

The Napoleon Series

Officers of the Anhalt Duchies who Fought in the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, 1789-1815: Anhalt-Bernburg-Schaumburg-Hoym, Viktor Amadeus von

By [Daniel Clarke](#)

Viktor Amadeus von Anhalt-Bernburg-Schaumburg-Hoym was born on May 21, 1744, 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 second wife Hedwig Sophie Henckel von Donnersmarck. Consequently he was the brother of Friedrich Ludwig Adolf (1741-1812) and half-brother of Karl Ludwig (1723-1806). He married Magdalena Sophie of Solms-Braunfels in April 1778 and had one son who died in childhood.

Like his older siblings, Viktor was enlisted in the Dutch army at an early age. He was given the rank of Captain and commanded a company in the 2nd Oranje Nassau Infantry Regiment. Struggling to make any impressions, firstly in the Dutch army, and later in the Imperial forces overseen by Austria, Viktor chose to join the army of Russia.

Viktor entered the service of Russia in 1772 as an officer in the Chevalier-Garde Cavalry Regiment—later this would become the Lifeguard Cuirassier Regiment. In 1775 he was made a General Major and also commander of the Chevalier-Garde Cavalry Regiment. Promoted again in 1782 to the rank of General Lieutenant, he fought against the Ottomans in the war of 1787-1791. He took part in the Siege of Ochakov (Ochakiv) in 1788, the Battle of Kaushani—where he defeated an Ottoman force of about 8,000 men, capturing their baggage train and practically all of their equipment—and the Capture of Bender in 1789, which is a town in modern-day Moldova.

In late 1789 Viktor was sent to command troops fighting in the Russo-Swedish War of 1788-1790. A mere two or three months away from the end of what turned out to be an inconclusive and futile conflict, Viktor was badly wounded during the battle at Pardakoski-Kärnakoski (Savitaipale) on April 30, 1790. He was on his horse leading a third attack on the Swedish defences when a cannonball smashed his right leg. Viktor died of the effects of his wound on May 2, 1790, a few days after the engagement had taken place.¹

Placed on the Napoleon Series: July 2017

¹ Michaelis, August Benedict, *Einleitung zu Einer Vollständigen Geschichte den chur und Fürstlichen Hauser in Deutschland*, Volume III, Lemgo, Germany, 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 646; Mikaberidze, Alexander, *The Russian Officer Corps in the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, 1792-1815*, New York, Savas Beatie LLC, 2005, page 7; Cust, Sir Edward, *Annals of the Wars of the Eighteenth Century*, Volume IV, 1783-1795, London, John Murray, 1869, pages 37-38, 46-47