

## The Napoleon Series

### The Anhalt Duchies' Military during the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, 1789-1815

By [Daniel Clarke](#)

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### The Anhalt Duchies from the 1790s Until 1806

#### Anhalt-Zerbst Jäger Battalion

This small battalion was organised by Friedrich Augustus, Prince of Anhalt-Zerbst (1734-1793) in 1792, as part of his obligation to provide a contingent for the military forces of the Holy Roman Empire, which were raised to fight against France. After his death during 1793 the battalion remained independent until the end of 1797, when it was amalgamated with an Austrian infantry regiment.

The Commanders:

1792-1797: Captain - Major (from 1796) Friedrich von Piguet

#### Anhalt-Zerbst Dragoon Squadron

Again, this small squadron was organised by Friedrich Augustus, Prince of Anhalt-Zerbst (1734-1793) in 1792, as part of his obligation to provide a contingent for the military forces of the Holy Roman Empire. Just like the light infantry battalion that he provided, after his death it remained as an independent force for some years, before being amalgamated with one of Austria's cuirassier regiments at the end of 1797.

The Commanders

1792-1797: Lieutenant - Rittmeister (from 1796) Andreas Dahle

## **Anhalt-Dessau Jägerkorps**

This formation, which was a single company in size, was formed in 1795 in the Principality of Anhalt-Dessau. It was organised as the principality had gained around a third of the lands of Anhalt-Zerbst, which had been split equally between Anhalt-Dessau, Anhalt-Köthen and Anhalt-Bernburg after Friedrich Augustus, Prince of Anhalt-Zerbst (1734-1793) had died without any heirs in early 1793. Therefore the ruler of Anhalt-Dessau, Prince Leopold III (1740-1817), felt that he had enough inhabitants in his principality to form, maintain and fund his own small military force. This company later formed the basis, or nucleolus, of the Anhalt Infantry Battalion, which was formed as part of the three ruling princes obligations to the Confederation of the Rhine during the early months of 1806.

The Commanders

1795-1806: Captain - Major (March 1795) - Colonel (1805) Friedrich Ernst von Chambaud-Charrier

## **The Anhalt Duchies from 1806 until 1813**

### **Anhalt Duchies Infantry Battalion**

The battalion that the three principalities of Anhalt-Dessau, Anhalt-Bernburg, and Anhalt-Köthen put together in 1806 was used to fulfil their obligations to the newly created Confederation of the Rhine. This formation had a strength of about 800 men, and was in service from the end of 1806 until the beginning of Napoleon's war against Austria in 1809.

The Commanders

1806-1809: Colonel Friedrich Ernst von Chambaud-Charrier

### **5th (Anhalt-Lippe) Confederation of the Rhine Infantry Regiment**

When Napoleon went to war with Austria in 1809, it was decided to organise the formations of the small Rhinebund states into regiments. As many of these small German states could not form their own regiments from the manpower available to them in their own lands, combined regiments were organised from the men of two or more principalities. In the case of the three Anhalt Duchies they combined their battalion, which became the 1st Battalion, 5th (Anhalt-Lippe) Confederation of the Rhine Infantry Regiment,



### **Battalion de Herzogtümer Anhalt 1811**

**Grenadiers & Voltigeurs    Musketiers    Officers    Grenadier Drummer**  
**Attributed to H.A. Eckhert**

with a battalion formed in the principalities of Lippe-Detmold and Lippe-Schaumburg, which became the second battalion of the regiment.

The 5th (Anhalt-Lippe) Confederation of the Rhine Infantry Regiment first fought together during the 1809 Campaign against Austria, and saw some combat in the Tyrol. At the beginning of 1810 it was transferred to Spain, and saw service in the northern province of Cataluña against guerrilla bands. However, on September 14 that year the regiment was practically wiped out at the Battle of La Bisbal, with both battalions being captured in their near complete entirety. Only a few men escaped and were added to the 6th Confederation of the Rhine Infantry Regiment, while a new regiment was being raised through 1811.

