

**THE OUTSTANDING MILITARY GENERAL SERVICE 1793-1814, 6 CLASPS
AWARDED TO GENERALMAJOR HENRY VON BRANDENSTEEN, THE HIGHLY
DECORATED COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE BRUNSWICK ARMY, LATE
PRUSSIAN ARMY, BRUNSWICK OELS LIGHT INFANTRY AND AN ORIGINAL
MEMBER OF THE 'BLACK HORDE' WHO FOUGHT THEIR WAY THROUGH
EUROPE TO JOIN THE BRITISH. HE FOUGHT IN GERMANY, THE PENINSULA
AND AT WATERLOO, WAS WOUNDED ON FIVE DIFFERENT OCCASIONS; AT
THE DEFENSE OF LÜBECK IN 1806, DURING THE PENINSULAR WAR AT
MONASTERIO, THE STORMING OF SAN SEBASTIAN AND AT THE CROSSING
OF THE BIDASSOA AND FINALLY WHILST IN COMMAND OF THE 2ND JAGER
(LIGHT) BATTALION AT WATERLOO**



MILITARY GENERAL SERVICE 1793-1814, 6 CLASPS, FD, SAL, VIT, PYR, ST. SEB, NIVE 'HENRY VON BRANDENSTEEN, CAPT. BRUNSK. LT. INFY.'

Heinrich August Christian von Brandenstein, Brunswick Generalmajor, Commander of the city Brunswick . Chamberlain, Commander of the 1st class of the Brunswick order of the Lion (neck badge), of the Hanoverian Guelphic order, recipient of the Brunswick long service decoration for 25 years, Brunswick medal for the campaign 1809 in Germany, Cross for the campaigns 1810-1814 in Portugal and Spain, Waterloo medal and Military General Service medal 1793 with 6 clasps

The following from his obituary, translated from German:

'Von Brandenstein. was born 26.7.1787 in Prenzlau in the Uckermark where his father was

Garrison Officer. His education differs little of which other sons of officers received during that time. He attended the schools of his fathers city and at the age of 13 years he became a Cadet on 1.3.1800 in the Prussian Infantry Regiment von Kleist (Nr.12) which was stationed in Prenzlau. This regiment had as its Colonel and CO, the Duke of Brunswik-Oels and over the next 6 years, Von Brandenstein was promoted to Ensign and then Second Lieutenant.

By 1806, a year of disaster and the defeats, he took part in the campaign which ended so disastrous for Prussia. Still under the command of Duke Wilhelm von Brunswik-Oels, with his regiment, part of the Corps that was commanded by the Duke of Saxonia-Weimar-Eisenach. This Corps should have marched from Thuringia to Franken but was withdrawn hastily at the 12th October and only arrived at Arnstadt on the evening of 14th October, which prevented it from taking part at the battles of Jena and Auerstedt. At the withdrawal after the defeat, the Duke of Weimar who had taken command, met at Damböck with the troops of the Generallieutenant von Blücher and arrived with them at the city of Lübeck at the 5th November 1806. On the next day Lübeck was stormed by the French. The Brunswick regiment defended the main gate with great Zeal. The enemy columns of the division Dupont which attacked the gate first were stopped, but when 4 French brigades attacked the defending 3 battalions under Duke Friedrich Wilhelm and the Prussians couldn't withstand such an attack. From house to house, street to street they were pushed back and the biggest part of the Duke von Brunswick's regiment was dispersed or captured. Von Brandenstein was captured, having fallen severely wounded at the left knee and became POW.



After the peace of Tilsit on 7th July 1807, Von Brandenstein was sent home and until 1809 was kept of half pay. However when at the beginning of the year, Austria mobilised against France, the Duke Friedrich Wilhelm von Brunswick on his own money raised his famous Brunswick Corps of 2100 men to join Austria against Napoleon. Distinctively attired in black broadcloth with a silvered death's head badge on their hats, they were nicknamed the 'Black Horde'. As first Lieutenant and Adjutant of the 2nd Battalion in the Brunswick infantry regiment of this Corps, Von Brandenstein fought brave and honourably in the campaign in Saxonia and Franken. He was with the Duke of Brunswick who after the ceasefire and truce at Znaym decided to march through northern Germany to England. Von Brandenstein took part at the march, the storming of Halberstadt on 29th July and the battle at Oelper on 1st August 1809. If Duke Friedrich-Wilhelm, as planned earlier, could have stayed longer at the city of Brunswick he wanted to raise along with his Uhlans and Hussars a squadron of Dragoons. Von Brandenstein was already acknowledged as the new commander but the short time stay in Brunswick and lack of time hindered this plan. The Corps now down to 1400 men, at Eisleben Von Brandenstein and the whole Brunswick infantry was shipped to Heligoland and shortly afterwards to England.

