

Frans G. Bengtsson, "The life of Charles XII, King of Sweden 1697-1718", vert. Naomi Walford, MacMillan & Co, Londen 1960.

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"Meijerfelt, Maj.-Gen. I.A.: at Lublin, 148; new regiment formed under, 169; at Bereza, 206; at Oposchnya, 333; tells Charles XII of army's surrender, 397; MENTIONED, 125, 172, 185, 210, 214, 232, 341.

pag. 124-5

"Charles's first move in support of the Sapiehas was to send Colonel Alexander Hummerhielm with a few squadrons of horse across the Samogitian border, to protect the brothers' lands against Oginski's forces; at the same time Lieutenant-Colonel I.A. Meijerfelt took another detachment to Palanga on the Prussian border, north of Memel, to suck nourishment from a Polish Crown property there and obtain news of Steinau, who was stationed near Dantzic."

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Op 20 december 1702 strijkt het Zweedse leger bij Lublin neer waar een voorhoede in de zomer arrogant en onbeleefd behandeld was.

"Colonel Meijerfelt of the cavalry, who often led advance parties and patrols, was sent into the town to make hard terms: 50,000 rix-dollars' indemnity to be payed within ten days. While they waited, Meijerfelt's men ostentatiously busied themselves with the manufacture of torches out of straw and tar. Notwithstanding this encouragement, the town proved incapable of raising more than 30,000 rix-dollars, with which sum the King was pleased to declare himself content; the torches were therefore never put in use."

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In "Polish Prussia" worden soldaten voor nieuw te vormen regimenten geworven.

"A new regiment of foot was formed, under Colonel Klas Ekeblad, and no fewer than four regiments of Dragoons under Colonels Stenbock (...) and Meijerfelt and Adjutant-Generals Taube and Dücker; these regiments, as was usual with such levies, were named after their colonels."

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"Instead he sent Meijerfelt, who had just been promoted major-general, to Great Poland with three cavalry regiments to protect friendly estates there against partisans of Augustus, and if necessary to cover Posen, which was held by Mardefelt and a light garrison."

pag. 185-6

"Augustus was eager to hold his position along the river for as long as possible, and so cover certain important movement round Posen, for Mardefelt and Meijerfelt were now being besieged by a Polish-Russian force led by none other than Patkul (...). Before Meijerfelt entered Posen he had greatly distinguished himself by his gallantry in two major clashes in the open, at the head of his three cavalry regiments."

pag. 206

Begin maart 1706 breken de Russen onder Ogilvie uit het belegerde Grodno zuidwaarts en de Zweden zetten de achtervolging in. ..  
Zie kopieën.

pag. 210

"After some excursions farther north, the King with a few followers, each leading a spare horse, rode from SlecZ to Pinsk - a distance of 180 miles, says Adlerfelt - between 6 p.m. one day and 4 p.m. the next. Only Prince Max, Meijerfelt, and two others were able to keep up with him all the way."

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"Taking as his companions Prince Max, a Prince Karl Mecklenburg who had joined him in Volhynia, Meijerfelt, Adjutant-General Kanefehr, two Drabants, and a Polish guide, the King set off at 11 o'clock at night to visit Rehnskold, who was stationed more than a hundred miles to the west, at Uniejov."

pag. 232-3

Zie kopieën.

pag. 333

Op 8 mei 1709 steekt de Russische generaal Menshikov met 12.000 man de Vorskla over, verslaat twee Zweedse regimenten en rukt op naar 4 andere bij Oposchnya.

"But help did arrive in the shape of a number of cavalry regiments under Major-General Meijerfelt, and when it was learned that the King himself was on his way from Budischtje (...) Menshikov hastily turned and went back the way he had come. Meijerfelt, suffering from a half-healed fracture of the leg, and in no mood for galloping, did not give chase."

pag. 341

De "high command" van het Zweedse leger wordt opgesomd en Meijerfelt is één van de vijf generaal-majors van de kavallerie.

