

Chapter 11 : “1966/68 – An officer and a gentleman”

After graduation, the Education Council was dissolved. Prince Bertil, Marshal of the Realm Admiral Stig H:son Ericson (1897-1985) and the former head of the war college in Karlberg Edmund's adjutant Major General Malcolm Murray (1904-1995) took over. CG would undergo military training in the army or navy - the airforce was too risky (see below).

- 601 J29-”Tunnan” were built. 190 failed. 99 pilots died.
- 447 J32-“Lansen” were built. 138 failed. 100 pilots and passengers died.
- 604 J35-“Draken”-were built. 117 failed. 38 pilots died.

1963-1964 the focus of CG's military education was discussed within a special group of the then heads of the War academies: “Uggla-Grafström-Bruse-Edenberg”. March 31, 1964, a policy paper was drafted. The training would give good knowledge of the army, navy, air force and total defence. According to CG's wishes, the main focus of is training would be the navy. The extent was 24 months. The schedule included everything from language teaching to war games, weapons care and the country's food supply during wartime. Since it was constantly revised I cannot, however, vouch for the accuracy of all the information.

Commodore Willy Edenberg (1909-1990) was head of the Naval Academy. On December 14, 1965, he and others attended an audience with King Gustaf VI to discuss the course syllabus. Sibylla was there protesting against the excessive study requirements. Having experienced her Germany self-destruct and her brother killed, Sibylla was also very sceptical about the value of troop discipline and other military virtues. As far as she was concerned, CG should be allowed to remain a civilian but there she had no say. Edenberg also met employees from Sigtuna Hum. He learned of CG's dyslexia, lack of interest in studying, poor ball ball sense (possibly related to balance - CG was medically examined for the cause) and his lack of initiative and self-confidence. Rosén's successor, Hans Löwbeer, explained at length his findings about CG's intellectual capacity and advised the least possible amount of theoretical studies. He referred to CG's mathematics teacher Morgan Kjellerås as an “expert witness”. Sibylla suggested through detours that she wanted the Swedish Naval Academy to appoint a “course mate” who would get to know her son in advance so that he did not feel alone and that CG during the voyages was to be “guarded” by a fellow aspirant. This resulted in a number of course adjutants: Cadet Magnus Kaijser (during CG's Karlskrona stay), school friend Cadet Hans-Eric von der Groeben (during his time at Älvsnabben) and newly appointed ensign Sten Engelheart (Karlberg & the armies field-exercises).¹

Admission to the Naval Warfare School “Sjökrickan” required a high school diploma, special theoretical and practical admission tests and a physical and psychological evaluation of his suitability. As Crown Prince, CG was able to ignore the demands but insisted on the same procedures as the others. He signed on November 3, 1964 and participated on May 10-11, 1966, in the admission tests to the Swedish Naval Academy. However, the tests was never graded and afterwards burnt. The psychological evaluation was never performed.² The physical demands were not too high. Some gymnastic exercises and 200 meter breaststroke. Some 20 photographers and TV people documented the event.

¹ Dagbok om Kronprinsen. Sjökrigsskolan, Expeditionen, serie FXI, Särskild utbildning, 1964-1969, vol 1.

² Jackie Lindberg. Uppdrag : Operation kronprinsen. Vecko Journalen, 1966:24.

On May 12, he attended a party marking the 100th anniversary of the 1866 constitution. That was when the Estates-based Parliament was put to pasture. CG sipped on his probably first brandy and did his best to converse his dinner partner. On May 16 he visited the estate Stenhammar he had received after the death of Prince Wilhelm the previous year. The lease was a bearable 1000 SEK per year. On May 23, he visited his home county of Jämtland. The journalists thought he had changed. "Gone was the shyness, the nervousness."³ This was short-lived. Court reporter Michael Jägerblom interviewed him a few months later and thought that CG was just as impossible to get an answer from as usual.⁴

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CG entered Näsby park in Täby Wednesday, June 1, 1966, as an aspirant 001 out of a total of 96. Since nobody presented him he was forced to do it himself. He approached a fellow student and apologized for his shyness. The beginning of the Naval Warfare School was as in all military service: Information, acknowledgement of personal details, physical training and drill. No difficulty for CG who was already well trained. The recreational activities was swimming pool, billiards, several sailing boats and a library. As an aspirant, CG would salute the officers, but they often managed to salute first. As usual, CG's was addressed as "The Prince". He dressed like the others except for the sailor's suit. On it he had a small blue mark signifying the Seraphim Order.

After the midsummer break he embarked Sunday June 26 on the training ship Falken in Malmö. This was a two-masted 33 meter schooner. The main mast, which all were expected to climb, reached 31 meters above water level. Commander was Captain Carl Gustaf Bagger. Sibylla believed that she had managed to arrange for CG to serve as a "deck cadet", meaning staying on deck and being prepared to throw them a life preserver if someone fell overboard. Certainly not risk his life climbing! However, everything turned out the other way around. Someone had put an "X" in front of those who would not climb. This was misinterpreted as meaning that they would climb. When the error was detected, CG refused to switch. He remained at the front mast.

