

# THE MILITARY HISTORY OF KUHMO – A MAP

In Kuhmo, the battles of the Winter War lasted throughout the war, and the events were like the whole Winter War in miniature: tough defences, guerrilla attacks, violent counter-attacks and devastating encirclements. A special event of its own was the fight against the Red Army's ski troops. In Kuhmo, the Finnish forces defeated the 54th Mountain Division and destroyed Dolin's Ski Brigade.

During the Interim Peace, Salpalinja was built on the eastern border of Finland, and attached field fortifications were also built in Kuhmo. Remnants of structures can be seen near the fortifications built during the Winter War, as well as in other areas.

When the Continuation War began, the Finnish troops crossed the border and attacked towards Lake Rukajärvi.

The actual fighting took place on the Soviet side, but five partisan attacks took place in Kuhmo.

Kuhmo has military historical sites across the municipality, and only some of them have been included in this brochure.

## "WINTER WAR IN KUHMO" TOUR

1. Kuhmo Winter War Museum and *the Untold Arctic Wars* digital exhibition. Väinämöinen 11
2. Kuhmo military cemetery and military cross. Kainuuntie 64
3. Veteran memorial in the courtyard of the Kuhmo Arts Centre. Koulukatu 1
4. Memorial to the Whites of the Finnish Civil War in the yard of the Kuhmo church. Kirkkotie 19
5. Headquarters of Kuhmo border troops, Winter War troops and special force units of the Continuation War in Jämäs. Memorial to Martina unit. Kurikkaniementie 1
6. Winter War artillery fire positions and battlefield in Särkijärvi. Nurmestie 512
7. Restored Winter War field fortification and war material exhibition at Jyrkänkoski, Winter War memorial. Nurmestie 919
8. Memorial sign for Captain Taube and battle station on Rasti, Winter War. Lieksantie 206
9. Klemetti battleground and a memorial for the soldiers of Taivalkoski, Winter War. Saunajärventie 583
10. Western encirclement and a memorial for fallen Soviet soldiers in Luelahti, Winter War. Kähköläntie 8
11. Luelahti headquarters, Winter War. Saunajärventie 942
12. The restored field fortifications at Saunajärvi and a memorial for fallen Soviet soldiers, Winter War. Saunajärventie 1384
13. The restored encirclement at Paloaho and a memorial for the fallen Soviet soldiers, Winter War. Saunajärventie 2281
14. Memorial for the battles of Löytövaara, Winter War. Saunajärventie 2355
15. Kilpelänkangas field fortification and memorial, Winter War. Hiking trail 3 km, lean-to shelter, toilet, dining area. Saunajärventie 2561
16. Memorial for the 1st battle of Laamasenvaara, Winter War. Saunajärventie 3061
17. Tourist map guide of the battles in the direction of Rukajärvi at Rajakangas, Continuation War. Saunajärventie 3339
18. Destruction of the Dolin Ski Brigade at Kesseli, Winter War. Vetkontie 460
19. A memorial for the battles in the direction of Kiekinkoski in Tyrävaara, Winter War. Hukkajärventie 1106



The artifacts, photographs, miniature models and sound effects of the Kuhmo Winter War Museum help in illustrating the events of the Winter War. In the exhibition, you will get to know the everyday life of civilians being evacuated, as well as learn about the daily lives of the Finnish and Soviet soldiers. The showrooms focus on different themes, such as the evacuations, parish villages, front-line care, care of the wounded, battles and life after peace.

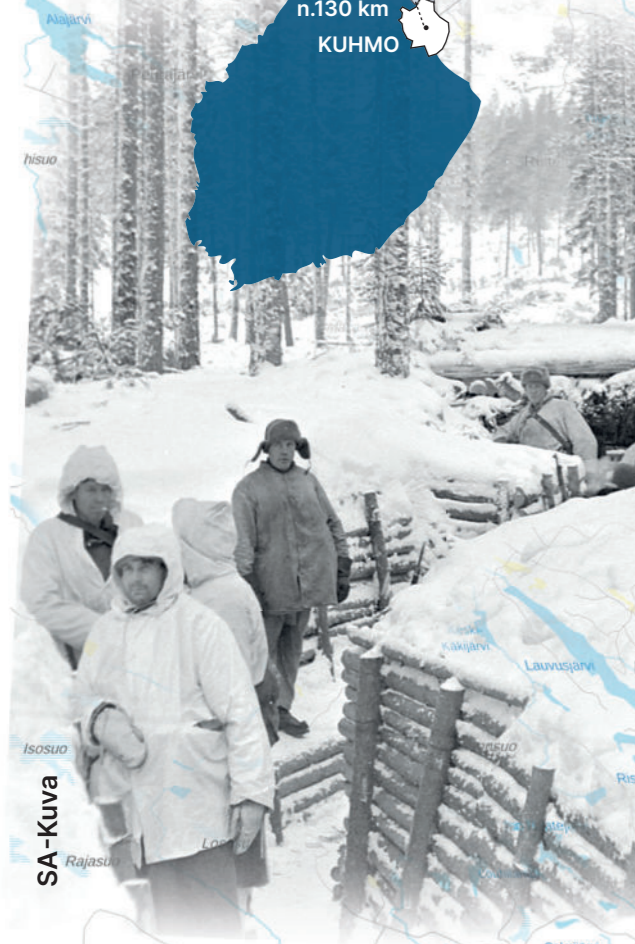
The *Untold Arctic Wars* digital exhibition presents events of the Second World War in the Arctic region near the Winter War Museum. The exhibition consists of topics collected on touch screens, which visitors can browse as they wish. A short film focusing on the first moments of the Second World War in the Arctic is also available.

