

Appendix : Ebba Wallenberg-Bonde (1896-1960).

*At first, the man drinks wine,
then the wine drinks wine;
At the end, the wine drinks the man.*

Ebba Wallenberg, daughter of industrialist magnate Marcus Wallenberg Sr. (1864-1943) & Amalia Hagdahl (1864-1959), was born November 21, 1896, as the second youngest of six siblings - four sisters & two brothers. The brothers Jacob (1892-1980) and Marcus jr (1899-1982) became powers within Swedish business. So not the sisters who had to content themselves with spending the money. Ebba was 1920-1941 married to Count Carl Bonde (1872-1957) with whom she had two sons Jan (1921-2005) & Peder (1923-2013). Ebba and Carl separated c. 1925 but did not divorce until June 16, 1941.

The source situation is bad, mostly because her son Peder had her private archives burned at Ebba's death. There is, however, a joint family archive and Ebba appears as a supporting character in a number of memoirs, biographies, travelogues & features (Linder 1919; Bonde 1943: ss. 200-221; Posse 1949: ss. 86-87,382-383; von Rosen 1952: ss. 125-127,162; Dardel 1953: ss. 127-136; Gerhard 1957: ss. 170-183; Wennerholm 1971: ss. 70-73; Gårdlund 1976; Wennerholm 1982: ss. 188-193,230-232; Nyström 1992: s. 235; Ramel 1992: ss. 166-170; Söderman 2010: ss. 235-240). Most information is in the daily press.

Ebba's biography has large gaps. Her marriage to Count Carl Bonde faltered and as a mother she seems to have neglected the children. The reason is unclear. Allegedly after a car accident in 1933 or 1939 she received injections against the pain and developed a morphine addiction.¹ Other sources suggest that she was an alcoholic or she suffered from a bipolar syndrome. Details are lacking, but it is clear that her health varied and that on September 6, 1945, she was placed under guardianship. Her doctor was the surgeon Einar Perman of S:t Erik Hospital. The guardian was lawyer Eric Wennerholm (1903-1984). In his brief biography of the years 1920-1945 it seems like she suffered from overexertion:

Ebba Bonde became, as Karl Gerhard formulated it, “a figurehead or banner of social life” leading the way into ever more uproarious games. At prince Carl's Fridhem descending the stairs on large silver trays. On the trays sat the future queens of Belgium and Norway. Even more dangerous games were played, musical chairs, lighting fires. There was optimism, there was money and a sense within a certain circle that now at last “we get to enjoy ourselves”. Pleasure was king.²

...

Ebba lived this life more intensely than most, intent on forgetting the failed marriage. In addition, during the war years, putting the same effort into helping refugees. But much of this effort came to naught, her being who she was: a headstrong primadonna. Finally she “overreved” and was hospitalized.³

...

I have the feeling that this irrational and impulsive person gave the Wallenberg family a push in the popular imagination. I don't know if they appreciated the

¹ Intervju med Ebbas son Peder Bonde utförd av Tomas Tullberg, okänt datum, cirka 2013.

² Wennerholm 1971: s. 72.

³ Wennerholm 1982: s. 230.

contribution, but her brother Jacob gave her what help he could in her later less happy years.⁴

The obituary by childhood friend Estrid Linder was magnificent though:

The fairies were bountiful at her cradle - she got everything a man or woman could wish for in this world: Beauty, intelligence, economic independence and an unusual capacity for work when it came to something that interested her. ... Proud, fearless, never wavering she followed her convictions whatever difficulties. She seemed invincible until she wasn't. Compromise was not her style of life.⁵

Other acquaintances were not as kind:

Many years later, when Ebba became Countess Bonde at Hörningsholm, we met at parties, both there & other places. She had now become a chic beautiful lady, sparkling with vitality & wit, outspoken and unpredictable. She dominated the scene through her energy, intelligence, heart – and moods. Tirelessly, her fertile brain came up with extravagant inventions to amuse her friends and of course herself and put in motion her unique style of charity & fun. She wanted to decide, yes, to rule, and had difficulty tolerating competition, opposition or even indifference. She was number one, and if number one was not in the mood, you felt it all over Hörningsholm, and her court started discussing how they could make amends. Only then could joy blossom. That anybody would suffer such a regime was mainly due to the fact that Ebba Bonde was a faithful and unusually caring friend, who did not shy away from any inconvenience and discomfort, if she could be a friend in need. She made many enemies and many friends. Her worst enemy was Ebba Bonde herself. Nobody has caused so much trouble, so many misunderstandings, so much discomfort to the charming Ebba Bonde as she. One may be angry, one may shake one's head, but one must still admire her and hold her in regard - she is head and heart a woman far above normal dimensions.⁶

And Karl Gerhard:

During Ebba Bonde's most lively days, one had the impression that Hörningsholm was a continental luxury hotel where guests changed as often as table decorations. In the courtyard there was a restless life. When some twenty lunchtime guests were waved away, just as many arrived for dinner, and most had trunks so large that it was understood that they intended to settle. The palace had countless guest rooms. The hostess's playfulness and imagination was like a Walt Disney film. The Wallenberg energy she invested in her games, often made me think that the theatre world has lost a promising director.

One night she invited me to participate in a game of chess. On the pool table, she had set up a chess board. No ivory chess pieces though. They were replaced by wine bottles. The role of the Queen was played by a bottle of champagne, and the King by a bottle of old, noble Burgundy. As rooks and bishops were mosel and vouvray bottles and in the pawns' place a platoon of beer bottles. At each table end was a

⁴ Wennerholm 1971: s. 73.

⁵ Linder 1960.

⁶ von Rosen 1952: ss. 126-127.

corkscrew, for the player who lost a piece had to empty it on the spot. I was unskilled and had to give up after three pawns and a bishop.⁷

There is an extended depiction of one of these Hörningsholm parties in the summer 1930⁸, too long to quote, too pointless to summarize, but the main impression is that royalty, notables & celebrities had fun on a Swedish crayfish party dressed in tails & long dress.

* * *

So far posterity. Ebba competed in a league of her own, where she by unknown means tripped herself. So what actually happened? The first description of Ebba is from the summer of 1911:

The first time I met Ebba, she was 14 years old and I was one of the officers, who was commanded on a training course with accommodation, among other place, at Malmvik, Ebba's parents' home at Lovön. The Wallenberg family invited us to dinner. somebody sweeter, happier and more fun than the feisty girl Ebba, is hard to imagine. We all indulged her.⁹

[Von Rosen offered her his official horse on loan, but Ebba wanted to buy it instead. She had received half a promise from her parents of her own horse, but only if she thanked them for their generosity. Ebba was not prepared to go that far, so there was no horse.]

She grew up in a town house on Strandvägen, had a French & a German governess and until spring 1915 attended Sofi Almquist's mixed school. However, in an interview she claimed to have had as ascetic a childhood as the brothers: "Ebba Wallenberg's weekly allowance was 2 öre, during her childhood she never had a dress of her own, but inherited her three sisters' and at one point a brother's cadet jacket. She enjoyed the jacket for the sake of the shiny buttons until the frugal mother replaced them with regular blacks. She was never allowed to dawdle on her way home from school, because then she was to visit the bakery and bring home the bread basket. The family lived on Strandvägen, but the children were never allowed to show themselves other than on Riddargatan to beware of pride. In the summers they would clear the garden from weeds, rake the aisles and unstitch mother's old evening dresses, to be re sewn. Ebba Wallenberg did not know that she was the daughter of a rich man and that was why her physics teacher did not understand her approach when it turned out that she once pledged her physics books for pocket money. She thus had a strict upbringing, which was gilded by foreign trips in the summers."¹⁰

She failed her baccalaureate, and then spent 13 months in a Swiss girl's pension with a Mlle Penard in Geneva where (for once) she was "kind, docile and eager to please": "You rose at 6 o'clock, made your bed and then studied French, art history, music and ballet. The ballet classes were meticulous exercises in general fussiness, where the girls were put through the motions by a ballet master in white glacé gloves, who discreetly placed his black stick on the students offending body parts. In Geneva, highly cultivated refugees from Europe gathered to

⁷ Gerhard 1957: s. 180.