[This is how it took place on the sister ship Gladan in 1965.] The navy manual for sailing ship service: "In addition to the teaching of pure knowledge, this training of seafarers also includes the development of the personal qualities of students such as self-knowledge, initiative, perseverance, reliability and ability to cooperate in difficult external conditions."

Neither the skipper, nor the first officers can expect to be mentioned in the aspirants' evening prayer. At least not at the beginning.

"One could say that we are giving them a common enemy that unites them," says the cadet officer aboard Lieutenant Peder Sjögren. We are pushing them hard at the beginning and nothing is good enough. Possibly it is acceptable. However, the pressure eases rapidly when we see them responding and the team spirit increases.

Gladan's 29 aspirants, divided into two guards and four blocks, have many tasks on board in addition to the most essential - to sail the ship.

³ Jackie Lindberg. Uppdrag: Operation kronprinsen. Vecko Journalen, 1966:24.

⁴ Michael Jägerblom. Mina 25 år med kungen. Året Runt, 1998:24.

- They receive basic practical navigation training.
- They serve at the helm, as lookouts, as aids.
- There is also cleaning - for example, scrubbing the deck with sand and water - and general ship care, not least polishing. Gladan like Falken is cherished by its crew.⁵

The first day was basic sailing exercises and then they set course south towards the Kiel Canal. Through it they went by motor 100 km. The canal ended in the Elbe a bit from the North Sea. There they continued with sailing-drill in a stiff breeze. Falken was a hard-wind sailor at times reaching a top speed of 19 knots. At Dover Strait in the English Channel, they slipped through with the tide and arrived a few hours before Gladan at Falmouth in Cornwall. They were assigned a mooring place. The assigned cadets furled the sails. CG had the “honour” of rowing up to the designated buoy, completely overgrown by clams, and mooring the ship. In port they played “capture the flag”. Falken seized the Jolly Roger from the clipper Christian Radich. Gladan, in turn, tried to seize it from Falken. The hijackers, however, had difficulty boarding the ship and had to content themselves with seizing the lifeboat moored at the stern. But that trophy was found invalid. Afterwards, they made them selves presentable for a photograph and three days of shore leave. CG visited London and Sister Margaretha.

Falmouth was the starting point for the “sail training race” or “tall ships race” back to Skagen. At the start, Falken hoisted Jolly Roger and all its sails. As usual they were followed by an armada of small boats as far out as these dared. Falken finished second in the race, beat by 15 minutes corrected time by Winston Churchill, the same class B1 but three-masted. Gladan was delayed by an illness, had to heave to and wait for a helicopter, finished last. They waited for her and sailed together down to Copenhagen where the Konglig Dansk Yachtclub would celebrate its 100th anniversary on 19-21 July. They polished the ship like she was a jewel, spliced rigging and knotted. In Copenhagen, they captured the pirate flag from winner Winston Churchill and also lost a football match. The schedule was always 4 hours guard duty, 4 hours sleep, 4 hours guard duty again etc. Those who did not sleep studied navigation, including spherical trigonometry, and sailor traditions.

“A week later, when the schooner sailed into Karlskrona, we were met by both journalists and many interested spectators. The most notable of these was Princess Sibylla. She was not delighted to find her son, the heir to the throne, high up in the air! But later, when mother and son met, the crown prince heavily tanned, and with calloused hands, all anxiety disappeared for the joy of the reunion.”⁶

They disembarked on July 23. On returning home, they received a month of general soldier training with drill in Skåne and Karlskrona, harvest leave two weeks that CG spent with Prince Bertil on the Riviera and then continued soldier training in Stockholm and a week on the island of Fejan dedicated to sports. On 17 and 24 September, two groups of naval cadets were to be assigned to the high guard of the Stockholm castle. CG was excepted from guard duty because of the fear of demonstrations and other unpleasantness. On November 4, the cadets loaded their belongings onto the training ship HMS Älvsnabben, which was to be their home for the next six months. Prince Bertil and Sibylla were invited to inspect the premises and were shown around in the confusion.

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⁵ Göran Jonazon. Skolpojkar blir sjömän på en vecka. Svenska Dagbladet, 1965-08-17.

⁶ Sverker Olow. Marinens skoneter : med Gladan och Falken de första 50 åren. Eget förlag, 1996.

On November 6 they embarked at the port of Stockholm. “The next day Princess Sibylla and I [Ingrid Björnberg, at this point Sibylla's housekeeper and lady companion] walked out to Kastellholmen to follow his departure. It was cloudy and gray where we stood at the far end of the cape and quietly followed “Älvsnabben” until it disappeared in the distance. ⁷ On November 10, they embarked from Karlskrona.

