during World War II the war was very close to neutral Sweden and Boden. Finland had signed a truce with the Soviet union and had promised to drive the former German companions in arms out of Finland. The retreating Germans set fire to everything they</i></p>	<p>Archive: The war in Finland as seen from the Swedish side of the border.</p> <p>Finnish refugees.</p> <p>German soldiers</p>

<p><i>could, as Finnish troops pushed forward. The Swedes watched from across the border. German soldiers returned to Sweden as defeated deserters. Finnish civilians fled from the battles, across the same river.</i></p>	
<p>10:20:05 <i>Narrator:</i> <i>World War II ended and the cold war began. Not everyone was welcome in Boden town with its fortifications..</i></p>	<p>On the roof of the Rödberg Fort</p>
<p>10:20:16 Boden was a closed town until the mid-seventies. So if, for some reason, a foreign person came here, the authorities had to check this person out. He would either be cleared to come in, or not. On the road in this direction, the police would often carry out controls in order to make sure that the right people were let into Boden.</p>	<p>Ralf Adolfsson</p>
<p>10:20:57 <i>Narrator:</i> <i>Opinions about the strategic importance of Boden Fortress during the Cold War are varied</i></p>	
<p>10:21:01 We had a very good quality of defense in the late eighties and the early nineties. Boden Fortress was still an important part of “the Lock of the North” then.</p>	<p>Göran Honkamaa in a fort</p>
<p>10:21:17 Boden Fortress had become a kind of symbol. It was the crown jewels of the Swedish defense. The forts had been out of date since 1918.</p>	<p>Stellan Bojerud</p>

Voice: X, F. X, 6240. Y 0420. Z 85. Eastly direction 2800. Xerxes, Filip. Left 75. On this side, 200. One volley.	Inside fire control room at Rödberg Fort. Great guns firing
10:21:56 I had my first fort service in the fall of 1963. It felt both peculiar and exciting. You wondered what was in there. We were sent up to the towers and practiced over and over again. We also spent time here in the dining-hall and in the barrack rooms. Those were the only places we were allowed to be. After a few days came the big test: firing.	Ralf Adolfsson in different locations in the Rödberg fort
Load it. Ready. 1, 2, 3.	The firing control room
10:22:37 When we had fired the first shots, we felt liberated. 10:22:43 The first question we asked was how far the shots could reach. The older gentlemen told us that the canons' shots could reach Luleås harbor. That was about 35-40 kilometers away. And we believed them. At least until we after two years got access to this fire control room, and saw this shooting monogram. Then we saw that it was actually 18 kilometers. Only halfway to Luleå.	Great guns firing. Great guns firing. Different locations in the Rödberg Fort
10:23:19 <i>Narrator:</i> <i>In 1955, the Cold War had begun. Officially, Sweden was neutral. However, the choice of language for this propaganda film by the Swedish army clearly shows</i>	Archive fifties

<p><i>which companions in arms the country had in mind in case of an emergency. Sweden wanted to impress NATO</i></p> <p>“The woods do not hinder their advance and they leave wide tracks in the snow, through the fields. “</p> <p>(Original in English)</p>	
<p>10:21:52 <i>Narrator:</i></p> <p><i>Behind this door was the control center for the air traffic of north Sweden.</i></p>	<p>Outside a big bunker</p>
<p>10:24:09</p> <p>This establishment was manned with staff from the air force every day of the week, in times of peace as well. It is a huge establishment. It is about 35 000 square meters and has over 700 rooms. Right now, we are standing in what we call “the Church”. This was the air force central. You could receive information on all Swedish and enemy flights and lead the air force from here.</p> <p>10:25:03 <i>Narrator:</i></p> <p><i>If a big war had broken out, Soviet airplanes would pass over Sweden in order to defeat NATO’s submarines in the North Atlantic. So the Soviet Union wanted to know how strong Sweden’s defense was.</i></p> <p>10:25:21 <i>Narrator:</i></p> <p><i>Stockholm, June 20, 1963. Colonel Stig Wennerström is planning a vacation. For at least fifteen years, the colonel has been selling a considerable amount of</i></p>	<p>Göran Honkamaa showing around in the bunker</p> <p>Stills from the times if action in the bunker.</p> <p>Archive: Swedish air force</p>

<p><i>Sweden's military secrets to the Soviet Union. He is planning a long vacation abroad. A very long vacation. But the colonel is prevented from going. He is arrested by the Swedish Security Service.</i></p> <p>10:25:49</p> <p>Wennerström's espionage affected the air force centrals in Sweden the most. It meant that new control centers had to be built in other places.</p> <p>10:26:03 <i>Narrator:</i></p> <p><i>Where and how are military secrets</i></p> <p><i>December 2006. All environmentally harmful garbage is being removed. In a couple of days the entire establishment will be sealed with concrete</i></p>	<p>Archive: Views from Stockholm.</p> <p>Reconstruction: Arrest of Wennerström</p>
<p>10:26:21</p> <p>This control center was still used after the Wennerström affair, but not on the same level. This used to be the highest level of the northern military command... After the affair it was mostly local chiefs that worked here. We are now the last people to leave "the Church", the holy place of the air force.</p>	<p>Göran Honkamaa in the bunker</p>
<p>10:26:55 <i>Narrator:</i></p> <p><i>Boden fortress was by the biggest military project in Sweden in 200 years.</i></p> <p><i>How important was the Boden Fortress from a strategic point of view?</i></p> <p><i>How much did the Soviet espionage know about it?</i></p>	<p>Helicopter views and guns of the forts in Boden</p>

<p><i>Opinions are varied.</i></p> <p><i>What's left are some enormous caves carved into the rock. A new strategic situation and new weapons have made the forts hopelessly out of date. They are the knight's castles of our time.</i></p>	