⁸ Dardel 1953: ss. 127-136.

⁹ von Rosen 1952: ss. 125-126.

¹⁰ Vecko Journalen, 1946:25, ss. 20-21,40.

wait out the war, culture was in the air, even strictly held boarding school girls were affected, maybe even courted.”¹¹

On returning to Stockholm, she participated in social life and fell in love with the dashing ensign Helmuth von Bornstedt (1893-1960) at the Royal guards. This even advanced to a secret engagement before the parents became aware and intervened. Ebba was considered “duped by his boldness, flashiness, good riding and good dancing”. After investigating the matter, including talking to Helmuth's father, the parents decided that he would make Ebba unhappy & probably she him. It was also the case that the Bornstedt family was unintroduced (=descended from foreign nobles) and lacked wealth. Ebba was sent on a long trip to Japan together with an older friend Estrid Linder (1890-1972) in the hope that the emotions would cool with time & distance, which they did.¹²

The journey was much longer and more substantial than intended. Ebba & her friend left Sweden in July 1917 and did not return until April 1919. There are three depictions.¹³ None of them particularly informative. Ebba spent October 1917 - May 1918 in Tokyo. If she did anything other than sight seeing, it is not clear. She returned home with the Trans-Siberian Railway as one of a group. Due to the Russian Civil War, the train did not get any further than Omsk where Ebba met Count Carl Bonde (1872-1957) who was there on behalf of the Swedish Red Cross to oversee the repatriation of the German prisoners of war. Bonde: “I already knew [Ebba] from Stockholm, but we had not met in three years. Now fate had brought us together in a detached railway wagon on the Siberian tundra. From that day, the end of May 1918 to February the following year, we were almost daily together in diverse, sometimes perilous conditions. During the long idle summer in Omsk, on the tiresome journey through Siberia to Vladivostok, for three months in Japan and two in America, Ebba was the nicest companion, happy, witty and unmoved by all the difficulties.”¹⁴

Shortly after the turn of the year 1918/19 Ebba, Carl Bonde & the others arrived in Washington. Ebba sent a letter to Bornstedt where she broke of the engagement. Bonde continued to Sweden where he arrived in February. One of the reasons he was in Siberia was that his marriage was unhappy. Upon arrival, he spoke to Ebba's father about remarrying his daughter. The father was positive, but Bonde had to promise not to mention his plans to anyone. Once her mother found out about the whole thing, at Ebba's return in April, she was furious but could not do anything about it. Ebba was of age and asked her mother to get lost. The mother-daughter relationship being what is was, Ebba May 15 asked her father if she could move house, maybe live at a hotel:

Stockholm is a backwater, Dad why can't you let me travel; Mother lets me understand daily, that I am a disappointment. She does not even dare show herself because she is so ashamed of her daughter, and spends her time on the phone complaining about me to friends.¹⁵

It took a year for Bonde to get his divorce. In the meantime, Ebba attended a few months of rural home economics schooling in Rimforsa and then lived with friends in Geneva. On Monday June 21, 1920, they married in the Church of Sweden in Copenhagen. Then Bonde's memoirs dry up. However, it is clear that they had a large intercourse and that Ebba was the

¹¹ Vecko Journalen, 1946:25, ss. 20-21,40.

¹² Gårdlund 1976.

¹³ Linder 1919; Bonde 1943; Gårdlund 1976.

¹⁴ Bonde 1943: s. 200.

¹⁵ Gårdlund 1976: s. 432.

focal point. Around 1923/24, she began to take an interest in the history of religion & took private lessons on the subject with theologian Henning Wijkmark.¹⁶ Alternatively, it was a cover up for her needing someone to entrust her marriage concerns to. She and Bonde reportedly separated in 1925 – they did not divorce, but lived at separate addresses. It has been attributed to the fact that Bonde was 24 years older than Ebba and could not cope with her pace but the more likely cause was their different interests, her addiction (?) and a fling with Eugen that was part of the social circle. Ebba persuaded him to modernize his wardrobe, to exercise - Eugen lost a lot of weight - and pulled him out into society. She was “hostess” at many of his dinners where her own acquaintances, like revue artist Karl Gerhard, were invited. In the summer of 1938, future revue artist Povel Ramel, then 16 years old, was invited to a party at Hörningsholm:

So suddenly the hostess stood there in a queen-like pose [in front of the youth's table]. She patted my head. Young friend! I've heard stubborn rumours that you play the piano!