Shortly after the arrival at the English coast the Corps was disbanded and re-established as the Brunswick Oels infantry regiment, paid by British money. Von Brandenstein entered this as a lieutenant and later Captain of 9th Company and took part in the remarkable campaigns in Portugal and Spain in the years 1810-1814. During the campaign the Regiment acted as Light Infantry, rarely fighting as a complete regiment, the companies were split between various British Brigades and fought in most of the major Battles of the War and innumerable smaller actions. Von Brandenstein himself fought at the battles of Fuentes D'Onor, Salamanca, Vittoria, Pyrenees, St. Sebastian and Nive. Among the brave he was the bravest. Of all his comrades he was an example of bravery, therefore his promotion to captain 1813 was a just reward. Von Brandenstein was wounded on 13 October 1812 at Monasterio, on the 31st August 1813 at the storming of San Sebastian and at the crossing of the Bidassoa on 7th October 1813.

After the first French Peace in April 1814, Von Brandenstein with his regiment was shipped from Bordeaux, where they stood as garrison until July 1814, thence to the Isle of Wight and finally returned to the German soil at the end of October. Of the men that originally left for England in 1809, only a fraction were left after the battles and hardships of the War in the peninsula. On the 10th November 1814 the regiment reached Brunswick where it was received by the Duke Friedrich Wilhelm and the garrison of the city of Brunswick and marched into the city with cannon salute and jubilation people. The regiment was in English service and money until the 24th December 1814 when it was renamed to the Leibbataillon and returned into Brunswick service. To be returned into Brunswick service meant a lot to Captain Von Brandenstein and during the reorganisation he was promoted Major and Commanding Officer of the 2nd Jäger Battalion (Light). When the war started again in 1815 against the French, A Brigade of approximately 7300 Brunswick troops under the Command of the Duke of Brunswick himself joined the Allied Army under the overall Command of Wellington. Von Brandenstein went with the Brunswick troops to the Netherlands where the 2nd Jäger battalion under his command fought at the battle Quatre Bras on the 16th June 1815. Here the battalion was singled out for Special Commendation where they, along with the 95th Rifles, effectively stopped and outflanking attempt by the French. At Waterloo on the 18th the Battalion again played a laudable part, suffering 203 casualties (about a third of the combatant strength). Von Brandenstein always leading his men and an example for all was severely wounded in the evening by a Gunshot in the left kneecap and Major Koch took over the command of his unit. The Brunswick troops in general acquitted themselves well, they suffered casualties of approximately 2300 or almost a third of the Brigades strength over the two battles! Von Brandenstein himself took long to recover but his robust health and the doctors prevailed. Although for several years he was unable to rejoin the service.



In 1819 finally he took over command of the Leibbataillon. When Duke Karl II became head of State, the black uniform which was worn by the whole Brunswick units was only given to the Leib and Jägerbataillon and the other units were dressed in the Prussian fashion. A new regiment was founded, the Gardegrenadier Regiment and Major von Brandenstein became it's new commander. In 1828 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and at 21st October 1830 when Duke Karl II was replaced by Duke Wilhelm who created new troops, he became commander of the infantry regiment. In 1839 promoted to Colonel he stood in service until 1841 when he asked for his retirement and was retired as Major General. For 6 years he enjoyed, after his long successful career the well earned retirement. Well loved by his comrades and fellow citizens, in 1846 the General lieutenant von Schrader was retired, Von Brandenstein was promoted to Commander of the city Brunswick . This position he fulfilled up to his death on 25th September 1851.'



Condition EF. An outstanding Brunswick Officer's Military General Service medal that would be had to better