Älvsnabben (Änb) was a minelayer (launched in 1943, scrapped in 1982) that from 1953 was used for educational purposes. The name came from an old anchorage in Stockholm's southern archipelago. The reason that Älvsnabben was chosen as an educational ship was that the interiors were a good fit for classrooms and that she was cheap in operation. She was also known as Älvsnapsen on account of the 1963 customs search for smuggled spirits.

Before leaving, there was a cadet ball. These balls were much sought after among the ladies. “Classy, you waited in a long line dressed in a ball gown with long white gloves together with your cavalier to greet the head of the Naval Academy. Then there was the old-fashioned speech to the woman, the king's toast, and so forth.”⁸

The ship or the f*c*k*r was 102 meters long with a displacement fully equipped of 4460 tons, had two engines of 3000 horsepower and a top speed of 17 knots. The captain of the ship was Lennart Lindgren. The crew was 284 men, of whom 38 committed to freelancing as journalists for Swedish newspapers. Something must have failed however for so much information about the trip is not available. Not a single interior from the galley or any personal conversation with CG. CG managed to sneak through half a year of navel life without leaving any personal footprint. An achievement, of course, but there is no information on how he managed. Perhaps it was not a good career move to reveal something personal about him.

The voyage went through the Mediterranean and the Suez Canal to Australia and New Zealand. From there to San Francisco, through the Panama Canal and back to Dublin and finally to the Gothenburg shipyard where they arrived on Saturday May 6, 1967. They had been on their way for 177 days, 125 of them at sea and visited 17 ports.

Perhaps circumnavigating the world is the ultimate in life at sea. More than two thirds of the journey, in this case more than four months shall be spent on board. The first weeks are tiring mainly due to guard duty. For three months, you get further and further away from home. The problems of living in the miniature society of a long-haul vessel must be overcome and many problems resolved, including: health. Homesickness must be kept to a reasonable level through meaningful and full-time employment. After a week, a certain change is noticeable. After a month, self-assurance - which can sometimes go too far - begins to be reflected in the behaviour of the crew. Lessons, combat training [including target shooting on the radio-controlled miniplane “Humlan”, about 100 thousand rounds], ship service and guard duty do not allow many hours of sleep every day. Some find life on board laborious, but the majority feel stimulated, are “on board” and find that their career choice is the right one.⁹ [But a life without women is, after all, quite boring. The most popular course on board was the so-called Marriage School where the boat's experts on the subject laid

⁷ Ingrid Björnberg. Dagbok från Haga och Stockholms slott. Stockholm : Bonniers, 1975.

⁸ ”Monet”. [Deltagit på flera officersbaler på Näsby slott i mitten av 1960-talet.] Internet, 2009.

⁹ Rolf Nilsson. Med Älvsnabben till Australien under världsomsegling. Marinstabens informationsavdelning, 1967. [Internet : Älvsnabbens världsomsegling 1966-67.]

out the text about *woman*. CG did not participate. He claimed to know enough already. It also included a mandatory course on STDs and the importance of abstinence or a condom during port visits.]

CG's credentials and shortcomings as a cadet and officer subject, the little that escaped, was discussed in the press: He was sailor 2nd class. He obeyed orders. He commanded with a clear and distinct albeit somewhat low voice. He washed and scrubbed floors without making any complaints. When necessary, he took the initiative. He seemed happy and well adjusted. The surroundings were as usual wary but CG had by then a routine for making them relax. He shared the gallery with his schoolmate Hans-Eric von der Groeben and another 19 aspirants. Half of them in hammocks. In contrast to other galleries, they had a waiter for the food. von der Groeben and some others formed CG's "companion court" which protected him from unwanted persons. They were later included in CG's entourage.

As far as possible CG followed the regular schedule. The studies went well except for tidal science which was mostly arithmetic. Some parts of the regular teaching at Älvsnabben, celestial navigation among others, were replaced by speech training and orientation courses. Speech training was conducted by CG's platoon commander, Lieutenant Sten Swedlund, according to instructions from the naval school's speech teacher Margit Werne-Wiebel, an overweight Italian woman in puffy clothes that CG had visited during the autumn and got along well with. The orientation courses - about the army, the air force and the total defence - did not take place; they should have taken place during CG's free hours, but the schedule was overoptimistic.

