

David Hendrik Chasse

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Born in Tiel (Netherlands) on 18 March 1765, son of Carel Jan Chassé, major in the *Infanterie Regiment No.16 'Godin'* and Maria Johanna Helena Schull.

Army of the Dutch Republic 1775 - 1794

Entered the army of the Dutch Republic as a cadet in the *Infanterie Regiment No.16 'Godin'* (which was renamed '*Von Münster*' on 2 February 1781) on 20 April 1775. Became an ensign supernumerary on 31 May 1781. Serving on the southern coasts of the Dutch Republic from 1781 – 1783. Choosing sides with the patriots (a faction opposing the Orangists who supported the Stadtholder William V of Orange), Chassé resigned on 13 October 1786.

He entered service in the armed troops of the Province of Holland, becoming a captain in the patriot *Infanterie Regiment 'De Win'* on 24 June 1787. Fighting the Prussians coming to the aid of the Dutch stadtholder, taking part in the defence of the cities Muiden and Weesp. The patriots were soundly defeated by the more trained and disciplined Prussian troops, and after the restoration of the stadtholder Chassé was dismissed from the army of the Dutch Republic on 20 October 1787. Like so many patriots, Chassé left the Dutch Republic seeking refuge in France.

French service 1788 - 1795

Unlike many of his fellow countrymen however, Chasse immediately entered French service, to fight for his beliefs: he entered the light infantry as a 1st lieutenant on 10 July 1788. When the Batavian Legion, the *Légion franche étrangère* was raised, he entered the legion, becoming captain and commander of the 1st foot jager company on 8 August 1792. Serving with the *Armée du Nord* from 1792-1795, he participated in Dumouriez' campaign into the Dutch Republic 1793.

On 1 November 1793 the famous *amalgame* took place; the *Légion franche étrangère* became the *30me Demi-brigade Légère*, with Chassé promoted lieutenant-colonel and appointed commanding officer of the 3rd battalion of the *30me Demi-brigade Légère* on 15 November 1793. He served in Flanders under Moreau 1794; fought at Mouscron (30 April), Stade (13 June), and Hooglede. He was wounded in his right arm by a musket ball during the combat of

Yper or Werwick (17 June), and fought at Boxtel 14-15 September 1794. When the Dutch Republic was 'liberated' and the Batavian Republic created, Chassé naturally entered Batavian service.

Batavian Republic 1795 - 1806

Chassé entered Batavian service, keeping his rank as lieutenant-colonel. He became commanding officer of the *2de Bataljon Jagers te Voet* on 8 July 1795, in addition becoming commander of the fortress-city Nijmegen. He served in Germany under Daendels 1796. Embarked on the fleet at Texel roads July - September 1797 for an invasion of Ireland, but this effort was abandoned. Then he fought against the Anglo-Russian invasion of Holland 1799, distinguishing himself. He served in Germany under Dumonceau, 15 July 1800 – 5 April 1801, participating in the siege of Würzburg from November 1800 – January 1801. He distinguished himself during the fighting from 5 - 27 December 1800, capturing an Austrian battery, and taking 400 prisoners during the sortie of 27 December. Promoted to colonel on 18 July 1803 while remaining in command of his jager battalion. Part of Dumonceau's Expeditionary Division 25 November 1803. Becoming commander of the *1e Regiment Lichte Infanterie* on 28 June 1805. Embarked on the fleet at Texel roads August - September 1805. Then going to Germany under Dumonceau, again distinguishing himself; combat of Dümstein 11 November 1805. Returned to the Batavian Republic March 1806.

The Netherlands: Waterloo campaign 1814 - 1815

Known as a loyal, dedicated, and experienced officer, already on 22 October 1814 Chassé entered the young Netherlands army as a major-general. On 22 January 1815 appointed commander of the 1st Military Arrondissement at Louvain. Appointed commander of the 3rd Infantry Division of the Netherlands Mobile Army on 25 March 1815. Promoted lieutenant-general on 21 April 1815. Part of 1st Army Corps commanded by the Prince of Orange in the Allied army under Wellington. Distinguished himself in the battle of Waterloo, where he executed a decisive attack on the French guards at the end of the day. Acting commander of the 1st Corps, replacing the Prince of Orange, on 21 June 1815. Appointed commander of the *Militaire Willemsorde* on 8 July 1815 for Waterloo. Resumed command of his Division on 16 July 1815. Acting commander in chief of the Netherlands army in France during the absence of Prince Frederick of Orange from 16 September – 14 October 1815.