

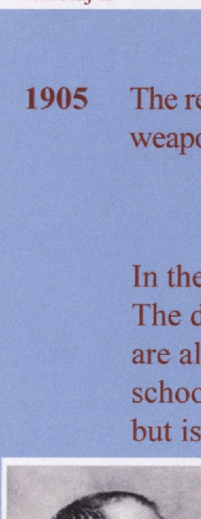
s/s Equity

Years of unrest 1899 - 1918 Oppression and resistance First repression period 1899 - 1905

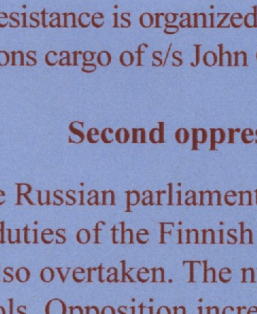
Tsar Nikolaj II issues on Februari 15th 1899 the so called February manifesto which means that Russian dictatorship is introduced. A delegation delivers a resolution signed by 525 000 persons to the Tsar, who rejects the resolution. 440 persons signs the protest in Larsmo.

World leaders protests Censorship is introduced and newspapers are forbidden

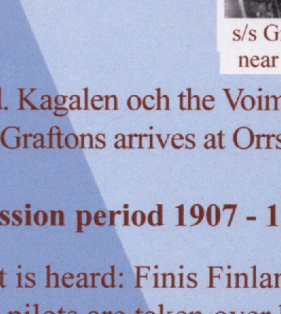
1904 Governor General Nikolaj Bobrikov is murdered by student Eugen Schauman on June 16th 1904



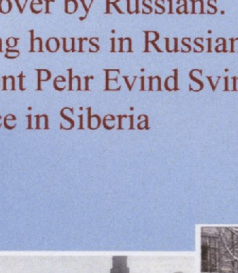
Nikolaj II



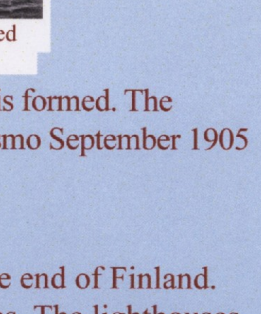
The delegation



General Nikolaj murdered



s/s Grafton detonated near Orrskär

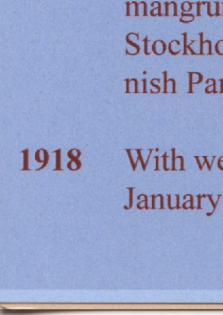


Discomforts and sect break out

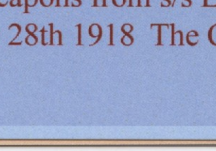
1905 The resistance is organized. Kagalen och the Voima alliance is formed. The weapons cargo of s/s John Graftons arrives at Orrskär in Larsmo September 1905

Second oppression period 1907 - 1917

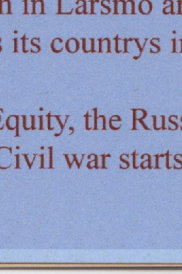
In the Russian parliament is heard: Finis Finlandiae - The end of Finland. The duties of the Finnish pilots are taken over by Russians. The lighthouses are also overtaken. The number of teaching hours in Russian is increased in schools. Opposition increases and President Pehr Evind Svinhufvud protests, but is later arrested and sent to a cold place in Siberia



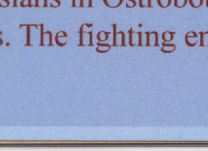
Pehr Evind Svinhufvud



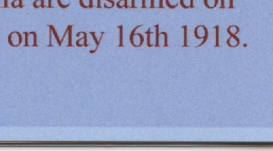
s/s Equity in english harbour



Kai Donner



The Wiiks house



Disarming from weapons in Vasa

1914 World War I starts, Ryssland at war with Germany

1915 - Can Finland receive help from Germany?

1916 Young Finnish men travel to Germany to receive military training. The 27th Jaeger battalion is formed. Also the thought of weapons from Germany awakens.

