Frederick the Great's Allies 1756–63

Stuart Reid • Illustrated by Gerry & Sam Embleton
CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION  3
• The background to the British–Hanoverian alliance with Prussia

CHRONOLOGY  4

HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S ARMY IN GERMANY  5
• Composition and command

ORGANIZATION & UNIFORMS:
CAVALRY  7
• Brunswick
• British: Royal Horse Guards – Dragoon Guards – Horse – Dragoons
• Hanoverian: Guard – Line Cuirassiers – Line Dragoons
• Hessian: Horse – Dragoons
• Prussian: Dragoons

INFANTRY  15
• Brunswick
• British: Footguards and Line
• Hanoverian: Footguards and Line
• Hessian: Footguards and Line – Militia
• Prussian: Fusiliers

TECHNICAL TROOPS  24
• Brunswick artillery – British artillery – Buckeburg contingent – Hanoverian artillery – Hessian artillery

LIGHT TROOPS  35
• Brunswick: Hussars – Jägers – Light Infantry – Auxiliary Volunteers
• British: Light Dragoons – Highlanders – Fraser’s Chasseurs – Légion Britannique
• Buckeburg contingent
• Hanoverian: Hussars – Jägers – Scheither’s Freikorps
• Hessian: Hussars – Jägers – Frei-Regiment von Gerlach
• Prussian: Hussars – Freikorps von Trumbach

PLATE COMMENTARIES  42

INDEX  48

Frederick the Great’s Allies 1756–63

Men-at-Arms • 460

Stuart Reid • Illustrated by Gerry & Sam Embleton
Series editor Martin Windrow
FREDERICK THE GREAT’S ALLIES 1756-1763

INTRODUCTION

A more valid title for this study might actually be His Britannic Majesty’s Army in Germany, for in reality Frederick II the Great of Prussia had very few allies during the Seven Years’ War, and all of them were grouped together into a single army, largely in British pay. This was led at first by King George’s son William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, and subsequently by a Prussian general, the Erzhog Ferdinand of Brunswick.

The key to it all, however, was Hanover, whose monarchy was held simultaneously by King George II of England. As Elector of Hanover he was at peace with the world in 1756, but as King of England he was simultaneously engaged in a low-intensity war with France in the American colonies and in India. When this conflict began to escalate, France decided to retaliate by threatening King George’s vulnerable Electorate of Hanover. At that time a defensive alliance was still in force between France and Prussia, and it was tactfully suggested by the envoys of King Louis XV that if Frederick cared to invade Hanover, France would reciprocate by attacking his enemies in the Austrian Netherlands (modern Belgium). Hanover was all but defenceless, possessing no natural boundaries, and half her army was abroad protecting England against the illusory threat of French invasion. Nevertheless, Frederick, who had troubles enough of his own, declined this ingenious invitation, while kindly offering France the use of the Rhineland fortress of Wesel for any attempt she might care to make on her own account.

For his part, George II’s prime minister William Pitt initially responded to this threat by concluding a not very secret alliance with Russia, promising the Empress Elizabeth I a substantial financial subsidy for launching a seaborne invasion of Prussia in the event of any Prussian attack on Hanover. Then, with this precaution in place, the British ambassador presented Frederick with a full copy of the Russian treaty – and an invitation to enter into a defensive alliance with
Britain and Hanover, in order to neutralize this 'Russian threat' and safeguard the Electorate... Although this was a particularly blatant piece of blackmail, Frederick readily assented to the proposal, which made far more strategic sense for Prussia than the existing alliance with France. Thus rebuffed, Louis XV proceeded instead to enter into a defensive alliance with the Holy Roman Empire (Austria), with whom she had been intermittently at war for the past 200 years and more.

With the old patterns of alliances completely turned on their heads, and with his western flank thus secured, Frederick of Prussia embarked upon an invasion of France’s ally Saxony in August 1756, thus beginning the Seven Years’ War.