At the end of 1811 the few men who had remained in Spain were withdrawn, so that another two-battalion regiment could be organised for the now expected war against Russia sometime in 1812. Hastily put together, this reincarnated 5th (Anhalt-Lippe) Confederation of the Rhine Infantry Regiment first moved to the city of Berlin, Prussia, to form part of the garrison. It was then transferred to the city of Danzig (Gdansk) to become part the garrison there. But, desertion and disease had affected the regiment so much—and, indeed, the other Rhinebund regiments serving in the city—that they were all combined into a single, two-battalion regiment—sometimes referred to as the Europa Regiment—and defended the city

# Anhalt. Lippe.



Offizier.

Anhalt:  
Infanterist.

Lippe:  
Infanterist.

## 5. Rheinbund-Infanterie-Regiment der Fürstendivision. 1812.

Die 3 Anhaltischen Fürstenthümer traten am 18. April 1807 dem Rheinbunde bei, ebenso die beiden Lippe. Die von Anhalt zu stellenden Kontingente betragen für Anhalt-Dessau 2 Kompagnien, Anhalt-Bernburg 2 Kompagnien und Anhalt-Köthen 1 Kompagnie, zusammen 800 Mann, in ein Bataillon formiert. Die Uniform war für die drei Kontingente die gleiche. Das 2. Bataillon wurde von den Fürstenthümern Lippe-Deimold und Schaumburg-Lippe gestellt. (Deimold 500 Mann und Schaumburg 150.)  
Diese Truppen kämpften 1809 in Tirol, 1810–11 in Spanien, wo sie im September 1811 überfallen und fast aufgerieben wurden. Infolgedessen wurde 1812 eine Neuformation vorgenommen. Das neue Regiment gelangte auf dem Marsche nach Russland bis Kowno, wo es auf die zurückfliehenden Trümmer der grossen Armee stiess. Von denselben mit fortgerissen, zog es sich auf Dauxig zurück und theilte die Kämpfe und Leiden der Besatzung während der Belagerung bis zur Uebergabe der Festung.

### Anhalt Infantry 1812 by Richard Knötel

against the Russian siege forces from early 1813 until its capitulation in November that year. The end of the siege effectively saw the end of the 5th (Anhalt-Lippe) Confederation of the Rhine Infantry Regiment as well.

#### The Commanders

1809-1810: Colonel Friedrich Ernst von Chambaud-Charrier

1810: Lieutenant Colonel Anton von Santorini — (Temporary commander while Chambaud-Charrier commanded the 2nd Brigade of General Rouyer's Division, but he died on August 23 in a military hospital in Gerona of disease)

1810: Lieutenant Colonel Johann Andreas Wilhelm Hartmann — (Took command of the regiment when Chambaud-Charrier was recalled to Anhalt-Dessau)

1810-1811: Colonel Herringen — (This officer was from the small territory of Waldeck, and commanded the remnants of the regiment in Spain until it was withdrawn in 1811. He later died during the Siege of Danzig in 1813)

1812-1813: Lieutenant Colonel Georg Hoppe

### **1st (Anhalt) Battalion, of the 5th (Anhalt-Lippe) Confederation of the Rhine Infantry Regiment**

#### The Commanders

1809-1810: Lieutenant Colonel Anton von Santorini

1810: Lieutenant Colonel Johann Andreas Wilhelm Hartmann

1810-1811: Unknown commander of the remnants of the battalion after the Battle of La Bisbal, but it could possibly have been a Captain Barth, who seems to have been the most senior officer remaining from the battalion

### **The Anhalt Duchies from 1813 until 1815**

#### **Chasseurs-a-Cheval of Anhalt Cavalry Regiment**

At the beginning of 1813 Napoleon, after his defeat in Russia, was in desperate need of cavalry for his armies. As such he demanded that the princes of Anhalt provide him with a small, two-squadron light cavalry regiment in place of the infantry battalion that they insisted they could not raise. The regiment was recruited within a short space of time and the quality of the men was poor, most having never ridden a horse in their lives before. On campaign with the I Corps during the late

summer and autumn it suffered from much desertion, and was consolidated into a single squadron just two days before the Battle of Kulm. Here it was wiped out with just 30 men around the colours a few days after the engagement.

The Commanders

1813: Major Leopold Friedrich Lebrecht Bürkner



Reitende Jäger.

Offizier.

Herzoglich Anhaltisches Regiment Jäger zu Pferde.

1813.

