

Contents

Preface 7

Acknowledgements 15

Chapter I: A sense of time 17

The fortress 18

The siege 19

The legend 22

Pufendorf's tale 26

Chapter II: Judging the deeds 31

Another Lion of the North? 33

The commander 39

The face of war 47

Blaming the king 51

The interferences 55

Conclusion 57

Chapter III: Exotic encounters, forgotten tales 59

The winged horsemen 61

"Such an attack my eyes will never see again" 65

Beware – the Tatars are coming! 70

The Swedish horse 74

Conclusion 78

Chapter IV: The chanceries at war 81

The Office of the State 82

The king's secret 85

The seals and titles 90

The postal issues 97

The battle of Ven 99

The war on memory 100

Conclusions 104

Chapter V: War on the water 107

Water as weapon 110

The crossings of Lech and San Rivers 112

Pirates and diplomats 115

The African dimension 120

Dominium Maris Baltici 122

Conclusions 124

Chapter VI: The swamps and narrow roads – the landscape 125

The images 130

The illustrations and the reality 132

Afterthoughts 139

Bibliography 143

Index 157