CG has repeatedly stated that he is not a competitive person. Not so good aboard Älvsnabben where everything was based on competitions: "Here is the real dilemma of the Crown Prince: It is emphasized that it is precisely he who has shown himself superior when others have been equally good. It is inherent in the nature of things that this must create conflicts. Therefore, there is nothing that the Crown Prince hates as much as when the *results* of various kinds are published, results to which he actively has contributed."¹⁰

In addition to education, the task of Älvsnabben was to show the Swedish flag the world over. For example, it happened that expatriate Swedes came on board and asked the priest to name their children. Älvsnabben was also a last link to the old fatherland. Every four days in port CG had guard duty and was not allowed ashore. CG: "[I remember a night in Sydney.] I had guard duty at the gangway. A man appeared out of the dark. He was a Swede. A homeless man, one who had emigrated and failed. He got some sandwiches from us. We talked in the dark. He had tried to build a new future but failed."¹¹

Älvsnabben also brought exhibition materials to advertise Swedish companies and invited trade representatives for lunches and cocktail parties. For CG, the ship's representation duties meant that each port visit began with handshakes and a shorter or longer press conference before he could disappear into town. During the harbour breaks, Älvsnabben was visited by a total of 350 journalists, 500 industrial delegations and 18 thousand other visitors. The questions were of the type "What do you think about the Australian girls?" which made CG look agonized. He learned to give quick and humorous responses. Sometimes he was asked to perform ceremonial duty such as inaugurating the Chamber of Commerce's new premises at the Swedish Embassy in Sydney.

¹⁰ Jackie Lindeberg. Får kronprinsen rätt utbildning? Vecko Journalen, 1966:33.

¹¹ Mats Svegfors. Intervju med Kungen. Svenska Dagbladet, 1996-04-27.

An ambassador has told how surprised he was when he saw the crown prince standing and washing glasses after a party at “Älvsnabben”, where he had just been the main character.

Nothing strange at all, was the answer, whether the prince, i.e. the watch he belonged to, had been ordered to dishwashing or he intervened voluntarily. In either case it is this type of democracy that makes foreigners amazed at the Bernadottes.¹²

CG comment: “You had to be on your toes! One moment I stood at the Swedish Consulate and was Crown Prince in elegant uniform surrounded by high dignitaries. A moment later I stood in fatigues and scraped rust on Älvsnabben.”¹³ It felt like having two different personalities.¹⁴ CG was asked what he did in his spare time: Leisure? There is no free time on board. But watches. And on them you rest: talk, read, play cards.”¹⁵

The f*c*k*r had its traditions. As Lucia was wanted “someone with the golden yellow, curly hair, the sweet innocence in his eyes (the blue eyes? Well...), beautiful posture. Yes, a MIRACLE of beauty even. Oh yes, and the voice should be tender and light and sound, perhaps as the timid sound of the little bluebell. (Hepp!) ... When you find a suitable victim (No! HUGALIG, Candidate, yes but), write it down on a note.”¹⁶ The next week the candidates showed themselves in the spotlight during ovations and the ballots were collected. These were counted under FC's (the skippers) sharp eye and the score was reported in real time to the different messrooms. Petty officer Karlsson won. (Hopefully he was as beautiful as required, it is not clear from the context.) “The Lucia Crowning” was performed at the Petty officers mess, where FC handed him the Lucia emblem, a ship's shield to be worn in a white string around the neck. First correct ballot also received a prize. The next morning Lucia train consisted of Karlsson and the ship's brass band, all dressed in nightshirts and fez, forcibly waking a groggy crew. The Lucia poem was telegraphed to Stockholm:

The King's Boat slowly makes it's way
in salty water through holy night.
A lovely song
is heard;
then in our sleepy mess
enters in snow white dress
the saintly Lucia of Älvsnabben.

The line crossing ceremony at the equator was cancelled on order by the ships doctor. It involved throwing the unhappy victims over board. King Neptune's envoy Löpar-Nisse carried out an alternative baptism. The aspirants were elated: The “First Time Equatorials” were painted in magical, smelly colours specially composed after a secret recipe of soot, oil and healing herbs. Then followed ceremonial shaving, cutting with wood scissors and a serving of unusually disgusting “food”. Finally, the aspirants were ordered into the small basin at half-deck, filled with a mixture of salt water, lubricating oil and red paint. Many photographs were taken. It was more important to get CG on picture than yourself. CG

¹² Beatrice Glase. Han blir myndig i Dublin. Vecko Journalen, 1966:15.

¹³ Björn Vinberg. 50 år med kungen : från lillprins till monark. Pressens bild, 1996.

¹⁴ Elisabeth Frankl. Intervju med kronprins Carl Gustaf. Expressen, 1969-12-14.

¹⁵ Bengt Embréus. Kronprinsen hemma. Sydsvenska Dagbladet, 1967-05-07

¹⁶ Torsten Malmström (red). Snabbnytt: HMS Älvsnabbens långresa 1966-67. Marinstaben, 1968, s 51-52.

thought it was natural: "You know how you have it yourself..."¹⁷ Bravery was rewarded with a diploma.

