

## The Napoleon Series

### Officers of the Anhalt Duchies who Fought in the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, 1789-1815: Anhalt, Friedrich von

By [Daniel Clarke](#)

Friedrich von Anhalt was born on May 21, 1732, in Kleckewitz (Raguhn-Jeßnitz), in the Principality of Anhalt-Dessau. He was the brother of Albrecht von Anhalt (1735-1802) and the son of Wilhelm Gustav, Hereditary Prince of Anhalt-Dessau and Johanne Sophie Herre. He was unmarried.

In June 1747 Friedrich entered the service of Prussia with the rank of Lieutenant in the 10th Infantry Regiment, von Anhalt-Dessau. The Chef of this regiment was Dietrich, Prince of Anhalt-Dessau, his uncle and younger brother of his father, who made Friedrich his Adjutant-General. Later, in 1749, another of his uncles, Leopold II, Prince of Anhalt-Dessau, made him his Adjutant, but when he died in 1751, Friedrich II, King of Prussia decided to take Friedrich on to his staff. In January 1752 Friedrich was promoted to Staff Captain in the Leibgarde Battalion of the 15th Infantry Regiment, Friedrich II of Prussia. Fighting in the Seven Years' War, he was promoted to Staff Major in February 1757 and served Augustus Ferdinand, Prince of Prussia (1730-1813) as a staff officer at the Battle of Prague on May 6 that year.

Switching from his staff position to the line during May 1757, Friedrich took command of a Grenadier Battalion in time for the Battle of Kolin (Kolín) on June 18. But, at the Battle of Moys (Zgorzelec) on September 7, Friedrich was badly wounded in an arm and captured by the Austrians, along with the whole Prussian force engaged that day. The wound to his arm was so severe that it was left paralysed and useless for the rest of his life. Friedrich was only released from his captivity and returned to the army during the summer of 1759, but went on to fight at a number engagements during the second part of the war. This included Hoyerswerda in September 1759, Dresden in July, Liegnitz (Legnica) in August and Torgau in November 1760. He received the Pour le Merite in 1761 and was also promoted to Lieutenant Colonel that February. In May 1764 he was promoted to Colonel and took command of the 14th Infantry regiment, von Lehwaldt. A few years later Friedrich was promoted to Generalmajor on May 25, 1770.

However, it seems Friedrich was not entirely satisfied with his lot in the Prussian service. Due to this he joined the army of the Electorate of Saxony in 1777 with the rank of Generalleutnant. In the War of Bavarian Succession, which began a year later, Friedrich commanded the Saxon forces which were attached to the corps of general Dubislaw Friedrich von Platen, and served in the army commanded by Heinrich, Prince of Prussia (1726-1802).

In 1783 Friedrich took the decision to end his active field service, and accepted the 12,000-ruble salary enticement offered by Empress Catherine II of Russia to become the head of the officer cadet school in St. Petersburg. Even so, Friedrich still appears to have played minor roles in the war against the Ottoman Empire in 1787, and later with Sweden in 1788. Friedrich remained in the city until his death on June 2, 1794.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Witzleben, Cäsar Dietrich von, "Anhalt", Allgemeine Deutsche Biographie, Band I, Leipzig, Duncker & Humblot, 1875, page 463; Ersch, Johann Samuel, "Anhalt", Allgemeine Encyclopädie der Wissenschaften und Künste, Leipzig, F. A. Brockhaus, 1819, page 134; Borstadt, Adolf, "Heinrich Wilhelm von Anhalt: Ein Biographische Beitrag zur Geschichte des Königl. Preus. Generalstabs", Militar-Wochenblatt, Beihefte Nr. 2, Berlin, Ernst Siegfried Mittler und Son, 1872, page 143; Lange, Eduard, Die Soldaten Friedrich's des Grossen, Leipzig, Avenarius & Mendelssohn, 1853, page 58-60; Straubel, Rolf, "Er Mochte nur Wissen das die Armee mir gehoret." - Friedrich II und seine Offiziere, Berlin, BMV - Berliner Wissenschaft-Verlag, 2012, pages 406 & 689; [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; Montag, Reinhard, "Friedrich Graf von Anhalt", Lexikon der Deutschen Generale: Die Generale der Konigl Prußischen Armee, <http://www.lexikon-deutschegenerale.de/biografien/preussen>, accessed 09/4/2017