The original scars of war are still visible in many places on the Kuhmo Winter War tour. The restored Winter War fortifications

can be found at Jyrkänkoski and Saunajärvi. The renovated encirclement of the Red Army at Paloaho is also open to public.

The *Jyrkänkoski Winter War Base outdoor museum* has restored armour, trenches and other defence station structures, such as a machine gun post. In addition, there is plenty of equipment on display, such as the Soviet T-26, a tank, the 37 mm Bofors anti-tank gun used by the Finns, several field guns and mortars.

SA-Kuva



10 km



[www.visitkuhmo.fi](http://www.visitkuhmo.fi)



Map template: National Land Survey of Finland

# THE MILITARY HISTORY OF SUOMUSSALMI – A MAP

Visit Suomussalmi  
www.visitsuomussalmi.fi

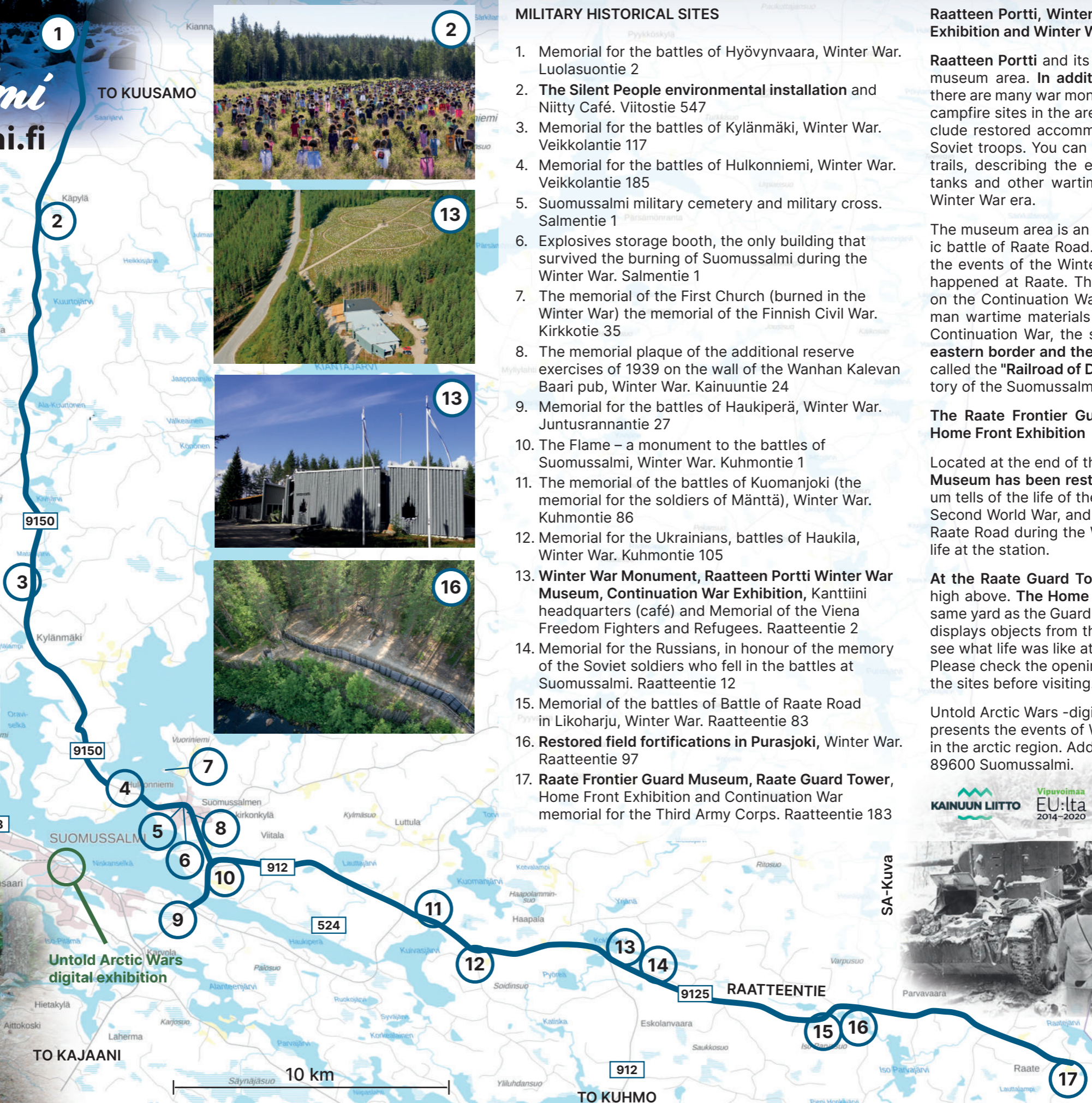
The battles against the Soviet Union in Suomussalmi during the Winter War were nationally significant and are still internationally famous. At Suomussalmi, the Finnish forces defeated the 163rd Division and destroyed the 44th Division.

