

## The Napoleon Series

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

By [Daniel Clarke](#)

Karl Philipp von Anhalt was born on August 7, 1732, in Capelle (Zörbig), in the Principality of Anhalt-Dessau. He was the first son born from the marriage of Wilhelm Gustav, Hereditary Prince of Anhalt-Dessau and his second wife Henriette Marianne Schardius. Karl is the brother of Heinrich Wilhelm von Anhalt (1734-1801), and half brother of both Albrecht Count Anhalt (1735-1802) and Friedrich von Anhalt (1732-1794). He married Friederike Albertine von Wedel in 1772 and had two children.

In 1756 Karl entered the Prussian army in the artillery just as the Seven Years' War was beginning in Europe, and three years later was given the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. During the intervening period he had fought at the battles of Lobositz (Lovosice) in October 1756, and Prague in May and Leuthen (Lutynia) in December 1757, where he was wounded at the latter engagement. A few years later he was promoted to Staff Captain on September 27, 1761 and also given the Pour le Merite in 1762. A year later, on April 27, 1763, two months after the war was over, Karl was given the rank of Line Captain, which made him an artillery battery commander. During these years Karl had fought in the long-running war in Europe, and it was only over a decade later that he would eventually gain the rank of Major on February 10, 1778, just in time to take part in the War of Bavarian Succession, 1778-1779. Another ten years passed before he became a Lieutenant Colonel in 1787, although he was given command of the newly forming and experimental horse artillery, which saw him posted to the city of Potsdam. In 1790 Karl was finally promoted to Colonel, and in 1794 he was also given command of the 2nd Foot Artillery Regiment.

However, with his growing age and fading health beginning to show, Karl was promoted to Generalmajor in 1795, but promptly retired from service during 1796. Spending the rest of his life in Berlin, Karl died there on May 9, 1806, about a year after his son, Karl Friedrich Wilhelm, had been killed in a duel.<sup>1</sup>

Placed on the Napoleon Series: June 2017

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<sup>1</sup> König, Anton Balthasar, Biographisches Lexikon aller Helden und Militärpersonen, Band I, Berlin, Arnold Wever, 1788, page 51; Witzleben, Cäsar Dietrich von, "Anhalt", Allgemeine Deutsche Biographie, Band I, Leipzig, Duncker & Humblot, 1875, page 463; [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 128