- Yeah, a little bit, I was shy.

- Do you know “I can't give you anything but love”?

- Oh, yes.

- That's my favourite tune! I want to sing it now. Come on! Come to the wing and give me all the support I need! Come on. Just come!

Ebba Bonde was the very first singer I accompanied. She did not sing entirely in tune, but the performance was extremely personal, with “a nightclub drawl” and a sexy elocution. A peculiar homebrew crossover of Sophie Tucker and Marlene Dietrich. The performance was greeted with applause and the bravos echoed in the vaults.¹⁷

At the time, Ebba probably serenaded her husband. Me thinks it necessary. Her reputation at this time was not the best: “She was a little wild, the countess. She danced with the servants on Midsummer's Eve, her relationship to the coxswain on Skanssund ferry was said to be more than a flirt, inside Stockholm she was often seen out with Prince Eugene [and] she was also allegedly in a relationship with the actor, journalist, exanarchist etc. Charlie Almlöf.”¹⁸ Eric Wennerholm refers to some court gossip about Ebba & Eugen which seems to be from an interview with mistress of the robes Astrid Rudebeck (1893-1982) “The years with Ebba were his youth”, she stated.¹⁹ There is also a letter draft of Eugene from December 30, 1925 - unclear if it was delivered though:

To E[bba]. Dec 30 1925 ... Before this year ends, I need to send you a few words. After all, 1925 is a very special year for us. In any case for me it is you [Ebba] who completely fills it from beginning to end, from morning to morning, except perhaps for those moments when I have been completely lost in sleep or work and even then you are the inspiration. You have awakened forces that were dead, or sleeping or lying frozen, you have made me see life and nature in a new way. I have read many times that love gives man a new view of life and I thought it just some pose, but now it is obvious, irrefutable, visible in my work, it shines so that I am almost embarrassed when I display it, but rather proud at the same time on [Ebba's] behalf. I think I will henceforth sign my work with a double E (drawing). No one should miss what it

¹⁶ Bernadotte 1975: s. 28.

¹⁷ Ramel 1992: s. 168.

¹⁸ Hellbom 2008; Hatwig 2014: del 2, ss.25-26.

¹⁹ Wennerholm 1982.

means! Yes I have said all that before but it can not be said too often or [Ebba] thinks so? Imagine that I in a completely different way than before, quiver before other people, especially women, and I see that they notice, and I think: You may wonder why, but you are not the cause, you are a reminder! And I think they too can see that! Yes, for me this year is the beginning of something new, maybe a start without an end, but we have agreed not to overthink it, we rejoice in the moment. For you it can be nothing than an episode, one of many in your life to come. I think it is sad, but I don't feel any bitterness because it's natural when happiness has come to me only in my 60th year. You probably think that I should feel bitter, if not furious, but I am not like that. That is one of my shortcomings. But why didn't [Ebba] enter my life earlier, but maybe I might not have been ready to receive you until it was too late. No, I'm not saying that. I am grateful for what I have received. I bless this year. I am ready to receive what the next year has to offer.²⁰

The relationship, however it looked, seems to have lasted until 1927:

August 8 to 9, 1927, Anna and Ferdinand Boberg visited Prince Eugen on Örgården. In her diary, Anna wrote: “[The Prince] looks forward to one of his entertainment tours with the junta of aristocratic wasters of both sexes, whose high priestess has become his 'destiny'. But the flames of passion no longer rises to its former height, perhaps it has faltered and turned into friendship, for no man can feel for that kind of women, but compassion. The Prince is loyal and faithful. With his adventure comes responsibility.”²¹