1917 In October s/s Equity is loaded in Danzig with 150 tons of war ordnance destined for Finland. The cargo is unloaded at Västerö in Maxmo and at Tolvmangrundet in Larsmo. Kai Donner is organizing the transportation from Stockholm. Fearless men in Larsmo are ready to receive the cargo. The Finnish Parliament declares its countrys independence on December 6th 1917

1918 With weapons from s/s Equity, the Russians in Ostrobothnia are disarmed on January 28th 1918 The Civil war starts. The fighting ends on May 16th 1918.

s/s Equity and its Captain

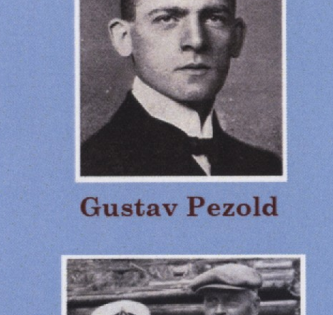
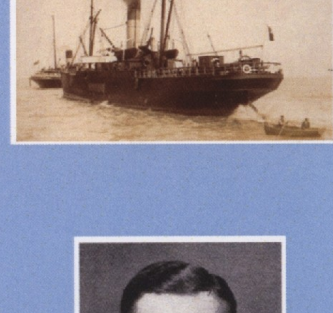
Steamship s/s Equity - Contraband arms vessel

The ship was built in 1888 in Hull, England and was extended around 1900 from 67 m to 75,4 m. At the start of World War I it operated between Hull and Hamburg, where it was seized by the Germans in 1914. During the war the ship was used for transports in southern Baltic Sea.

Vessel data:

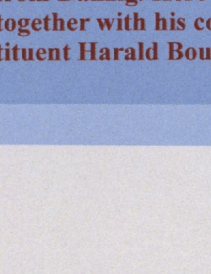
Cargo capacity	(DWT) 1500 tons
Engine	Steam engine 258 hp
Length	75,4 m
Width	8,8 m
Draft	4,1 m
Max speed	14 knots
Crew	12 men

Four cargo holds with booms for loading and unloading



Captain Gustav Pezold

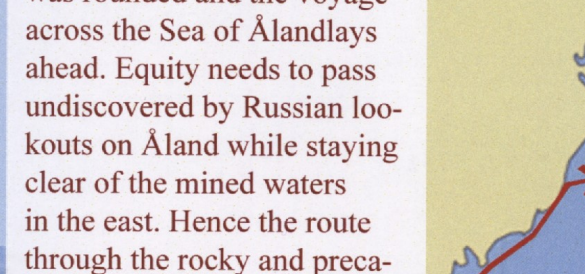
Captain lieutenant Gustav Pezold had previous served onboard a submarine in the bay of Biscay. Later he became captain of s/s Equity which transported cargo in the southern Baltic sea during World War I. Pezold received a sudden order to leave the battles by the Estonian island Ösel and immediately take the ship to Danzig where she was placed in a dock for inspection. After this she was loaded with 150 tons of ordnance for shipping to the coast of Ostrobothnia. Pezold was only 26 years old when he was commanded to the dangerous weapons smuggling journey to Finland. He was known to be a trustworthy and outstanding officer, farsighted with nerves of steel and equipped with great courage. He also had strong feelings for the Jaeger movement and Finland's fight for liberty. This made a deep impression on the accompanying Jaegers and the crew.



Gustav Pezold



The pilot Karl Rönnholm followed along from Danzig. Here together with his constituent Harald Boucht



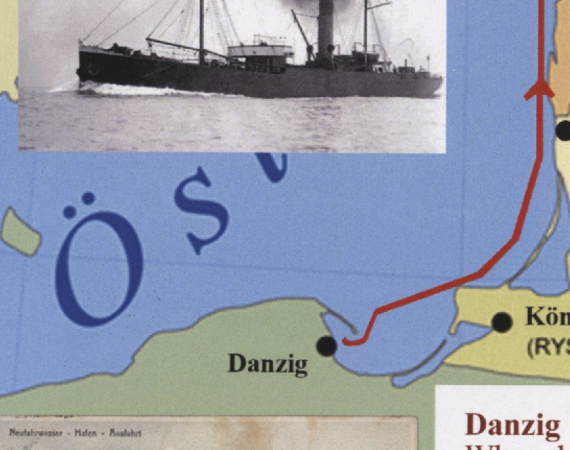
s/s Equity's journey to Larsmo

Swedish Björn

On monday October 29th the lighthouse Swedish Björn was rounded and the voyage across the Sea of Ålandlays ahead. Equity needs to pass undiscovered by Russian lookouts on Åland while staying clear of the mined waters in the east. Hence the route through the rocky and precarious Swedish archipelago.