Christmas and New Year was celebrated as best it could at these latitudes. The ship carried fir trees treated with plastic. The ships priest held prayers and then long tables with ham, dip in stew, pig feet, stockfish, porridge and Christmas gifts. The ship had its own Santa Claus, making sure no one was forgotten. New Year's Eve started with a thorough cleaning. After this, New Year's dinner was felt to be the somewhat inadequate, so many, among them CG caught flying fish with scoop nets that were deposited in the small pool on half deck before ending up in the frying pan. End of day was struck by the youngest man on board and then the Swedish salute was fired (a measly two shots), all wished each other a happy new year and exchanged toasts. In Fremantle Australia some were invited to hunt, however not CG it seems. The kill was three kangaroos. Between Sydney Australia and Wellington New Zealand they were caught in a cyclone called Dinah which on January 30 reached 40 meters/second. It was impossible to cook. The kitchen served soup and sandwiches that had to be eaten sitting on the floor. FC was in bed with kidney stones. He underwent surgery in Wellington and was not reunited with his crew until San Francisco. During the Honolulu - San Francisco route, the boatswain Sture Grundström (1936-1967) disappeared. He was never found. He probably fell overboard.

There were divided opinions of Honolulu or San Francisco being the nicest port. In Honolulu, the girls danced for them and they were entertained by the U.S. Navy. Rose Marie Alvaro on the reception committee was interviewed about CG's kissing technique. "He seemed shy and inexperienced" was her verdict. CG went sight-seeing the surroundings. He was very pleased that he and his crew, two American security officers, won second place in a boating race. He donned a white dress uniform and laid a wreath at the Memory of Arizona in Pearl Harbor. He also took the opportunity to seek out 76-year-old Duke Kahanamoku, gold medallist in swimming at the 1912 Stockholm Olympics.

He borrowed a car and with some fellow cadets drove around the island. They spent the night at a tourist hotel. After Älvsnabben, the hotel luxuries were a revelation. "We thumped up and down the lovely beds, twisted taps, pressed buttons."¹⁸ CG appeared at various events, made small improvised speeches and shook hands with everyone within reach. Good training for the Swedish event in San Francisco where he would give his first major public speech. In San Francisco, there was time enough for the others to ski in Squaw Valley. Not for CG, however:

After some difficulty with mooring in the strong current, a five-day port visit began [in San Francisco]. Many came into contact with Swedish Americans, among others, the Crown Prince, who here made his first official appearance outside the country. In an appreciated speech to a Swedish-American association (Swedish Patriotic League of Oakland), he conveyed greetings from Sweden, from his grandfather and his uncle Prince Bertil, both of whom had previously visited the association.¹⁹

They had a football team that trained for a series of "internationals" at the 17 port visits. In Costa Rica on April 7 (?), it was full-bore. "The president received 60 men in an audience. The Crown Prince's portrait was displayed in all of the city's shop windows. Despite all the

¹⁷ Jackie Lindeberg. Får kronprinsen rätt utbildning? Vecko Journalen, 1966:33.

¹⁸ Margit Fjellman. Vår kronprins : Född till ett annorlunda liv. 1970.

¹⁹ Margit Fjellman. Vår kronprins : Född till ett annorlunda liv. 1970. 294 Rolf Nilsson. Med Älvsnabben till Australien under världsomsegling. Marinstabens informationsavdelning, 1967. [Internet : Älvsnabbens världsomsegling 1966-67.]

comments from the Swedes that K1 only was there as one of the aspirants, the visit almost took on the character of a state visit by our Crown Prince.”²⁰ As the story goes, CG had embarked when he was invited to the presidential palace, but a resourceful course mate played the role with bravura: Received the crowd's tribute from a bulletproof Cadillac, greeted the guard of honour and marched up the red carpet to the audience.”²¹ - “Costa Rica got the idea that they would play against Älvsnabben's 'national team in football'. Since Costa Rica had placed 2nd in the 1958 World Cup the local team had it easy, but the lookers on seemed to have a good time! 25000 in the stands, a radio broadcast etc. We led by 1-0 but it ended 7-2 to them.”²² 22 of the crew were infected with clap in the brothels.²³

In Nassau in the Bahamas, journalist Ulf Nilson, Expressen, made an unsuccessful last attempt to interview CG about his experience of the trip. CG was hostile, red-faced and gave brief answers to the simplest of questions. Nilson didn't know what to think. He asked the surrounding crew:

- We feel sorry for him, said one of the aspirant comrades bluntly. We are beginning to understand his position. Everything he says can be turned against him and he is never left in peace when we are in port.

A lieutenant agrees: The whole situation is a bit schizophrenic. Out at sea, he's one of the gang. He'll be scolded if he deserves it. May wash toilets and scrape rust. But when we're at the dock, he's suddenly crown prince, at least for a while each day, and is expected to give press conferences. The guy's doing fine, but of course it takes it's toll. [Others found his double role to be totally unreasonable.] ...