There is no further information, but they continued to socialize as friends. Ebba's 40th birthday in 1936, Eugen confided to Karl Gerhard:

“Before I met Ebba, I never dared to be brash,” said Prince Eugen in a moment of confidence at Ebba Bonde's 40th birthday, which was celebrated with a nightly excursion in the archipelago on Waxholm IL The word brash, pronounced with the guttural Bernadotte r, sounded in his mouth almost touching. He meant that he previously had thought it inappropriate to insert himself in a conversation with some sharp line. And now he dared! He even dared socialize for the fun of it. Many of his old painter friends had passed, then he replaced with new crowd.²²

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In 1926, Ebba became widely known after a protest against Karl Gerhard's summer revue at Södra teatern. This took place in the manner of she and her entourage of young officers in the French manner disturbing the performance by blowing whistles that they afterwards threw onto the stage. The reason was that the revue included a sarcastic number about two parrots commenting on the affairs of Enskilda Banken (her fathers business): “There sit Stockholm's most ravenous predators,” said one parrot. “They devour a bankruptcy for breakfast, an industry for dinner, a sawmill for supper and rinse it all down with hydro electrics.”²³ Later the parties reconciled and Gerhard became part of Ebba's company. Ebba hired Gerhard's

²⁰ Zachau 1991: s. 247, brev till Ebba Bonde 1925-12-30.

²¹ Meister 2015: s. 101.

²² Gerhard 1957: s. 225.

²³ Gerhard 1957: ss. 174-176.

“house journalist” Jules Berman who made sure to mention her in his notices & society reports.²⁴

Other Ebba's entertainments was horses, dancing, tennis & regattas. Not hunting. She participated in NK's celebrity events such as setting tables and dressing Christmas trees on time. There were lots of invitations & lots of booze. Ebba had the ambition to do night-to-day and for that reason also seems to have used benzedrine. She recovered during long boat trips to South America in 1932, 1938, 1943 & 1951. 1945 & 1947 she was admitted to St Erik's Hospital & thereafter to a sanatorium in Switzerland.

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With the outbreak of the war, Ebba began to take an interest in aid work, probably influenced by her relationship with Prince Carl & Princess Ingeborg who were involved in the Red Cross and Save the Children. She socialized in the Professional Women's Club, 1940/41 she was a member of Save the Children and thereafter in the Stockholm Ladies' Society - a society club combining charity with pleasure. To get her way, she also started her own charities. Norway activist Amelie Posse describes the activities:

I would like to take this opportunity to mention that whatever you have to say about Ebba [and her escapades] she has a warm and compassionate heart. When it came to making a vigorous effort to help those affected by the war, her impulsive generosity and inventiveness was truly grandiose. There were no difficulties or material obstacles that she could not overcome. Her innate organizational talent was later channelled into the Finland aid and the Belgian and Jewish aid to children - eventually even into German aid, all which she handled with her usual energy, but probably also with some despotism. She probably was at her best as initiator and commander but caused difficulties in the day-to-day business, where one has to submit to a disciplined collective.

From the war years I remember a long line of brilliant parties for good purposes. They took place in what she called her “garçonnière” - the two top floors of the Enskilda Bank corner house at Östermalmstorg, with an extensive view of the city and during the warmer season the casual trading.

She soon became good friends with a lot of the “higher ups” in the vicinity and also with the drivers who parked nearby during church and such.

Most of the upper floor was occupied by a seventeen-meter-long salon, on two sides surrounded by wide terraces and it was in this picturesque room the famous [entertainment] events were staged. The beautiful Ebba had the most unlimited and varied circle of acquaintances I have ever seen, at least here in Sweden, and she used her influence to milk her rich acquaintances for the charitable purposes that for the moment were top of the list.

Her and Prince Eugene's warm friendship was well known, and the snobs paid anything to be able to enjoy themselves both with him and the long lines of distinguished or eminent persons, Swedish and foreign legation managers, bankers, musicians and other performing artists. The latter were happy to participate, as a rule making the programs both excellent and fun. Especially when it later came to the Norwegian and Danish aid - there were so many first-class abilities among the refugees.²⁵

²⁴ Berman 1953: ss. 120-122; Lyttkens 1984.