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"On August 3, (...), Meijerfelt appeared, having been released by the Czar, and the events at Perevolotnya were now a certainty."

pag. 206-207

The first attempt to halt the Swedes by force was made at the Carthusian monastery of Bereza, where a Russian rearguard had occupied the only possible road, a sort of swampy Thermopylae. This was a narrow causeway over the fens, cut here and there by watercourses of which the Russians had demolished the bridges. It was thought that a small force could hold this passage against any numbers, for only a few could advance abreast along the dike. When this obstacle was reported to the King one evening, he took two Guards battalions, a few guns, and two Valack squadrons, marched forward all night, and arrived to find the Russians building a redoubt at the farther end of the causeway. At dawn the King ordered his gunners to fire a few rounds at the working party. Then, taking the Grenadier battalion of the Guards with him, he set off in company with Prince Max and Major-General Meijerfelt along the causeway. When they reached the gaps formerly spanned by bridges, they sounded the intervening mire and water with pikes, and then stepped down into it up to their shoulders to wade across. Advancing thus in a narrow column they reached the startled Russians, who at once disappeared without making any attempt at resistance. Near the half-built redoubt, which had been hit by the cannonade, lay a dying officer whose arm had been shot away. He was a French captain named Busanville, in Russian service. The King stopped and looked at him, and asked compassionately whether he thought he would recover from so severe an injury. To this the officer made no reply, but begged to know whether the King of Sweden himself had taken part in this skirmish. Prince Max then indicated the King, whereupon the Frenchman saluted him as well as he could and expressed his joy that his longing to behold His Swedish Majesty before he died had been fulfilled. He wished His Majesty good fortune against his enemies, and said that he could now die content ; which he shortly did, and was buried in the monastery, where 'His Majesty paid for his resting-place'. This meeting in the grey dawn, on those desolate marshes, between the drenched and muddy Charles and the dying Frenchman, who with the last of his strength saluted him and wished him luck, has a peculiar pathos. The episode seems to have made a deep impression on those who witnessed it, and was much talked of in the army.

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Another interesting shadow — likewise a little corpulent by now — flickered briefly, for the second and last time, into Charles's entourage : namely, the fair Aurora. Stenbock, writing to his wife at the New Year, remarks, 'Mariaurore shows me every civility. She is grown somewhat fat, but is not ill-looking ; she lives *en princesse* and her suite is according. Axel Sparre is mad for her, as usual, and others too, but I am less susceptible ; yet I have been there thrice.' Their acquaintance plainly dated from her Swedish days, and Stenbock had no need to tell his wife outright if, like the notoriously ardent Axel Sparre, he felt some tenderness for the lady. Despite her failure of five years before, in Courland, she was still deeply interested in Charles ; for him she tuned her French lyre, and enticed from it its most languishing notes :

*Mais d'où vient, jeune Roi, qu'avec tant de mérite  
 Vous avez peu de vrai bonheur ?  
 Partout environné d'honneur  
 Aucun Plaisir ne marche à votre suite.  
 S'il est une Beauté qui peut par sa tendresse  
 Charmer le plus grand des mortels,  
 Nous lui dresserons des autels :  
 Ouvrez les bras, recevez la Déesse !*

But not even now would Charles open his arms to the goddess. Once she came unexpectedly to Altranstädt, but Charles, availing himself of a back staircase, leaped on to a ready-saddled horse and made off; nor would he venture home until he was sure that she had grown tired of waiting.

On a later occasion, however, the luckless Aurora was at last to meet her hero and exchange a few words with him. This was on the occasion of Meijerfelt's wedding. Aurora Königsmarck was invited, and His Majesty too promised to attend. Piper, like the thoughtful man he was, consulted the King on an important and delicate point of protocol in a conversation which has become famous :

*Piper* : 'The Countess Aurora Königsmarck told me when we dined together in Leipzig that she looked to be invited to my sister-in-law's wedding.'

*The King* : 'Then why did you not invite her directly?'

*Piper* : 'I could not venture to do so without Your Majesty's permission, which I now entreat.'

*The King* : 'You may invite her for me; I shall come notwithstanding.'

*Piper* : 'But the question occurs to me: what place am I to accord her among the other Swedish ladies? My wife, who is hostess, would willingly yield to her; but then there is such and such a one.'

*The King* : 'It is impossible that she should take precedence of them, for she is a whore and has no rank.'

*Piper* : 'Nevertheless she comes of our ancient and illustrious families of Königsmarck and de La Gardie; and if she chanced to stray, it was with a crowned head.'

*The King* : 'Crowned heads and commoners are equal in this matter. She is and will ever be a whore, and has no rank.'

*Piper* : 'Unless she be acknowledged a person of rank she cannot come.'

*The King* : 'Then she may stay away.'

Piper's well-tryed ingenuity must have triumphed, for the wedding was attended by both Charles and Aurora, and the King's severity towards the strayed lady was not such as to prevent his conversing with her for a while 'upon indifferent topics, with his customary politeness'.