An angry young officer makes comment number two: - The Prince happens to be word blind. This is by no means disastrous, especially if early counter-measures are put in place. But we have a feeling that there has been a little too much fawning. The schools have forgotten that even a crown prince can have problems: please write so freely but preferably not in my name.²⁴

Ulf Nilson summarized his interview as: (1) CG abhorred journalists - all journalists without exception. (2) CG had practised handling the media throughout the trip under the tutelage of press officer Captain Rolf Nilsson with the expressed aim of being as bland as possible. The press officer criticized each of his appearances and newspaper interviews with: “Say a little more. Never say too much. Don't say anything controversial. But say a little more.”²⁵ He and CG had a secret signalling system for difficult-to-answer questions to the effect that CG sometimes started talking about the beautiful weather rather than answering the question. The objective seemed to be the same media technique as Prince Bertil's. Of him it has been said, and can also be found in his memoirs, that as long as he does not have to respond to questions he is very communicative. The Cadet officer at Älvsnabben reported home:

K1 has experienced positive development as a person, but has nevertheless had difficulty keeping up with the teaching. As expected, he has failed navigation, but also

²⁰ Rolf Nilsson. Med Älvsnabben till Australien under världsomsegling. Marinstabens informationsavdelning, 1967. [Internet : Älvsnabbens världsomsegling 1966-67.]

²¹ Inger Pettersson. Månadens bok: Carl Gustaf ”Skandalprinsen”. Lektyr, 1973:22.

²² Kent Pejdel. Långresan 1966-67. Kuriosa. Internet. Odaterad

²³ Slutrapport efter HMS Älvsnabbens utlandsexpedition 1966-67. Marinmuseet, accessioner, F:20, 6/01.

²⁴ Ulf Nilson. Vi försöker intervju kronprinsen. Expressen, 1967-04-16.

²⁵ Ulf Nilson. Vi försöker intervju kronprinsen. Expressen, 1967-04-16.

liaison service and organizational science. In the latter, he was the worst, and in the former, only three definitive quitters were worse. We are trying to make him work harder and he seems interested in avoiding failure, but it is doubtful what the result will be. I consider it an advantage if we can agree on a course of action for the event that his bad grades makes him impossible to pass in the usual way.²⁶

I have not been able to locate FC's reports to Prince Bertil. However, FC's report to the 1st Marshal of the Court Stig H:son Ericson contains an excerpt: "He is happy and supple. His advances in the theoretical parts is unfortunately a little too lean, but both Captain Bring and Lieutenant Swedlund have good hands with him and are in no way despondent. His handling of the press is better for every port. Here he has been quite excellent and arouses the admiration of many. The charming, the light and easy way he takes it all is a real asset for our PR."²⁷

The journey continued back across the Atlantic. Everyone was getting nervous about coming home. Coming-home fever it is called, for example hysterics when someone left their clothes on the bed:

The Atlantic offered a tailwind, which had hardly happened before during the trip. But the weather was cold. The crew, after months in warm countries, had to revert to their November gear. The last tests and an intensified combat training filled the two weeks that remained to Dublin. This visit to their last port of the trip was largely dominated by the 21st birthday of the Crown Prince.²⁸

The birthday celebrations began early Sunday morning with flowers. The crew handed him a ship-made mahogany seafaring coffin with brass fittings. The chefs assisted with a giant cake. CG was hoisted 12 times and received a 21 shot salut. Sister Margaretha with husband, the Dublin ambassador and others attended a birthday lunch with caviar and champagne. In the afternoon, CG caught a trout weighing one kilo which made him a lifelong member of the Lough Ennel fishing association. The following day, he lunched with President Eamon de Valera.²⁹

On May 6, the round-the-world journey was over. CG was met up in Gothenburg harbour by Sibylla and Sister Desirée with husband who came aboard and hugged him. Then there was the flight back to Stockholm and further command training.

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After Älvsnabben, H:son and Willy Edenberg agreed that they had to do something about CG's reading and writing difficulties. Everyone in the Education Council under Broms & Sigtuna seems to have tried to look in another direction. Rather agree with Sibylla or go behind her back than confronting her with CG's troubles. For Sibylla, all criticism - well intentioned or not - was disloyal. All official reviews from Broms, Sigtuna and the Naval Academy were "friendly". There was a world of difference between FC Lennart Lindgren's superlative reports from Älvsnabben to Prince Bertil and cadet officer Jan Brings' bitter internal reviews to Willy Edenberg. If CG were to pass his courses, something had to be done.

²⁶ Kadettofficeren på Älvsnabben Jan Bring till rektorn på Sjökrigsskolan Willy Edenberg. Brev, 1967-04-11.

²⁷ Brev från FC Lennart Lindgren till 1:e hovmarskalk amiral Stig H:son Ericson. 1967-03-23.

²⁸ Rolf Nilsson. Med Älvsnabben till Australien under världsomsegling. Marinstabens informationsavdelning, 1967. [Internet : Älvsnabbens världsomsegling 1966-67.]

²⁹ Göran Johansson. Svenska Dagbladet, 1967-05-02.

