

= Friedrich Joseph , Count of Nauendorf =

Friedrich Joseph of Nauendorf , a general in Habsburg service during the French Revolutionary Wars , was noted for his intrepid and daring raids .

Like most Austrian generals of the French Revolutionary Wars , he joined the military as a young man , and served in the War of Bavarian Succession , in which he took part in its first action by successfully repelling a Prussian border raid , which earned him the admiration of the Empress Maria Theresa 's son , Joseph . His continued success in the Habsburg border wars with the Ottoman Empire added to his reputation as a commander .

In the Wars of the First and Second Coalitions , his forces were vital to the successful relief of Mainz , and his commands captured the French siege train and most of the supplies during the French evacuation . In the campaigns in Swabia (1799) , he commanded the advanced guard , and later the center of the main column at the Battle of Stockach on 25 March 1799 . At the First Battle of Zürich in 1799 , he commanded the right wing in the Austrian victory of André Masséna 's force . After the Swabian and Swiss campaigns , he retired in poor health , and died in 1801 .

= = Early career = =

Born in the village of Heilsdorf , in the Saxon Vogtland , 3 August 1749 , Nauendorf came from a family of minor Saxon aristocracy and Prussian state administrators . His grandfather was a states ? attorney in Jena . His father , Freiherr (Baron) Carl Georg Christian Nauendorf , was a cavalry officer in Habsburg military service in the Seven Years ' War , and was present at the Battle of Kolín . He was also part of Baron Ernst Gideon von Laudon 's army on 30 September ? 1 October 1761 , when Laudon led the force in the storming of Schweidnitz .

Nauendorf joined the 8th Hussar Regiment in 1763 . In 1766 , his father became Colonel and Proprietor (Inhaber) of the regiment ; upon his father 's death in 1775 , Dagobert Sigmund von Wurmser became Colonel and Inhaber , and the Regiment became known as 8th Hussar Wurmser , or Wurmser 's Hussars .

= = = War in Bohemia and Silesia = = =

In 1778 , Nauendorf was a Rittmeister (captain of cavalry) of the Wurmser Hussar Regiment , and stationed near the border of Bohemia and Prussia , by Pressburg , the regiment 's peace @-@ time garrison . At the end of the year , the Duke of Bavaria , Maximilian III Joseph , Elector of Bavaria , died unexpectedly of smallpox . As the last of the Bavarian Wittelsbach dynasty , descended from 13th century Holy Roman Emperor Louis the Bavarian , Maximilian was related to most of the German houses , and Bavaria was strategically located to entice the Habsburgs , chiefly Archduke and co @-@ Regent Joseph , to covet the duchy . Tensions rose between and among the princes of the German states , principally Elector of Saxony , King of Prussia , and Joseph ; their diplomats shuttled between courts to resolve problems raised by the Bavarian Succession crisis , while Frederick II of Prussia , Frederick August of Saxony and Joseph of Austria moved their extensive armies into position in Bohemia .

In early July 1778 , the Prussian General Johann Jakob von Wunsch (1717 ? 1788) crossed into Bohemia near the fortified town of Náchod , in the opening action of the War of the Bavarian Succession . Nauendorf had only 50 Hussars , but they sallied from their garrison to engage the larger Prussian force . Encountering Wunsch , Nauendorf greeted the old Prussian general and his men as friends ; by the time the Prussians realized the allegiance of the Hussars , Nauendorf and his small force had acquired the strategic advantage . Following a brief skirmish , Wunsch withdrew . The next day Nauendorf was promoted to major .) . In a letter to her son , Joseph , the Empress Maria Theresa wrote : " They say you are so pleased with the rookie Nauendorf , the Carlstätter or Hungarian who killed seven men , that you gave him 12 ducats . " Enamored with the possibility of acquiring Bavaria , Joseph encouraged successful raids against the Prussian troops . On 7 August 1778 , with two squadrons of his regiment , Nauendorf led a raid against a Prussian convoy at

Biebersdorf in the County of Kladsko . The surprised convoy surrendered , and Nauendorf captured its officers , 110 men , 476 horses , 240 wagons of flour , and 13 transport wagons .

In another raid , on 17 ? 18 January 1779 , Nauendorf 's commander , Dagobert von Wurmser advanced into the County of Glatz in five columns , surrounded Habelschwerdt , stormed the village . In a subsequent assault on the so @-@ called Swedish blockhouse in Oberschwedeldorf (now Szalejów Górny) , it and the village of Habelschwerdt were set on fire by howitzers . In total , the raid resulted in the capture of Prince Adolf of Hesse @-@ Philippsthal and over 1 @,@ 000 men , three cannon and ten colors . Wurmser 's forward patrols reached the outskirts of Glatz , and patrolled much of Silesia 's border with Prussia , near Schweidnitz . Halberschwerdt and Oberschedeldorf were both destroyed .

On 3 March 1779 , Nauendorf raided the Berbersdorf again , this time with a larger force of infantry and hussars , and took the entire Prussian garrison as prisoner . Following this action , Joseph , now Emperor , awarded him the Knight 's Cross of the Military Order of Maria Theresa (19 May 1779) . This kind of action characterized the entire war ; there were no major battles . The armies of the opposing sides conducted series of raids and counter @-@ raids from which they lived off the country @-@ side and tried to deny each other access to supplies and fodder .

