



Little Door to the Eighth of December

Friederike Krüger - A female soldier in the Prussian army

During the liberation wars (1813-1814) volunteered thousands of people to defeat the Napoleonic forces that occupied their territory. They made up 30,000 out of the 284,000-troop strength Prussian army, among them women who disguised themselves as men. Due to the general hustle and bustle, no proficiency tests were done. Even after they were discovered, some of them stayed in the army. One of them was Friederike Krüger (1789-1848) who was a trained seamstress before she signed up as 'August Lübeck'. She cut her hair and wore men's clothing as did the others.

She was injured by a shrapnel in Dennewitz on 6th September 1813; still on the battlefield, she was promoted to the rank of corporal and stayed in service until 1815. She received the Iron Cross 2nd Class for her service and died in 1848.



Sources: P.M. Zu Unrecht Vergessen (Wrongly Forgotten) <https://www.pm-wissen.com/zu-unrecht-vergessen/a/wer-war-die-soldatin-friederike-kruege/8183/>

ZeitGeschichte, Preussen: Aufstieg und Fall einer Großmacht - von 1415 bis Heute (Prussia: Rise and Fall of a Major Power - from 1415 until Today), p. 62