Edenberg engaged the lecturer in reading comprehension psychologist Åke Edfeldt. Edenberg and Edfeldt knew each other via Rotary. Edfeldt was initially very doubtful whether he was the right person for the mission. He and the family had spent their Easter holidays in Storlien and become upset at CG and his comrades who had a solid reputation there as upper class brats. In every respect insufferable. He was of simple origin - his father was a non-commissioned officer of the second rank in the Navy and a valet (attendant to officers), his mother a maid - and he sympathized with the left and the republicans. In February 1967, a meeting took place between H:son, Edenberg, Edfeldt and Sibylla. Sibylla at the time behaved so haughtily that Edfeldt saw all his class prejudices confirmed with a vengeance. He, an associate professor, was treated as a "domestique". Even 40 years later, his judgment was that Sibylla was the nastiest piece of work he ever had encountered.

After the meeting he tried to leave. H:son and Edenberg caught him by the arm. They sat down in a room in the chancellery wing. H:son appealed to his civic spirit. He said that if it had been an unemployed carpenter with reading difficulties, Edfeldt would have seen it as a civic duty to help. Surely he could not be such a bad democrat that he treated people differently according to their descent? Edfeldt conceded to the argument. However, they agreed that all further contacts would be through H:son and Edenberg. He would never have to meet Sibylla again.

In May, after returning home, CG met Edfeldt for an extensive investigation. CG was tested for intelligence and passed a number of reading tests. The report, two pages in the War Archive, is classified but according to Edfeldt himself, CG had a good general intelligence (118 or 119 on the Swedish version of the Terman-Merrill IQ-test 90th percentile in the population) but despite this poor reading ability. Edfeldt interpreted it as an effect of the teaching at Broms School. This was oriented towards reading as a mechanical skill, CG learned to sound the text, but when he had difficulties with reading comprehension he was not treated as his peers but the teachers tried to explain away his problems instead of remedying them.³⁰

Edfeldt's own research focused on the importance of pre-knowledge for understanding the text. He and CG's speech teacher Margit Werne-Wiebel agreed on a training program in this spirit that CG followed his remaining time at the Naval School. CG and the speech teacher discussed the text before reading it. Apparently, CG was helped by this, he claimed to have read his course books at the university. How it panned out is unclear. In some interviews, it sounds like his troubles have disappeared: "I do not have evidence that I am or have been word-blind. But you start to wonder. It has not been easy."³¹ In other interviews it sounds as if they persist. Either he hasn't trained enough or there's a neurological basis for his troubles.

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After returning home, there was a one-week break and then sea practice in May as a torpedo and signal officer at HMS Castor (T124), a torpedo boat of the so-called Spica class. The length was 42 meters, the deployment was 210 tons, it was powered by three gas turbines each of 4250 hp and had a top speed of 40 knots. The crew was 30 men. Then followed a combined education within all three military branches.

³⁰ Erik Söderman. Intervju med psykologen prof Åke Edfeldt, 2012-11-15

³¹ Dagens Nyheter, 1991-03-31.

On May 29 CG entered the war school in Karlberg for a compressed cadet training. This consisted of the orientation course he would have had at Älvsnabben and further courses so that he could practice with cadets who had already spent 3 years at the school. Because the training was specially designed, CG was the only student. His immediate neighbour in the dorm, ensign Sten Engelheart, undertook to serve as a classmate and discussion partner. The course also included representation and a study visit of the Gotland Military Area. From June 22 to July 16, CG spent the summer break at Solliden and at Prince Bertil's Riviera villa. On his return there were field exercises. Initially an exercise in troop training at the Swedish Armoured Troops School in Skövde. Then a motorcycle march to Varberg and field competitions. CG failed at the orientation and finished 84. In shooting he was among the top 10. The field exercises ended with another motorcycle march to Hälsingborg. As head of a shooting company CG had to defend the beach Örby meadows against the evil aggressor.

On August 21, he continued at the F20 Air Academy in Uppsala. As far as possible, he followed the same educational plan as the other cadets: Studies in tactics, exercises and study visits. On September 2-4 he participated in a mountain march with 20 kilos of packing - physical exercise was a recurring feature during all 24 months. He had to manoeuvre a J35 Draken. (Gustaf VI had himself approved this course module.) On September 22, 1967, somewhere over Roslagen he got to experience what it was like to blow through the sound barrier - as passenger though. His classmates were ordered parachute practice, but CG was forbidden to take unnecessary risks. He had to make do with jumping from the training tower.

