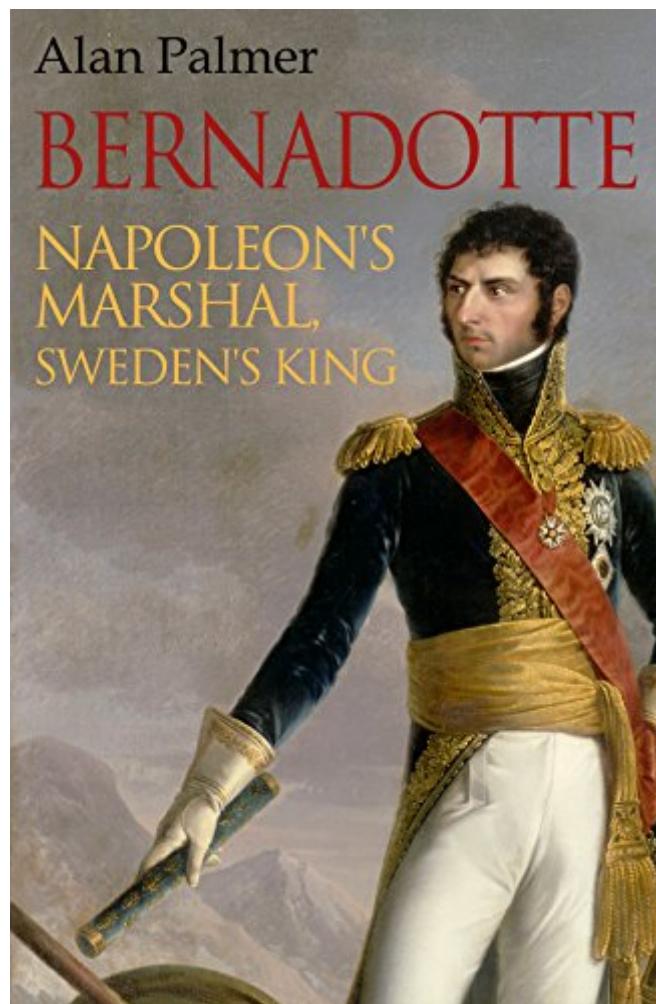


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Bernadotte: Napoleon's Marshal, Sweden's King



Synopsis

A soldier as dashing in appearance as Murat, as brave as Ney, as eagle-eyed as Masséna. At the time this biography was written, over half of Europe's reigning monarchs numbered among their ancestors the Gascon Sergeant Bernadotte. Jean Bernadotte served as King Louis XVI's Regiment of Marines. In the ranks of nobility, Bernadotte was the most complex personality of all Napoleon's marshals. A staunch Jacobin, Bernadotte convinced himself that he should be King of France; though an undoubted hero, he nonetheless narrowly missed some of the famous battles. He was a political intriguer, but he was willing to accept a walk-on part in the major drama of a restless decade. His personal life was equally full of anomalies, not least that strange mutual loyalty which preserved a marriage to Napoleon's first love, Desirée Clary, through a dozen years of separation. Bernadotte was in France while Napoleon fought in Italy. From there Palmer writes of his struggles with the Consul, Emperor and generalissimo, of the battles of Austerlitz and Wagram, and of Leipzig where, as the elected Crown Prince of Sweden, he fought against his old chief. He then became the King of Sweden under the title Carl XIV Johan. Alan Palmer's detailed portrait was the first comprehensive English biography in over half a century, and draws from a great deal of contemporary research by French and Swedish biographers. Praise for Alan Palmer: "A fine piece of narrative history, a combination of suspense and scholarship which actually makes you wonder will he make it?" ANTONIA FRASER'S BOOK OF THE YEAR, Sunday Times "Alan Palmer has done justice to [the] epic events with a lively, vivid narrative, written with the appropriate style and panache." LAWRENCE JAMES, The Times "A superb account of the 1812 campaign and its aftermath." Observer *f* Alan Palmer was Head of the History Department at Highgate School from 1953 to 1969, when he gave up his post to concentrate on historical writing and research. He has written some thirty narrative histories, historical reference books or biographies. In 1980 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. Endeavour Press is the UK's leading independent digital publisher. For more information on our titles please sign up to our newsletter at www.endeavourpress.com. Each week you will receive updates on free and discounted ebooks. Follow us on Twitter: @EndeavourPress and on Facebook via <http://on.fb.me/1HweQV7>. We are always interested in hearing from our readers. Endeavour Press believes that the future is now.

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Customer Reviews

Well written history about a part of Napoleonic Europe I knew little about. Bernadotte had a fascinating career and he is well described. I got the book to learn a few specific things & wound up enjoying the entire read.

Wonderful biography. I'm learning quite a bit about the man from whom my family is descended. Learning a lot about him. I knew that he and Napoleon did not see eye to eye on many things. I'm thankful to have located this book.

Dry. Incredibly dry. As a diehard history buff I had to struggle on this one, and skipped most of it, it was that dry. I gave it three stars out of the respect I have for the research I know had to go into this, but this is only for those who are determined to learn about Bernadotte. It's really a shame that one of the most vibrant, romantic, and dynamic of the Frenchmen involved with Napoleon was taken down to bare facts. This book lacks any kind of passion about the subject. I could assign this to a history class and they'd hate me.

Interesting biography of someone that was a traitor to Napoleon and ended up a king. Drags a bit on the minute details though.

I like reading history, but his reading of Bernadotte's character seemed superficial.

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