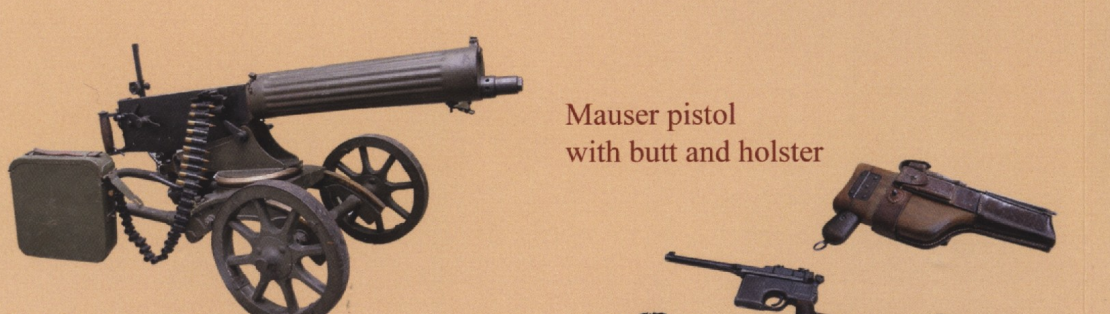


Swedish Björn



To Västerö
On wednesday October 31st at 9.30 am, north of the Swedish island Holmön the route was changed east towards the Ostrobothnian coastline. After a dramatic voyage in darkness through treacherous waters the anchor was cast in Storsandviken by Västerö. Here 80 tons of ordnance was unloaded. The ship then returned towards Sweden.

To Tolvmangrundet
On thursday November 1st at 12.30 pm the course is changed towards Finland. At dusk the Finnish coastline appears and the ship steers towards Tolvmangrundet. Light signals are exchanged. The ship sneaks into the bay of Tolvmangrundet where the anchor is dropped. Strong and fearless local men, of which 33 are from Larsmo, unloads the cargo. 70 tons of weapons are stacked in piles behind a shed and camouflaged by tree branches. The operation is a success and s/s Equity returns out to sea after a completed mission.



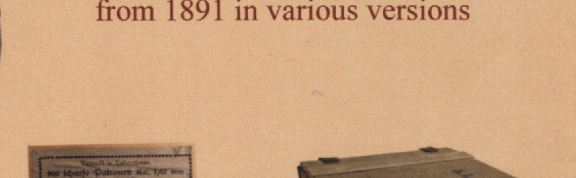
Maschine gun by Hiram Maxim model Sokolov from 1910



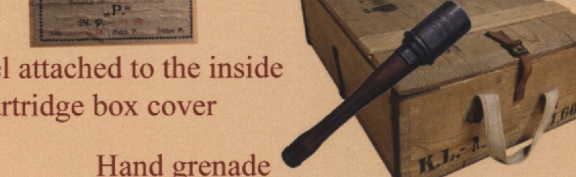
Mauser pistol with butt and holster



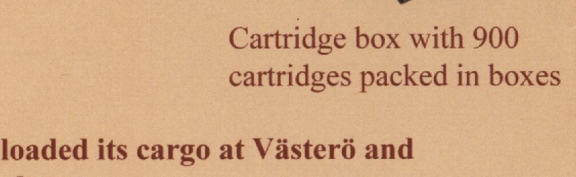
Motorcycle, most likely made by Harley Davidson 1000 cm³



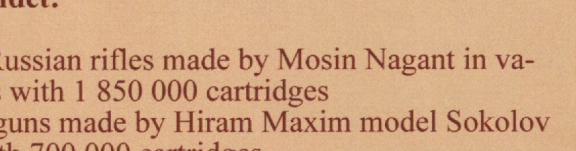
Rifle model Mosin Nagant from 1891 in various versions



Label attached to the inside of cartridge box cover



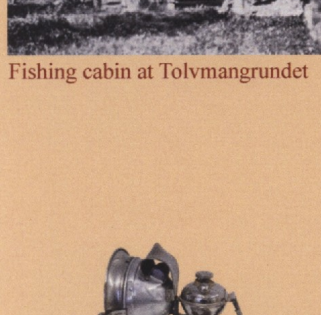
Hand grenade



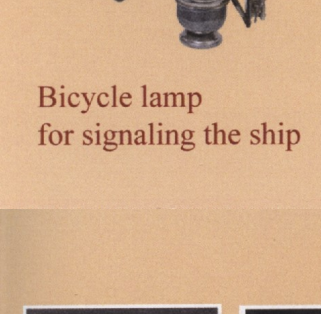
Cartridge box with 900 cartridges packed in boxes