**CHRONOLOGY**

1756:
- 16 Jan: Britain and Prussia sign Convention of Westminster
- 1 May: France and Austria (Empire) sign Treaty of Versailles
- 19 June: Prussian mobilization begins
- 28 Aug: Prussian invasion of Saxony, beginning the Seven Years’ War

1757:
- 25 Mar: French hussars exchange fire with garrison of Geldern
- 14 Apr: Duke of Cumberland assumes command of Hanoverian Army
- 26 July: After French and Imperialists invade Hanover, Cumberland is narrowly defeated by Marshal d’Estrées at Hastenbeck
- 10 Sept: Armistice with French signed at Kloster Zeven
- 5 Nov: (Prussians defeat French and Imperialists at Rossbach)
- 23 Nov: Ferdinand of Brunswick assumes command of Allied army
- 28 Nov: Allied breakout begins, leading to French withdrawal
- 5 Dec: (Prussians defeat Imperialists at Leuthen)

1758:
- 12 June: Allied victory at Krefeld
- 23 July: French victory at Sandershausen
- 3 Aug: First British contingent disembarks at Emden
- 10 Oct: French victory at Lutterberg

1759:
- 13 Apr: French victory at Bergen, near Frankfurt
- 1 Aug: Allied victory at Minden
- 12 Aug: (Russians and Imperialists defeat Prussians at Kunersdorf)

1760:
- 10 July: French victory at Korbach
- 16 July: Allied victory at Emdorf
- 31 July: Allied victory at Warburg
- 5 Sept: Allied raid on Zierenberg

16 Oct: Allies checked at Kloster Kamp
25 Oct: (King George II of England is succeeded by George III, who will gradually abandon alliance, reducing subsidies to Prussia and withdrawing British troops)
3 Nov: (Prussians win costly victory at Torgau)

1761:
- 16 June: Allied victory at Vellinghausen
- Oct: Allied army forced to retreat to Brunswick

1762:
- 5 Jan: (Empress Elizabeth of Russia succeeded by Tsar Peter III, who opens peace negotiations with Prussia)
- 22 May: (Treaty of Hamburg - Sweden withdraws from anti-Prussian alliance)
- 24 June: Allied victory over French at Wilhelmshaus
- 9 July: (Empress Catherine II deposes Tsar Peter, but does not renew war with Prussia)
- 21 July: (Prussians defeat Imperialists at Burkersdorf)
- 23 July: Allied victory over French at Lutterberg
- 30 Aug: French victory over Allies at Naumburg
- Oct/Nov: Allied army drives French back over Rhine
- 15 Nov: Armistice signed between Allied and French forces

1763:
- 16 Feb: With all belligerents exhausted, Treaty of Hubertusburg between Prussia and Holy Roman Empire finally ends Seven Years’ War

**HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY’S ARMY IN GERMANY**

The largest part of the army was its Hanoverian contingent, which comprised not only the entirety of the Hanoverian army proper, but also included small subsidiary contingents from the neighbouring states of Sachsen-Gotha and Buckeburg; these were directly in Hanoverian pay, and were ultimately absorbed into the Hanoverian army. Excluding those contingents, at the outbreak of war the Hanoverian army had an establishment of some 29,000 men, mustering 34 squadrons of cavalry, 29 battalions of infantry and 8 companies of artillery. Light troops amounted to just one company of hussars and six of Jigers. During the course of the war the establishment of regular troops was increased only slightly, but the light troops would expand more than four-fold.

Next in order of importance came the armies of Hesse-Kassel (not to be confused with Hesse-Darmstadt) and Brunswick, which were not allied contingents in a political sense but were directly...
The Allied army developed into an efficient fighting machine, which for much of the war secured Frederick’s vulnerable western flank against the French and left him free to concentrate on his many other enemies to the north, east and south. In the process it produced one of the British Army’s most famous battle honours in its ‘Year of Victories’—Mindén, 1759.

ORGANIZATION AND UNIFORMS:

CAVALRY

The mounted element of the Allied army can essentially be divided between ‘battle cavalry’—variously designated as Kürassier, Karabinier, Cavallerie, Reiter, Horse or Dragoons; and hussars, who are separately described in this text under the heading ‘Light Troops’ (below).