= = = Action in the border war = = =

Nauendorf served with the Habsburg forces during the Ottoman wars from 1787 to 1791 . On 19 ? 20 October 1788 , near Toma?evac (present day Serbia) , Nauendorf routed 1 @,@ 200 of the elite Sipahis with two squadrons of hussars . On 23 October 1788 , with only six squadrons of hussars , he attacked the Turkish rearguard in the village of Pan?evo , in the Banat , during which the Turkish commander was mortally wounded . On 16 September 1789 , he led the successful raid on the island of Borecs in the Danube , which garnered greatly needed supplies from the Turkish forces . On 9 November of that year , he led four squadrons of his regiment to capture Gladova , 10 miles (16 km) from the so @-@ called Iron Gate of the Danube . Nauendorf was awarded command of 30th Hussar Regiment Wurmser , as the so @-@ called second colonel , who functioned as an executive officer . On 12 March 1779 , Joseph elevated Nauendorf to the rank of Count , or Graf .

= = Austrian action on the Rhine = =

In 1792 , Nauendorf 's regiment served on the lower (northern) Rhine river and at Trier on the Moselle river in the French Revolutionary Wars . In December of that year , his regiment successfully defended Pellingen , Merzkirchen and Oberleuken from the attacks of General of Division La Barolière 's Army of the Moselle .

In 1795 , Nauendorf served in Field Marshal Charles Joseph de Croix , Count of Clerfayt 's Army of the Lower Rhine , which relieved Mainz . On 13 October , he commanded part of Count Clerfayt 's Corps of Observation , totaling close to 8 @,@ 000 men . On 10 October , a portion of the Corps of Observation had surprised the French at Hochst ; Jourdan was withdrawing his force from the blockade of Mainz . Nauendorf 's cavalry swam across the Main River and the infantry followed in boats ; they surprised and overwhelmed Jourdan 's rear guard at Niederhausen , capturing five guns , 30 + wagons and 80 ammunition caissons . On 29 October , Nauendorf captured most of the French siege train and supply wagons evacuated from Mainz . Finally , in that year on 6 November , his victory at Rothenhausen prevented the unification of the French armies of the Rhin @-@ et @-@ Moselle and the Sambre @-@ et @-@ Meuse .

During the maneuvers leading to the Battle of Amberg on 24 August 1796 , Nauendorf 's cavalry reconnaissance discovered crucial intelligence , after which he sent Archduke Charles the message : " If your Royal Highness will or can advance 12 @,@ 000 men against Jourdan 's rear , he is lost . " After the Austrian victory at Amberg , Nauendorf prevented General Jean @-@ Victor Moreau 's attempted Danube crossing at Neuburg and thwarted Moreau 's next attempt to flank the Austrians by passing through Ulm .

= = = Action in Switzerland and Swabia = = =

When the War of the Second Coalition began in early 1799 , Nauendorf fought in the Austrian victories at Ostrach (21 March) and then at Stockach (25 March) . In early March he led the Advanced Guard of 17 @, @ 000 across the Lech River by Augsburg , to deploy at Ostrach , a village about 9 kilometres (6 mi) of the Danube River , and less than 2 kilometres (1 mi) from the Free Imperial City of Pfullendorf . Jourdan 's Army of the Danube had crossed the Rhine on 1 March , and moved east to cut communication between the main Austrian force , quartered near Augsburg , and the Austrian troops in northern Italy . At Ostrach , his Advanced Guard sustained the immediate shock of contact , but the main force of the army was less than a day behind him , and Archduke Charles , the commander of the Austrian force , divided his army into three assault columns to make a simultaneous attack at three points on the French line ; after a day of nasty fighting , the Austrians flanked the French at the north and south , and threatened to break through the line in the middle . The French withdrew to Mösskirch , and then to Engen and Stockach , where , on 25 March , the fighting renewed . At Stockach , Nauendorf again commanded the Austrian advanced guard , which was composed of troops seasoned , as he had been , in the Habsburg border wars . The advanced guard , or Vorhut , was redeployed before the battle as the center of the main Austrian line , and took the brunt of the initial fighting .

After the French retreat from the Hegau into the Black Forest , Nauendorf took his force across the Rhine between Constance and Stein am Rhein on 22 May , and positioned himself at Steinegg . After Friedrich , Freiherr von Hotze 's column successfully pushed the French out of Winterthur on 26 May , Archduke Charles instructed Nauendorf to secure the village of Neftenbach , which effectively closed a semicircle around the French force at Zürich . Once the Austrian main army united with its left wing , under Nauendorf , and its far left , under Hotze , Charles ordered the assault on Zürich . On 4 June , Nauendorf helped to rout the French force at Battle of Zürich , commanding the Coalition 's right wing ; with sustained pressure on Andre Massena 's force , Massena pulled his army across the Limmat river , and dug into positions on the low ring of hills there , biding his time until the propitious moment to retake the city , which he did in September , 1799 , at the Second Battle of Zürich ; Nauendorf was not present for this action , being with Archduke Charles on a march north , toward Mainz . In 1800 , Nauendorf fought in the Austrian losses at Stockach and Engen on 3 May , Mösskirch on 5 May , and Biberach on 9 May .

Nauendorf retired in poor health at the end of the 1800 campaign . He died in Troppau , Austrian Silesia (today Opava , in the Czech Republic) , 30 December 1801 .