Ordnance unloaded from s/s Equity

s/s Equity unloaded its cargo at Västerö and Tolvmangrundet:



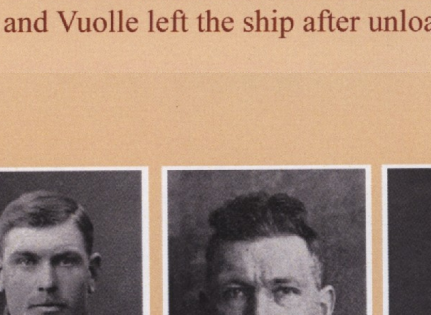
Shed at Tolvmangrunde



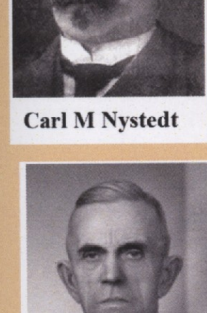
Fishing cabin at Tolvmangrundet

6500 seized Russian rifles made by Mosin Nagant in various versions with 1 850 000 cartridges
30 maschine guns made by Hiram Maxim model Sokolov from 1910 with 700 000 cartridges
200 Mauser pistols with 30 000 cartridges
5500 hand grenades
8 motorcycles
38 boxes of explosives
19 boxes of tools
2 drums of gasoline
2 boxes of grease

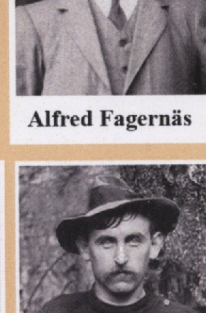
Juho Heiskanen Juho Komonen
Einar Mäkinen Viljo Laakso Reino Vuolle



To Larsmo also arrived five Jaegers: Heiskanen, Komonen, Laakso, Mäkinen and Vuolle left the ship after unloading.