At the outset, Ferdinand does not appear to have been particularly impressed by his battle cavalry, who seemingly manoeuvred slowly, and demonstrated a distinct preference for shooting it out with carbines rather than relying on swift movement in the Prussian style. This may seem surprising, since the superiority of shock tactics had been repeatedly demonstrated since the early 17th century; yet time and again cavalry had manifested a reliance on firearms rather than charging home with the sword. This was not a question of clinging to outmoded doctrines, but was rather due to a lack of peacetime training at any level above that of the single troop of horse. Armies suffered from the absence of any real opportunities to practice cavalry manoeuvres at regimental level, let alone in brigades or larger formations. Consequently, when a replacement was required after the botched battle of Hastenbeck in July and Cumberland’s subsequent armistice at Kloster Zeven in September 1757, Frederick was only too keen to allow his brother-in-law, Ferdinand of Brunswick, to take over command.

This appointment was at first welcomed by George II, but later regretted, when it became clear that Ferdinand (unsurprisingly) regarded co-operation with Frederick to be a higher priority than the defence of Hanover. Nevertheless, under Ferdinand’s command the
original contract for Allied service, but in 1759 it was added to the subsidiary contingent. It was also enlarged before joining the army, converting to Karabiniere status and being increased to six companies totalling 50 officers and men, organized in three squadrons.

The original uniform is depicted in our Plate G3, but upon becoming Karabiniers an entirely new uniform closely resembling that of Prussian cuirassiers was adopted instead. This comprised a buff-coloured Kolle with red cuffs and trim—a short, single-breasted coat fastened with hooks rather than buttons, which had evolved from the thick buff-leather coats worn by 17th century cavalrymen—with a red sash and sabretache, and a black cuirass. (The change in status was evidently expensive, and in 1772 the regiment would revert once again to being dragoons, adopting a Prussian-style uniform with sky-blue coats faced yellow.)

**BRITISH CAVALRY**

From the outset of the alliance Frederick of Prussia had requested that some British cavalry be sent to Germany. The request was made in hope rather than expectation, but to his delight six cavalry regiments totalling 14 squadrons landed with the first contingent in August 1758, and another 14 squadrons at various dates between May and July 1760, for a total of 28 squadrons (exclusive of the three-squadron 15th Light Dragoons, described here under ‘Light Troops’).

Like their continental counterparts, the British cavalry comprised regiments designated as both Horse and Dragoons. Since 1746 a number of the former had been redesignated as Dragoon Guards as an economy measure, but in practical terms this terminological alteration made no real difference. Their basic organization was similar to that of the Hanoverian cavalry, with six companies (designated as ‘troops’) in each regiment, grouped into two squadrons; however, two of the regiments serving in Germany—the Royal Horse Guards and the 1st Dragoon Guards—had nine troops apiece, grouped in three squadrons. In 1756 an additional ‘light’ troop was added to all but the Horse Guards, but it is unclear whether these actually served in Germany.

British cavalry uniforms were different from their German counterparts in two important regards. In the first place, with the exception of the Royal Horse Guards (‘the Blues’), all wore red coats in conformity with their infantry comrades, rather than a contrasting colour. Secondly, in German armies it was usually the case that dragoons were distinguished from heavier cavalry by the addition of contrasting-coloured lapels on their coats. In the British service this convention was reversed, with regiments of Horse having fairly narrow full-length lapels on their coats, while Dragoon Guards had infantry-style half-lapels, and Dragoons wore double-breasted coats (normally worn open over waistcoats) without lapels.

Facing colours were displayed on cuffs, lapels and turnbacks, and also in waistcoats and breeches. None of the regiments had lace edge-binding to the lapels or cuffs; otherwise the usual conventions were observed, with button-loops, hat lace and, in the case of Dragoons, the aiguillettes on the right shoulder all corresponding to the button colour (i.e. white/silver or yellow/gold). There is no evidence that any of the Dragoon regiments still maintained grenadier companies wearing mitre caps at this period, but all ranks of the 2nd Royal North British Dragoons did so, at least for guard mountings and formal parades.

Equipment was of buff leather with the exception of the 2nd RNB Dragoons, who whitened their belts (although it seems likely that other regiments followed this trend over time, since it was confirmed in the 1764 Warrant). The Blues and regiments of Horse and Dragoon Guards carried their swords on a baldric slung over the right shoulder, crossed with the usual carbine belt slung over the left shoulder; a decorative flax cord in the facing colour was attached to the centre of the latter. Dragoon regiments carried their swords (and bayonets) frogged from a belt around the waist, and had an infantry-style cartridge box on a sling over the left shoulder.