Während des Waffenstillstandes 1813 forderte Napoleon von den Anhaltischen Fürsten die Gestellung eines Infanterie-Corps und eines Regiments reitender Jäger. Auf die dringenden Vorstellungen der Fürsten, welche Napoleon auf den Zustand der gänzlich ausgezehren Länder hinwiesen, versand sich letzterer dazu, sich mit der Gestellung des reitenden Regiments zu begnügen. Dieses Regiment wurde zu Dessau formirt und stieß in Bernburg zum Corps Vandamme's. Mit dem 9. Holländischen Ulanen-Regimente bildete es die Brigade Gobrecht, welche im August nach Sachsen aufbrach. In der Schlacht von Kulm wurde das Regiment zersprengt und vernichtet.

**Herzoglich Anhaltisches Regiment Jäger zu Pferde 1813  
by Richard Knötel**

## **Anhalt-Dessau-Köthen Jäger Infantry Battalion**

This battalion was formed after the Allies reached the capitals of the ruling princes of the Anhalt duchies in 1813. It was recruited from prisoners of war who had returned to Anhalt, and any other Germans who could be found to fight against Napoleon. The battalion was later disbanded in January and February 1814 and its men added to the newly raised Anhalt-Dessau-Köthen Infantry Battalion.

### The Commanders

1813: Major Krohn — (A Russian officer, or at least a German who fought in the Russian army, who is proving hard to track down)

## **Anhalt-Bernburg Jäger Infantry Battalion**

This battalion began its organisation in the city of Frankfurt during the summer of 1813—at the same time as the Chasseurs-a-Cheval of Anhalt were being recruited for service with France—as a Freiwilliger unit, and was composed of men from Anhalt and other German states who wanted to fight against France. However, it was never really fully organised, having two companies of regular soldiers and two of Landwehr, who were not properly uniformed, being mostly in civilian dress even when fighting in Belgium in early 1814. In 1815 it was reduced to a two-company battalion, but did take a small part in that year's campaign.

### The Commanders

1813-1814: Major von Sonnenberg

1815: Unknown<sup>1</sup>

## **Anhalt-Dessau-Köthen Infantry Battalion**

After the surrender of Danzig (Gdansk) at the end of 1813, the men from the Anhalt duchies who had served in the garrison were released by the Allies to return home. Here they were organised into the Anhalt-Dessau-Köthen Infantry Battalion in January and February 1814, which was then strengthened by the addition of the men from the Anhalt-Dessau-Köthen Jäger Infantry Battalion, which was disbanded at the same time. This battalion was the main regular force produced by duchies to fight alongside the Allies in 1814 and 1815.

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<sup>1</sup> In his work *The Armies of Germany and the Confederation of Rhine 1792-1815, Volume I*, George Nafziger suggests the battalion was commanded by a Captain, a person who I cannot identify at this time.

The Commanders

1814-1815: Colonel Georg Hoppe

### **Anhalt-Dessau-Köthen Freiwilliger Jäger Korps**

Formed from enthusiastic Anhalters in the first two months of 1814, it was mostly composed of volunteers who had to purchase their own weapons. It was later strengthened with a few men from the Anhalt-Dessau-Köthen Jäger Infantry Battalion to give the volunteer unit some backbone. A small unit of a single company of no more than 50 men, it was attached to the Anhalt-Dessau-Köthen Infantry Battalion when it was sent to Belgium in February. For the 1815 Campaign it had been strengthened to a two-company battalion of perhaps 250 men.

The Commanders

1814-1815: Lieutenant - Major (from 1814/1815) Harsleben

### **Anhalt-Dessau-Köthen Landwehr Infantry Battalion**

The landwehr forces in the small duchies were brought up to full strength in early 1814 for service with the Allies. It was organised as a four-company unit of around 500 men. Not thought to be steady enough to serve as an independent battalion in action, it was partnered with the Anhalt-Dessau-Köthen Infantry Battalion when it was sent to the Low Countries to form a two-battalion regiment, commanded as a whole by Colonel Georg Hoppe. After seeing some service in 1814, the battalion remained within the borders of the Anhalt duchies in 1815 and took no active role in the 100 Days.

The Commanders

1814: Captain Christoph Möbes

1815: Captain Christian Kitzinger

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