

The Napoleon Series

Officers of the Anhalt Duchies who Fought in the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, 1789-1815: Anhalt, Albrecht, Count of

By [Daniel Clarke](#)

Albrecht, Count of Anhalt was born on June 24, 1735 in Kleckewitz (Raguhn-Jeßnitz), in the Principality of Anhalt-Dessau. He was the son of Wilhelm Gustav, Hereditary Prince of Anhalt-Dessau and his first wife Johanne Sophie Herre. Albrecht himself married Sophie Henriette von Wedel in June 1764, and they had five children. Two of them, Friedrich Heinrich Leopold Albrecht (1766-1803) and August Gustav (1772-1823), became lower ranking officers in the Prussian army.

In the early years of the 1750s Albrecht briefly served as a Cadet in the army of the Landgraviate of Hesse-Kassel. But he then transferred to Prussian service as a Lieutenant, being appointed on July 31, 1752, in the 21st Infantry Regiment, von Bredow. Fighting in the Seven Years' War of the 1750s and 1760s, Albrecht was wounded at the Battle of Kunnersdorf (Kunowice) in August 1759. Later, after the war had ended, he was promoted to Captain on June 13, 1765, and went on to gain the rank of Major in the year 1777, remaining in the same regiment. A year after his last promotion he fought in the War of Bavarian Succession in Heinrich, Prince of Prussia's (1726-1802) second army, and received the Pour le Merite for his actions on October 3, 1778. However, with the end of the conflict in 1779 Albrecht resigned from the army, as he was not given promotion to Lieutenant Colonel by Friedrich II, King of Prussia, which he perhaps believed that he deserved.

Albrecht, who had failed to get a position in the army of the Electorate of Saxony, returned to Prussian service in 1788. During the month of May he was appointed Lieutenant Colonel and commander of the 12th Fusilier (Light) Infantry Battalion, von Baehr. With his battalion he formed part of the garrison of Königsberg (Kaliningrad, Russia). During the war with Poland in 1794-1795 Albrecht commanded a small, mixed brigade of infantry and cavalry, and skirmished with the Polish army in the vicinity of Raszyn during the early weeks of July 1794, before they withdrew to the security of Warsaw. It appears that he remained in the town until the end of the month when he rejoined the main army operating in Poland. Even though Albrecht played a minor role in the conflict he was promoted to Generalmajor that December. With this promotion he became Chef of the 53rd Infantry Regiment, von Favrat, which in turn was re-titled Albrecht von Anhalt.

After the war in Poland had ended, Albrecht continued to serve in the army of Prussia until late 1800, when he retired with a small yearly allowance as his pension. Moving back to his home state, he took up residence in Dessau where he died on August 26, 1802.¹

Placed on the Napoleon Series: June 2017

¹ König, Anton Balthasar, *Biographisches Lexikon aller Helden und Militairpersonen*, Band 4 (Volume IV), Berlin, Arnold Wever, 1791, pages 332-333; Rodenbeck, Karl Heinrich Siegfried, *Beitrage zur Bereicherung und Erlauterung der Lebensbeschreibungen Friedrich Wilhelms I*, Band I (Volume I), Berlin, Plahnsche Buchhandlung (L. Nitze), 1836, page 187; [No author found] *Die Fürsten aus dem Hause Anhalt in Brandenburgisch-Preußisch Kriegsdiensten*, *Zeitschrift für Kunst, Wissenschaft und Geschichte des Krieges*, Band 10 (Volume X), Berlin, Posen und Bromberg, 1827, page 127; Straubel, Rolf, "Er Mochte nur Wissen das die Armee mir gehoret." - Friedrich II und seine Offiziere, Berlin, BMV - Berliner Wissenschaft-Verlag, 2012, pages 170, 490-491; von Treskow, Albert, *Der Feldzug der Preussen in Jahre 1794*, Berlin, Schlesinger'sche Buch und Musikhandlung, 1837, pages 117, 150