Both types of cavalry were equipped with broadswords with basket hilts of regimental pattern, and carbines. Those carried by Dragoons were in effect slightly shortened infantry muskets, and were easily distinguished from those carried by Horse and Dragoon Guards by the fact that the latter, although only very slightly shorter, were fully stocked to the muzzle and could not be fitted with a bayonet.

Horse furniture was to be of the same colour as the facings, except in the 1st King’s Dragoon Guards and 1st Royal Dragoons, which both
Knötel illustrations of Hanoverian dragoons.

**Left:** Dragoner-Regiment von Bussche. One company of each dragoon regiment was designated as grenadiers and accordingly wore a mitre cap rather than the usual tricorn, in this case of dark blue cloth with yellow trim. White coat with blue cuffs, lapels and turnbacks, yellow metal buttons. Buff waistcoat and breeches; buff leather equipment – note grenadier's brass matchcase on cartridge box sling. Horse furniture is blue – see text for this unit's complex edging arrangement.

**Right:** Dragoner-Regiment von Dachenhausen. White coat with red cuffs, lapels and turnbacks, and red cords on right shoulder; white lace edging to cuffs and lapels, and white lace button-loops. Buff waistcoat and breeches, buff leather belts. Horse furniture red, edged white-and-black; white horse of Hanover surrounded by white wreath surmounted by crown.

Knotel illustrations of Hanoverian dragoons. 6th Inniskilling Dragoons: Full yellow facings; white lace with loops set in pairs (see Plate E3) 7th Queen's Dragoons: White facings and lace, with loops set three and three 10th Dragoons: Deep yellow facings; white lace with loops set three, four and five 11th Dragoons: Buff facings; white lace with loops set three and three

**Hanoverian Cavalry**

The Guard cavalry comprised one regiment designated as Garde du Corps, with three companies forming a single squadron, and mustering at the outset a total of only 188 officers and men. A second regiment was designated as Grenadier zu Pferde (Horse Grenadiers), and while organized in two companies rather than three it had a near identical establishment of 187 officers and men.

Both regiments wore red coats, with straw-coloured waistcoats and breeches. The Garde du Corps were distinguished by red cuffs, dark blue turnbacks and silver lace; the Grenadier zu Pferde had black cuffs and lapels, red turnbacks, and cloth mitre caps in place of cocked hats. These had black fronts bearing the arms of Hanover in gold with gold scrollwork; the frontal ‘little flap’ was red, with the white horse of Hanover and the motto Nec Aspera Terram in white. The rear of the cap was in reversed colours, the main ‘bag’ part being red piped in gold, with a black headband embellished with gold grenades.

As quasi-dragoons the Grenadier zu Pferde carried infantry-style cartridge boxes on the right hip and belts in buff leather, and a ‘booted’ musket (i.e. slung from the shoulder, with its butt held in a pocket or ‘boot’ strapped to the saddle in front of the right leg), in place of the carbine hooked to a crossbelt, as issued to cavalry regiments proper such as the Garde du Corps.

Hessian Leib-Dragoner, by Knotel. The red facings on the blue coat brought this regiment the name of ‘der Rote Dragoner’, distinguishing them from the other Hessian dragoon regiment, which had yellow facings.

Both regiments had red saddle housings (horse furniture), bordered in silver for the Garde du Corps and in yellow and black for the Grenadier zu Pferde. One source states that the former were mounted on grey horses.

The Line cavalry were similarly divided, between cuirassiers and dragoons: the principal difference between the two was in internal organization. The Leib-Regiment (‘body[guard] regiment’) and seven regiments of Kuirassiere each comprised six companies, formed into two squadrons, with a total establishment of 361 officers and men. The four dragoon regiments were considerably larger, each having eight companies organized in four squadrons, with a total of 715 all ranks.

All cavalry regiments wore white coats with facing-coloured collar, cuffs and turnbacks; straw-coloured ‘smallclothes’ (waistcoats and breeches); and either tin or brass buttons matching their hat-lace colour. Notwithstanding

Regimental distinctions:

( * Units marked thus landed with the first British contingent in 1758.)