On October 2 until the Christmas holidays there was further training at the Swedish Naval Training School including orientation courses on the coastal artillery. A welcome interruption was the Grenoble Winter Olympics on 6-18 February the following year, together with Prince Bertil. On March 10-16 he participated in the Paternoster march for mountain hunters (an elite force), five days in the Jämtland alps with a 25 kilo backpack and snow shelter, and on March 26-30 he was on duty four days on the icebreaker "Tor", responsible for the navigation. On April 1-6, it was the army's final exercise "the Free War". This consisted of a long series of marches and ambushes in the terrain around Malmköping, Sörmland, just a few miles from Stenhammar. There was rain, no tents, food rations for a day, freeze-dried mashed turnips with meat, and no sleep. CG was backup for mounting charges. "Physically strong, able to do much, not put down by hardships so far" was the teacher's verdict. In the pictures, CG looks quite scruffy. On April 16-26, the naval training school's final exercise was "operation collaboration [between weapons teams]" where he was responsible for Castor's remote-controlled torpedoes with the destroyer Småland as the target ship. Then it was all over.

The graduation ceremony had to wait until September 11, 1968. It was conducted by Gustaf VI in admiral's uniform, who presented CG's diploma as triple ensign in the Navy, Air Force and Army (I1 & I5). Prins Bertil, Sibylla, Princess Christina, The Principle of Uppsala University Torgny T:son Segerstedt, Marshal of the Realm Admiral Stig H:son Ericson (who celebrated his 50th anniversary of his own graduation) and bank manager Jacob Wallenberg. Since CG did not participate in the same courses as the others, he did not get the usual grades but the grades Approved in the theoretical subjects and Very good in the practical. King Gustaf VI then gave a small speech about today's youth and gave advice on how CG and the other recruits would create a good relationship between the officer and the squad. Today's youth was more knowledgeable, self-reliant and critical than in his own youth, good but must be acknowledged. He also asked them not to forget the flip side. "It has an incredible ability to lighten the load of an otherwise never-so-boring subject."

At the end, King Gustaf VI wanted to give a personal gift to CG, a sabre as “a symbol of duty and fidelity”. When CG rose, he was surrounded by the photographers and disappeared from sight. Gustaf VI wondered in the microphone were he had disappeared before CG could shoulder his way and receive the gift. Vice Admiral Åke Lindeman presented a gift from the Navy, an oil painting of the torpedo boats Spica & Castor by Finnish marine painter Håkan Sjöström. “It is with your first boat as with your first girl, you never forget her,” he said. Which he was absolutely right about. CG had very pleasant memories of his time as a torpedo boat officer and later acquired his own torpedo boat.³² CG also recruited his cadet officers as adjutants: Sten Swedlund (Navy), Magnus Olson (Army) & Peter Forsman (Air Force).

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During CG's military service, the following odd episode also occurred: The cadets had been admonished that a sailor in the navy were three things at once - warrior, sailor and gentleman. The Gentleman-requirements could be overwhelming. Course-mate Gert Fylking, a coastal ranger from KA1, is alleged to have been expelled for touching Sibylla inappropriately during a dance at a Naval Academy cadet ball.³³ According to Fylking himself, he had touched her butt.³⁴ This would have taken place at the Naval Academy's 100th anniversary which was celebrated with a great ball at the City Hall on November 18, 1967, 950 people, and where Sibylla attended. Fylking:

At the Cadet Ball, the men danced social dance, which meant that the ladies went inside a ring and the men outside in the opposite direction. So the music stopped, and the one you ended up opposite, you danced with. I had the king's mother Sibylla, who was a voluminous woman. Because I was young and strong and she was older, I kept her steady. It was what you call a cheek-to-cheek. When the dance was over, I was slammed so in the hell by then Chief General Rapp, who thought the way I danced with Sibylla was the most inappropriate and rude he had ever experienced. The scolding went on forever. Then it didn't take many days until I was fired from the Naval Warfare School. The then manager called me up and said that “Cadet Fylking is dismissed”. I asked why and he said that I had not achieved the required results. “The Captain must have different information than Me,” I said, “because I have passed all the courses with good grades”. - “Well that's how it is,” he said, and away I was. The Coastal Ranger School that recommended me wrote to the Naval War School and protested, but the letter was not even answered.³⁵

A check of the Swedish Naval Academy's disciplinary protocol gives a somewhat different story. Fylking entered naval combat school on October 16, 1967, and quit in January 1968. He received barracks duty for several times arriving late, was deemed not fit for officer duty, was transferred to non-commissioned officer training (?) and quit, becoming a journalist instead. Many years later, Fylking expressed his disdain for CG's bad ping-pong game and also filmed CG smoking at the 1993 Nobel Party. A small revenge on the royal house is also a revenge. CG countered with Fylking never being invited to the court's information meetings for the mass media and rejected when he showed up.

³² Omar Magnergård. Svenska Dagbladet, 1968-09-12

³³ Wikipedia. Gert Fylking [1945-]. (Inklusive ”skvallersajter”).

³⁴ Pascal Engman. Söndagsintervjun: Gert Fylking. Nyheter 24, 2011-05-22.

³⁵ Intervju med Gert Fylking. Expressen, 1994-05-01.