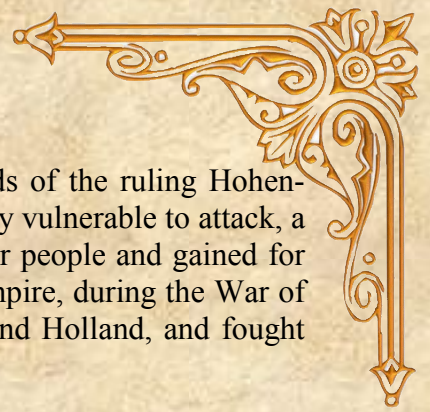


THE PRUSSIAN ARMY OF KING FREDERICK I

By Chris Grice



Prussia has no natural frontiers, being composed chiefly of the ancestral lands of the ruling Hohenzollern family. This jumble of widely spread territories was therefore historically vulnerable to attack, a fact which encouraged successive rulers to foster a strong martial spirit in their people and gained for Prussia a warlike reputation. Although Prussia was part of the Holy Roman Empire, during the War of Spanish Succession many units were hired by the Maritime Powers, Britain and Holland, and fought with distinction under Marlborough.

Prussian infantry, under their famed drillmaster, Prince Leopold of Anhalt-Dessau, was justly famed as among the finest in Europe. The Dutch system of platoon firing was used and, under the Dessauer's tutelage, honed to perfection. The characteristic dark blue had been worn by Prussian infantry since 1691, most frequently faced with red, though there were exceptions. The grenadiers wore low grenadier caps, in common with most of the protestant states of the Empire. Belts were buff leather, as were the trousers worn by other ranks, though those of officers and NCOs might be blue or red cloth.

A Prussian infantry regiment generally comprised two battalions, though these rarely served together. The average battalion had 10 musketeer and two grenadier companies, each 50 – 100 strong, plus a single 3 or 6 pounder battalion gun. Officers and NCOs frequently wore reversed facing. e.g. a red uniform with blue cuffs, to contrast with the blue faced red worn by the men. Officers' sashes were striped black and silver.

The Prussian cavalry did not share in the enviable reputation enjoyed by their infantry comrades, but they were numerous and reliable. Regiments were made up of 2 – 3 squadrons, each 100 – 150 men. The Horse were conventionally trained to charge at the trot, discharging their pistols before closing. Officers sometimes wore reversed facing, like their infantry counterparts; or red coats, like some Austrian officers; but may as frequently have worn regimentals. Musicians usually wore reversed facings.

Prussian dragoons, despite being armed with musket and bayonet, rarely dismounted to fight and were more frequently utilised in battle in the same manner as the regiments of horse.

Prussian artillery was well manned and effective. Artillery officers wore red uniforms, faced orange. Guns and equipment was painted blue, with metal parts in black.

The limitations of web space mean that the coverage of this army is necessarily limited. We do have available for sale a much more in-depth treatment of the subject. Follow this link for more details.

[>>>>click here](#)

The Foot



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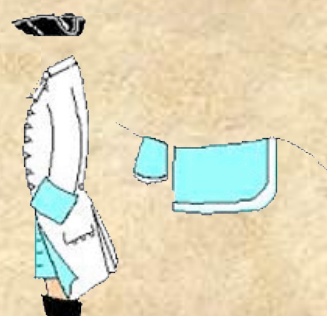
The Horse



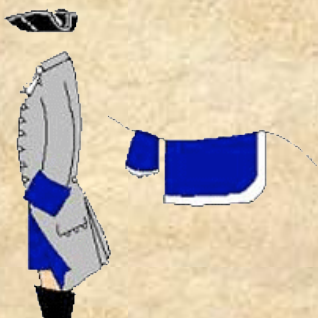
Leibregiment



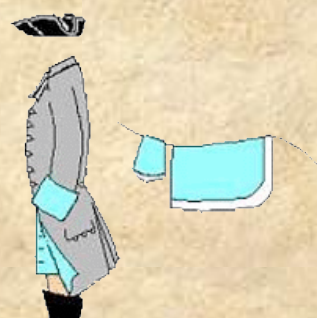
Portail



Markgraf Phillip



Leibregiment



Ansbach



Wartensleben

The Artillery



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