During the Interim Peace, Salpalinja was built on the eastern border of Finland, and attached field fortifications were also built in Suomussalmi. Remnants of structures can be seen near the fortifications built during the Winter War, as well as in other areas.

When the Continuation War began, the Finnish troops crossed the border and attacked towards Uhtua in co-operation with the Germans. The actual fighting took place on the Soviet side of the border, but six partisan attacks took place in Suomussalmi during the war.

Suomussalmi has military historical sites across the municipality, and only some of them have been included in this brochure. The best-known site is Raate Road. Extensive fighting also took place at Hulkonniemi and Hyövynvaara, as well as elsewhere.

The original scars of war are still visible in many places. Along the museum road in Raate, there are, for example, a Russian monument, the restored Purasjoki fighting position, the memorial for battles of Raate in Likoharju, and right at the east end of the road you can find the Frontier Guard Museum.



## MILITARY HISTORICAL SITES

1. Memorial for the battles of Hyövynvaara, Winter War. Luolasuontie 2
2. The Silent People environmental installation and Niitty Café. Viitostie 547
3. Memorial for the battles of Kylänmäki, Winter War. Veikkolantie 117
4. Memorial for the battles of Hulkonniemi, Winter War. Veikkolantie 185
5. Suomussalmi military cemetery and military cross. Salmentie 1
6. Explosives storage booth, the only building that survived the burning of Suomussalmi during the Winter War. Salmentie 1
7. The memorial of the First Church (burned in the Winter War) the memorial of the Finnish Civil War. Kirkkotie 35
8. The memorial plaque of the additional reserve exercises of 1939 on the wall of the Wanhän Kalevan Baari pub, Winter War. Kainuuntie 24
9. Memorial for the battles of Haukiperä, Winter War. Juntusrannantie 27
10. The Flame – a monument to the battles of Suomussalmi, Winter War. Kuhmontie 1
11. The memorial of the battles of Kuomanjoki (the memorial for the soldiers of Mänttä), Winter War. Kuhmontie 86
12. Memorial for the Ukrainians, battles of Haukila, Winter War. Kuhmontie 105
13. Winter War Monument, Raateen Portti Winter War Museum, Continuation War Exhibition, Kanttiini headquarters (café) and Memorial of the Viena Freedom Fighters and Refugees. Raateentie 2
14. Memorial for the Russians, in honour of the memory of the Soviet soldiers who fell in the battles at Suomussalmi. Raateentie 12
15. Memorial of the battles of Battle of Raate Road in Likoharju, Winter War. Raateentie 83
16. Restored field fortifications in Purasjoki, Winter War. Raateentie 97
17. Raate Frontier Guard Museum, Raate Guard Tower, Home Front Exhibition and Continuation War memorial for the Third Army Corps. Raateentie 183

Raateen Portti, Winter War Museum, Continuation War Exhibition and Winter War Monument

Raateen Portti and its surroundings form a 100-hectare museum area. In addition to the Winter War Museum, there are many war monuments, restored nature trails and campfire sites in the area. The Winter War battlefields include restored accommodation areas of the Finnish and Soviet troops. You can find information boards along the trails, describing the events in the area. The cannons, tanks and other wartime material outside are from the Winter War era.

The museum area is an extensive exhibition of the historic battle of Raate Road. It tells heartwrenching stories of the events of the Winter War in 1939–1940 and of what happened at Raate. The museum also has an exhibition on the Continuation War, with Finnish, Russian and German wartime materials and stories included. During the Continuation War, the shocking partisan attacks on the eastern border and the German railroad, which was also called the "Railroad of Death", are part of the military history of the Suomussalmi region.

The Raate Frontier Guard Museum, Guard Tower and Home Front Exhibition

Located at the end of the Raate Road, the Frontier Guard Museum has been restored to its 1939 look. The museum tells of the life of the frontier guard station before the Second World War, and also about how the events of the Raate Road during the Winter War affected the everyday life at the station.

At the Raate Guard Tower you can view the area from high above. The Home Front Exhibition is located at the same yard as the Guard Tower. The Home Front Exhibition displays objects from the past. At the exhibition, you can see what life was like at home during the war. Please check the opening hours of the sites before visiting.

Untold Arctic Wars -digital exhibition presents the events of World War II in the arctic region. Address: Jalonkaarre 5, 89600 Suomussalmi.