Royal Horse Guards* Blue coats faced red; red waistcoat and breeches; brass buttons, gold lace on hat
1st King's Dragon Guards* Blue facings; yellow lace with button-loops set in pairs; gold hat-lace
2nd Queen's Dragon Guards Buff facings with half-lapels; yellow lace with loops set three and three
3rd Dragoon Guards* White facings with full-lapels; yellow lace with loops set in pairs
2nd Horse Green facings with full-lapels; yellow lace with loops set in pairs
3rd Horse (Cavabiniere) Pale yellow facings with full lapels; white lace with loops set in pairs
4th Horse Black cuffs and full lapels; buff turnbacks, waistcoats and breeches; yellow lace with loops set in pairs
1st Royal Dragoons Blue facings; yellow lace with loops set in pairs
2nd Royal North British Dragoons* Blue facings; white lace with loops set in pairs

This unit had a number of peculiarities: in addition to their grenadier caps, they were distinguished by riding grey horses (and their eccentric commanding officer; Col Preston, insisted on wearing an old-fashioned buff coat in action)
their designation, none of the cuirassiers actually wore armour at this period. Dragoons differed in having facing-coloured lapels on the front of the coat, and their original status as mounted infantry was also marked by one of the eight companies being designated as grenadiers, distinguished by wearing mitre caps. Equipment comprised buff belts, a steel-hilted sword, a pair of pistols in saddle-holsters and a carbine. Like the Grenadiere zu Pferde, dragoons carried infantry-style cartridge boxes, belts in buff leather, and a ‘booted’ musket in place of the carbine and belt issued to cavalry regiments.

Regimental numbers were not allocated until the post-war reorganization; as was customary in most regiments, each unit was instead referred to solely by the name of its current Inhaber or colonel-proprietor. (However, for the avoidance of confusion, in this text all regiments in the Hanoverian, Hessian and Brunswick armies are referred to by the name of their 1756 Inhaber.)

Regimental distinctions – Cuirassiers

**Leib-Regiment** Yellow facings and lace; white/red hat pompons. Yellow saddle housings, red edging with black half-circles; device of cypher within crowned garter, with white and red scrollwork

**Skotlen** Orange facings, yellow lace, white pompons. Orange housings edged with two bands of light blue with a double zig-zag in yellow; white horse badge within crowned garter, no scrollwork

**Dachsenhausen** Light green facings, white lace, white pompons. Light green housings edged with yellow/white/red scroll pattern; white horse within crowned garter

**Hammerstein** Dark green facings, yellow lace, green/white pompons. Dark green housings, with a border of yellow and white rectangles edged in red; cypher within crowned garter, with red, yellow and white scrollwork

**Gotthaus** Crimson facings, yellow lace, silver pompons. Crimson housings, edged with white spiral scroll edged yellow between two yellow stripes; white horse within crowned garter, yellow and white scrollwork

**Hohenburg** Scarlet facings, white lace, blue pompons. Scarlet housings edged with border of three stripes of red and black diagonals edged yellow; cypher within crowned garter, white and yellow scrollwork

**Wallhausen** Dark blue facings, yellow lace, blue pompons. Dark blue housings edged with white and yellow diagonals; white horse within crowned garter; red, white and yellow scrollwork

**Gilden** Sky-blue facings, white lace, white pompons. Sky-blue housings, with broad red border edged yellow/blue/yellow; white horse within crowned garter, no scrollwork.

Regimental distinctions – Dragoons

**Dachtenhausen** Red facings, white lace, white pompons. Red housings with border of the same edged white and black; white horse within crowned black and white scrollwork

**Breidenbach** Light blue facings, white lace, white pompons. Light blue housings with narrow outer edge of one red stripe on white, and an inner border of two red stripes on white; white horse within crowned garter, white scrollwork

**Bassche** Bright blue facings, yellow lace, white pompons. Bright blue housings with outer border of white edged yellow with blue zig-zag, and inner border of red edged yellow, with white scroll intertwining a white central stripe; white horse within crowned white scrollwork

**Beek** Scarlet facings, yellow lace, white pompons. Scarlet housings, yellow border bearing pattern of red diamonds with blue centres, edged first with blue, and then on either side a red stripe edged with white with a white zig-zag. Device of white horse within crowned garter placed entirely within unusually broad border.