²⁵ Posse 1949: ss. 86-87.

What was less talked about was that Ebba with Stockholm Ladies' Society was backed by an organization. The society existed from 1938 to 1958 and peaked at 150 members. Judge's wife Tora Asplund was chairwoman. Ebba was a regular member in 1941/44 and then deputy chairwoman. The meetings took place in Ebba's apartment. "The purpose of the society was to bring together women in a good and happy spirit for mutual well-being and for aid in different areas."²⁶ During the war the society ran projects focused on refugee assistance, neutrality guard, children in need and help to budding singers & musicians. Ebba's famous musical soirées - which the ladies' society helped to organize - gave the projects a basic economy, but in order to run them, further efforts were needed, which were mobilized through press appeals. When the projects got underway, Ebba stepped off. The five most talked about projects were the Finnish & Norwegian aid, the committee for help to Belgian children, the help to "racially-persecuted" children and the help to the German "ruin children" after the war:

- The Finnish aid, the part Ebba was involved in, was initially one of Save the Children's projects. During the Winter War in 1939/40 and afterwards Ebba in this capacity travelled Finland to investigate the need for aid and "as a thank you for the hard work of the countess ... for Finland's destitute, she received the Finnish Freedom Cross at a simple reception in General Mannerheim's home, an award for personal contributions during the country's struggle for freedom."²⁷ January 1943 Ebba made a corresponding private inspection trip to investigate the need for help for the children in Finnish Lapland. This resulted in slot machines (?) being placed in the larger hotels and restaurants whose proceeds went to the establishment of agricultural clubs. Ebba also took the initiative to produce winter shoes for the children through the handicraft associations, so called "tallakor".

During the war the number of orphanages in Finnish Lapland fell from 11 to three. On her 50th anniversary in 1946, Ebba therefor wished for a Finnish orphanage, which she also received, in Posio near Russia. She was assisted in this by the adventurer Aina Cederblom (1896-1986), who was of the same ilk as herself.

- The aid to Norway, the part in which Ebba was involved, was of a lesser extent. Ebba arranged collections of furniture & children's clothes.
- The aid to Belgian children was a 4.5 year long project 1941-1945. The idea was that a few hundred vulnerable "Astrid-children" would spend the war years in Sweden. Prince Carl Bernadotte Jr. was chairman of the board. Ebba was chairwoman of the executive committee. The Germans, however, did not want to let the children go. Instead, aid was arranged on the spot. 100 children at a time, a total of 1700, were accommodated for three months at the so-called Astrid home in Spa, where they were allowed to gain weight, receive new clothes, medical care and go to school. The project was financed through the chain letter "Links of Love" & through collections, about two million SEK.
- In 1943 on Ebba's initiative, a committee was formed for the aid of "racially-persecuted children, a collaboration with the Geneva-based Jewish Organization Sanitaire Européenne (OSE). The main objective was to help Jewish children to a life

²⁶ Aftonbladet 1945-10-17.

²⁷ Dagens Nyheter 1940-12-03.

in Palestine. Ebba was also involved in providing aid to the Hungarian Jews, but her role there is unclear. On behalf of a group of businessmen, private persons and the Mosaic Assembly, she contacted Foreign Minister Christian Günther and in 1944 obtained (?) a commission for her relative, diplomat Raoul Wallenberg to investigate the situation.²⁸

- In 1947 Ebba took yet another initiative - her last - for the German “ruin children”.²⁹ The project was a repeat of the Astrid children. A few hundred vulnerable German children would be allowed to come to Sweden and recover. At that time, state aid was channelled via the Swedish Red Cross (led by Folke Bernadotte) & private aid via the European Aid. In 1946, the European Aid started a soup kitchen for school-children, the so-called “Schwedensuppe”. There was no longer room for independent initiatives. However, Ebba managed to have over 500 children brought over. This seems to have been due to a collaboration with Chief Director Harry Söderman of the Forensic Institute who had good relations with Prime Minister Tage Erlander. After these 500 children, however, Söderman was voted down in a cabinet meeting where he & Folke Bernadotte participated. All help was to be done on site.³⁰ The conflict was described as “the struggle between home and soup”, but was rather an attempt to save the German people's soul. Ebba: “A nation has a collective responsibility to culture as well as human life. You have to save both.” Ebba was bitter:

As the initiator is about to make another trip to the Rhine and the Ruhr, I ask her to say a few words to the readers of this newspaper, who have supported her endeavours:

- With pleasure, replies the Countess. Now that the battle is finally won, I can speak from the heart. For eight long months, I've suffered an irritating war of nerves. The decision has been postponed from week to week. I have run from Herod to Pilate, bombarded the press with articles of my own and of fellow-travelers', had countless conférences, written and received lots of letters. At first it looked dark. Of course the fanatical German haters would oppose me. The resistance from other quarters, surprised me. “Yes,” it was said, “yes we will help, but only by sending food and clothes. By all means let us not bring any little Germans here; in a few years they might be back to occupy us.” I pointed out that all the other neutral countries had long accepted German children and that even some former enemies have followed their example. But the support grew: Reverend Forell in Borås, Rector Lund in Katrineholm and many more.

The prospects brightened and I saw victory loom. But just as I thought the matter was clear, there was a setback. “Someone” did not want it; “Someone” stalled. Often I was in a state, exhausted and close to giving up. My goodness, why should I endanger my health for something nobody wants? I sometimes longed so intensely for my beloved Panama beach, that I was close to abandoning it all, sell my home and my art collections to whoever wanted it, take what Wigforss (the finance minister) graciously allowed me to keep and leave. But my sense of duty woke after every depression. My old mother and my brother Jacob spurred me on.

²⁸ Jangfeldt 2012.

²⁹ Söderman 2010: ss. 235-240.

³⁰ Lindner 1988.

- Since last spring when in the company of Harry Söderman I saw for myself the indescribable misery, there was no longer any doubt: I had to succeed!³¹

When the war was over, Ebba collapsed. Eugen's 80th birthday August 1, 1945, she was hospitalized and refused permission to attend. This prompted her only surviving letter to Eugene:

August 1, 1945. Dear, beloved Uncle Eugene. With deep melancholy I write these lines. I am lost in misery and nothing makes sense. Uncle Eugen will understand how I feel and Uncle Eugen knows where my thoughts are. Try to think it's for my best. Thank you for all the wonderful years, for Uncle Eugen's great friendship and for all our happy memories. As always Uncle Eugene's Ebba.³²

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At Eugene's death August 17, 1947, Ebba was either hospitalized with pneumonia or with depression. From Christmas there is a photograph. Ebba is in a hospital bed under a blue umbrella with astrological symbols surrounded by Christmas gifts & papers about the German ruin children. She received cortisone injections for her insomnia (?) & complained that her fingers swelled up so that she had difficulty writing. In early 1948, she was admitted to a sanatorium in Switzerland, and subsequently toured Italy and Egypt. The relationship with her sons seems to have been shaky. For example, she did not attend the wedding of her son, Peder. In 1950, she continued charity work but to a lesser extent. Her health got worse. She had difficulty moving. The last two years of her life in 1958/60, she was bedridden. Her older brother Jacob helped her as much as she allowed.

There are few photographs of Ebba - probably because she wanted to be able to move about freely - but a flattering portrait of Nils Dardel from her 30th birthday. In 1941 she voiced the Blue Fairy in Pinocchio, and thus her voice is preserved. Her aid projects during the war were about SEK 5 million - not so much compared to the Swedish Committee for International Aid, European Aid, Red Cross and Save the Children. Their total assistance being SEK 1.500 million, 3,200 million if the credits are taken into account. Her friends were aware of this and emphasized her goodwill rather than that her contribution had been of any great importance.³³

³¹ Charlie Almlöf. "Ebba Bondes tyska barn." Dagsposten 1947-07-16.

³² Wennerholm 1982: s. 232.

³³ SIH 1957; Lindner 1988.

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