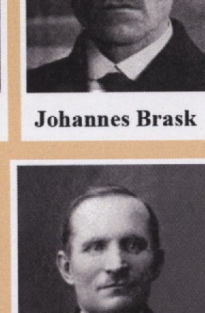
Carl M Nystedt



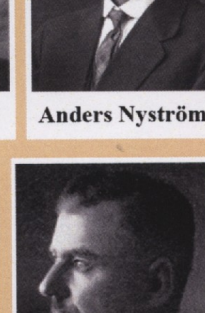
Alfred Fagnäs



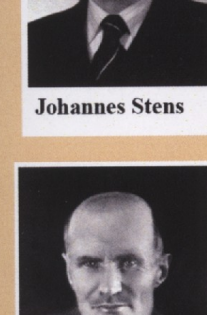
Johannes Fagerudd



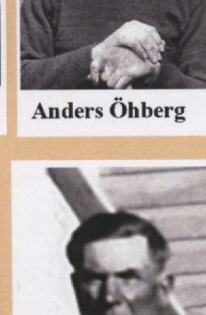
Johannes Brask



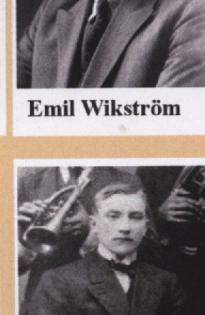
Anders Nyström



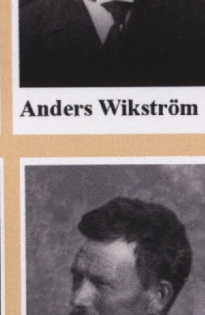
Johannes Stens



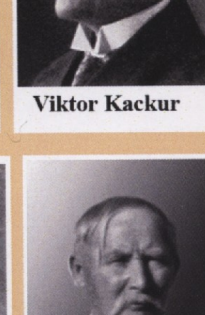
Anders Öhberg



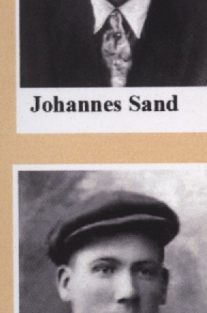
Emil Wikström



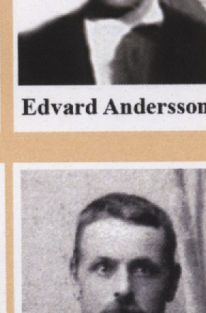
Anders Wikström



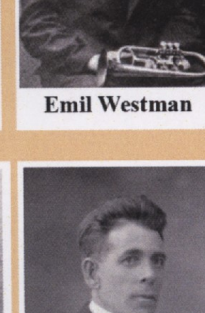
Viktor Kackur



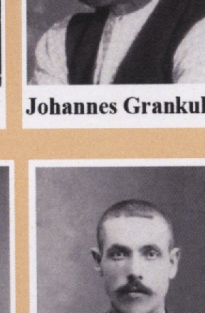
Johannes Sand



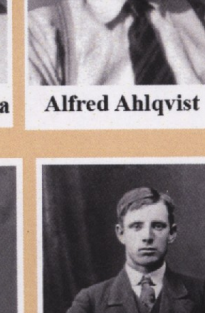
Edvard Andersson



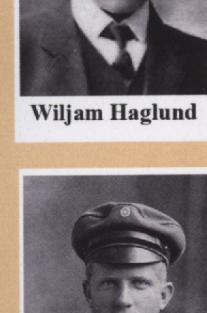
Emil Westman



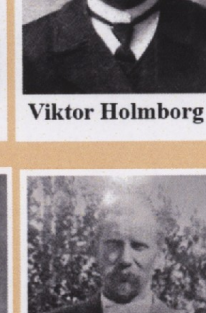
Johannes Grankulla



Alfred Ahlqvist



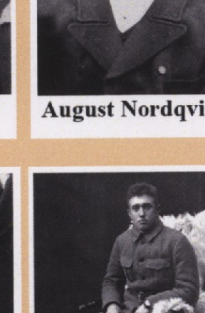
Wiljam Haglund



Viktor Holmborg



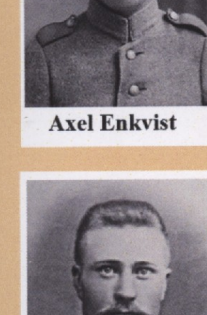
Otto Nyblom



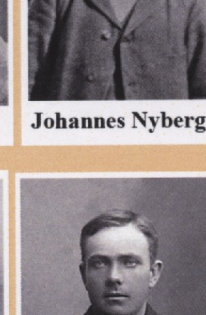
August Nordqvist



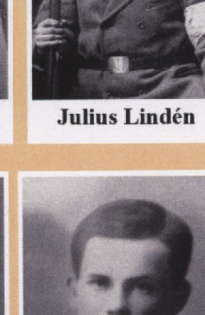
Rafael Svendelin



Axel Enkvist



Johannes Nyberg



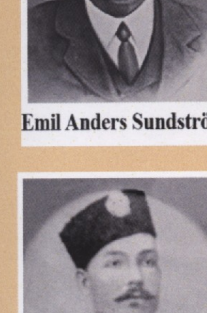
Julius Lindén



Bertel Sundström



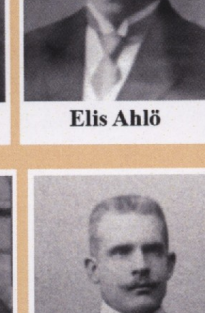
Justus Sundström



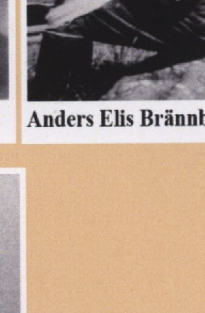
Emil Anders Sundström



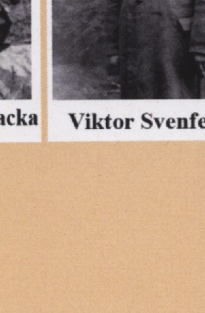
Georg Sjöstrand



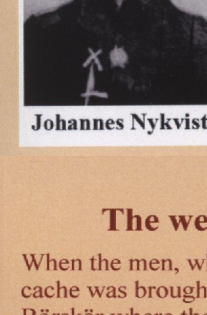
Elis Ahlö



Anders Elis Brännbacka



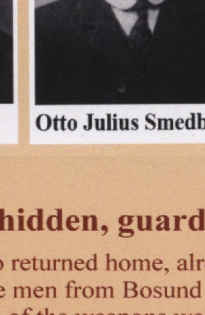
Viktor Svenfelt



Johannes Nykvist



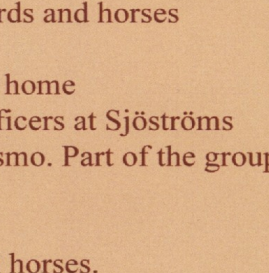
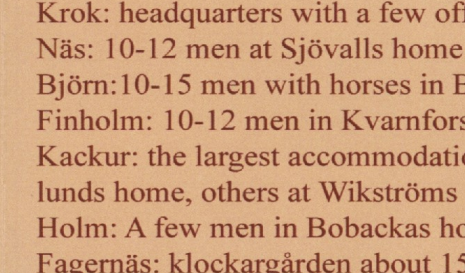
Anders Svenfelt



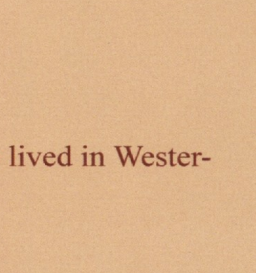
Otto Julius Smedberg

The weapons cargo is hidden, guarded and transported further

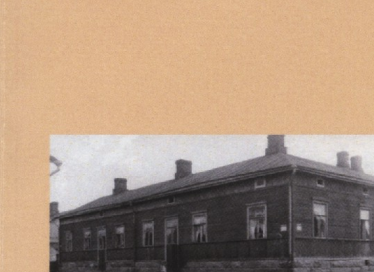
When the men, who unloaded the cargo returned home, already that same night part of the weapons cache was brought to the mainland. The men from Bosund left a significant amount of weapons at Börskär where they were hidden. Some of the weapons were taken to Sandviksjön and was carried through the woods to Helgön near Håstöfjärden for further transport to Kronoby. A few days later contact was made with activists in Kokkola. They agreed to empty