**Hessian Cavalry**

As usual, the Hesse-Kassel cavalry were divided between Horse – in this case designated as Reiters – and Dragoons, with the former accounting for eight squadrons paired into four regiments, while the latter comprised two larger regiments each of four squadrons. Following the accession of the Landgraf Frederick II in 1760, a dramatic but ultimately insubstantial reorganization of the army took place. The Landgraf himself had served (with scant distinction) in the Prussian army, and immediately set about remodelling his own in the Prussian image. In the case of the cavalry a small Garde du Corps was added to the establishment, though apparently serving only in a ceremonial role. The four Reiter regiments were redesignated as Kürassiere, duly exchanging their white frock coats for buff-coloured Prussian-style Kollets, with facing-coloured sashes...
supporting waist-level sabretaches. They should also have received black cuirasses, but there seems to be some doubt as to whether these were actually issued.

**Regimental distinctions**

*Leib-Regiment* Initially, white coats with red collars, cuffs, lapels and turnbacks; buff waistcoats and breeches, and brass buttons. Pompons, appearing at the sides of the hat but not at the front, were plain red. In 1760 the regiment was redesignated *Genadarmen* and given buff-coloured Kollets, again with red collar and cuffs, and red waistcoats.

*Reiter-Regiment Wilhelm* Same uniform but with dark blue facings; this unit became the *Kurassiere-Regiment Ersatz* in 1760.

*Reiter-Regiment Militia* Similarly dressed but with green facings; (1760) became *Kurassiere-Regiment Ersatzeid*.

*Reiter-Regiment Pruschk* Light blue facings, and differed from the others in having tin rather than brass buttons. (1760) became *Kurassiere-Regiment Wolff*.

For all four regiments the saddle housings were of the facing colour, with two bands of yellow or white edging according to button colour.

Unsurprisingly, the uniform of the two Hessian Dragon regiments was patterned after that of the Prussian army. David Morier in 1748 (and Richard Knötel following him) depicts the coat as being fairly dark blue in colour, but it is possible that this was altered to Prussian sky-blue under the 1760 reforms. Both units had buff-coloured waistcoats and breeches, and whitened leather equipment. As with the other cavalry units, horse furniture was facing-coloured, edged with two bands of lace.

*Leib-Regiment* (*'Rote Dragoner') Red collars, cuffs, lapels and turnbacks; yellow hat lace; yellow aiguillette on right shoulder.

*Dragoner-Regiment Prinz Friedrich* Yellow facings, white lace and cords.

**PRUSSIAN CAVALRY**

Early in 1758 Ferdinand of Brunswick was reinforced by a small brigade of 15 squadrons of Prussian regular cavalry commanded by Duke George Ludwig of Holstein-Gottorp. Ten of these squadrons were dragoons, belonging to *Regiment Nr.9* (Holstein-Gottorp) and *Regiment Nr.10* (Finckenstein). The other five squadrons were hussars (see under 'Light Troops', below).

The experiment was successful; each in their own ways, Holstein-Gottorp's dragoons and hussars proved extremely effective, and their example went a long way to increasing the overall efficiency of the other Allied cavalry. Unfortunately, Frederick the Great soon began demanding their return as he himself came under ever greater pressure from the Imperialists and Russians. Ferdinand was extremely reluctant to lose their services, and prevaricated to the point of insubordination before eventually releasing the dragoons in 1760, but the hussars remained under his command until the end of the war.

Both dragoon regiments wore sky-blue coats; *Nr.9* had sky-blue collars, cuffs, and turnbacks, and *Nr.10* wore orange facings. Neither regiment had lapels, but both wore a white aiguillette – i.e. a knot of cords in the button colour – attached behind the right shoulder. Waistcoats and breeches for both were straw-coloured, and horse furniture was facing-coloured.

**INFANTRY**

With the exception of the Hesse-Kassel contingent, discussed below, infantry regiments normally comprised single battalions, from which the grenadier companies were detached to serve in composite grenadier battalions. Initially these were used simply as additional battalions on the field of battle; but as the war went on they were increasingly detached for employment in Kleinkrieg ('little war') operations, to stiffen the rather dubious materials making up the various 'free corps' also entrusted with such missions.

