

The Napoleon Series

Officers of the Anhalt Duchies who Fought in the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, 1789-1815: Anhalt-Bernburg-Schaumburg-Hoym, Karl Ludwig Adolf, Prince of

By [Daniel Clarke](#)

Karl Ludwig, Prince of Anhalt-Bernburg-Schaumburg-Hoym was born on May 16, 1723, in Schaumburg Castle, near Balduinstein, in the Principality of Anhalt-Bernburg-Schaumburg-Hoym. He was the son of Viktor I, Prince of Anhalt-Bernburg-Schaumburg-Hoym and his first wife Charlotte Luise of Isenburg-Büdingen-Birstein. He was the older half-brother of both Friedrich Adolf (1741-1812) and Viktor Amadeus (1744-1790). He was married first to Benjamine Gertrud Kaiser in 1748, having one daughter and later, in 1765, to Amalie Eleonore of Solms-Braunfels having five children, one of whom, Wilhelm Ludwig (1771-1799), was a Colonel in the Austrian army.

Karl Ludwig first saw service with the Dutch army midway through the War of Austrian Succession from 1742, when he enters the records as being the Lieutenant Colonel of the German mercenary Waldeck Infantry Regiment. The regiment was later re-titled the 1st Waldeck (Foreign) Infantry Regiment, when a second mercenary unit was raised late in the 1760s. Over the next 30 years he steadily rose through the ranks of the army: in August 1747 he became the regiment's Colonel and commander, he rose to Generalmajor in 1764 or 1765, and finally to Generalleutnant on August 24, 1772. During these long years he had commanded the garrisons of numerous important towns and forts. During the 1740s this included modern day Den Bosch, and as a general the towns of Tiel, Dendermonde (now part of Belgium), the latter from the late 1760s until 1772, the fortified town of Willemstad from 1773 to 1774 and in the late 1770s Tiel and Den Bosch again. Later, in the 1780s and early 1790s, Karl garrisoned some of the largest towns in the country, including Bergen-op-Zoom, Arnhem and Maastricht.

It was in one of his old garrisons, that of Tiel, which the French Revolution found him. But, he was promoted to General der Infanterie on January 10, 1794, just months before the Dutch were knocked out of the conflict, when he was commanding at the city of Breda. After the Netherlands became the Batavian Republic in 1795, Karl maintained his rank and briefly served as the commander of Den Bosch again in 1797, and continued to be listed as serving until as late as 1804. Returning to his little principality, which he had become ruler of in 1772 after his father's death, he governed until his death on August 20, 1806.¹

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1 Siebigk, Ferdinand, Das Herzogtum Anhalt: Historisch, Geographisch und Statistisch Dargestellt, Dessau, A. Desbarats, 1867, page 243; Michaelis, August Benedict, Einleitung zu Einer Vollständigen Geschichte den chur und Fürstlichen Hauser in Deutschland, Volume III, Lemgo, Meyer, 1785, page 662; Bertram, Philipp Ernst and Johann C. Krause, Geschichte des Hauses und Fürstenthums Anhalt, Volume II, Halle, Johann Jacob Curt, 1782, page 644; Dutch Nationaal Militair Museum, Nederlands Militair Erfgoed, Officersnamen, <http://nederlandsmilitairerfgoed.nl/nl/projecten/officiersnamen>, accessed 09/4/2017