the stockpile at Börskär and quickly brought the load onwards to Rödsö, Kvikant och Kokkola. A barge load was brought during the night of unloading to Picasgrundet and was hidden there under the guidance of Emil Wikström. Also those who returned towards Pietarsaari had weapons onboard. Later in the fall activists from Bosund continued to transport the weapons through darkness and storms from Tolvmangrundet to Gäddviken in Öja. There the Guards took care of bringing them by land to Kvarnabba. From there, activists brought the cargo further to Kronoby. When the sea froze the cache at Picasgrundet was emptied and brought by horse and sled to Antbackgrundet at the mouth of Kronoby river. By different means the weapons successfully reached the Guards in Ostrobothnia. The military school in Vimpeli among other places could be provided with weapons. In conclusion can be mentioned that the whole cargo from Tolvmangrundet went unseen past the watchful eyes of the Russian guards, especially the waterways. Therefore they placed their accommodations near harbors in Kackur, Krok and Finholm, so they could keep an eye on boat traffic.



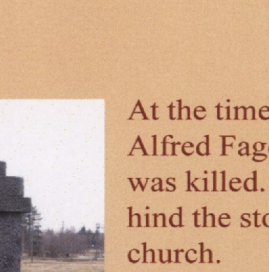
Klockargården in Fagnäs



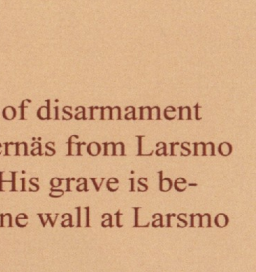
Kvarnfors house in Finholm



Russian soldiers in Larsmo 1917



Björklunds "Sängstu" i Björn



Nyman's in Krok - headquarters

Russian accommodations in Larsmo:

Krok: headquarters with a few officers, guards and horses

Näs: 10-12 men at Sjövalles home

Björn: 10-15 men with horses in Björklunds home

Finholm: 10-12 men in Kvarnfors home, officers at Sjöströms

Kackur: the largest accommodations in Larsmo. Part of the group lived in Westerlunds home, others at Wikströms

Holm: A few men in Bobackas home

Fagnäs: klockargården about 15 men with horses.

The russian accommodations in Pietarsaari, Wiiks house on Amerikagatan. Disarmed January 28th 1918.

The russian accommodations in Pietarsaari, Wiiks house on Amerikagatan. Disarmed January 28th 1918.

At the time of disarmament Alfred Fagnäs from Larsmo was killed. His grave is behind the stone wall at Larsmo church.

Finland declared itself independent already December 6th 1917. It still took a few years before the rest of the world acknowledged the new State.