Infantry tactics went through a process of change under the leadership of Ferdinand of Brunswick. At the outset of the war the 'platoon-firing' system was in favour; battalions were drawn up in three ranks and arbitrarily told off into lateral platoons, which then fired in a pre-arranged sequence intended to maintain a continuous rolling fire. As with the prevailing cavalry tactics, this tended to be a rather ponderous business, requiring a degree of training not always attainable under wartime conditions. Accordingly Ferdinand introduced the much simpler Prussian 'alternate-firing' system, under which companies were paired off to fire alternately in their own time. The same system had also been introduced (albeit unofficially) to the British Army by James Wolfe, and the integration of British and German infantry was consequently a good deal smoother than the parallel integration of the first cavalry contingent.

**BRUNSWICK INFANTRY**

Brunswick infantry regiments each consisted of five 'musketeer' (*Musketier*) companies and one grenadier company. On paper the total establishment of each regiment was 1,470 officers and men, but aside from the usual attritional problems each unit was weakened in wartime by the permanent detachment of the grenadier companies to form the consolidated grenadier battalions.
The four infantry regiments were very Prussian in appearance, with dark blue coats, white waistcoats and breeches, and black gaiters; musketeers had white-laced hats irrespective of the regimental button colour.

**Regimental distinctions**

_Leib-Regiment_ No lapels, red cuffs and turnbacks; scolloped lace on hats; brass grenadier cap plates with dark blue 'bag' and red band at the rear; plain red pompons

_Regiment von Behr_ Red cuffs, turnbacks and lapels; plain hat-lace; tin cap plates; red-and-white pompons

_Regiment von Imhoff_ (see Plate G3) White distinctions; brass cap plates; blue-and-white pompons

_Regiment von Zastrow_ Yellow distinctions; tin cap plates; white-and-yellow pompons

The two grenadier battalions were formed by pairing the companies from the Leib-Regiment and Imhoff, and those from Behr and Zastrow. As in the Hanoverian army, both battalions became independent of their parent regiments in 1759. The first was simply redesignated as Grenadiere-Bataillon von Stammer. The second was divided, with the company from Behr forming the cadre of Grenadiere-Bataillon von Redecken and that from Zastrow providing the backbone for Grenadiere-Bataillon von Witttdorf. The additional companies required to bring each up to strength were found from the militia, and presumably adopted the uniforms of the cadres.

(In addition to the regiments serving with Ferdinand's Allied army, a Leib-Grenadiere Garde and a Fusilier-Bataillon von Volschen were formed in 1759 and 1760 respectively, for home service, with the intention of stiffening the militia. Details are unrecorded, but the former were presumably dressed similarly to the Leib-Regiment with all wearing grenadier caps, while the latter probably had Prussian-style fusilier caps.)

**BRITISH INFANTRY**

All regiments comprised single battalions each of nine companies, one of which was designated as grenadiers and invariably detached to form composite grenadier battalions. All wore red coats, displaying the facing colour on cuffs, half-lapels and turnbacks. Coats were embellished with cuff and lapel edging and button-loops of white lace woven or embroidered with a unique regimental coloured pattern, although it was not unusual for this lace to be stripped off on service. Waistcoats were red irrespective of facing colour, as, normally, were the breeches; in theory Footguard battalions and Royal regiments were allowed blue breeches, but red ones were frequently observed. There was also a growing tendency, documented in paintings during this period, for officers to adopt buff-coloured waistcoats and breeches, and — perhaps as result of campaigning alongside German units — for the rank-and-file to adopt buff- or straw-coloured breeches instead of red. Grenadiers wore cloth mitre caps, with fronts in the regimental facing colour and usually bearing the 'GR' cypher, though occasionally a regimental 'ancient badge'.

**Regimental distinctions**

(* Units marked thus landed with the first British contingent in 1758.)

1st Footguard Dark blue facings, button-loops set singly; Garter star on grenadier cap

2nd Footguards Dark blue facings, button-loops in pairs; Garter star on cap

3rd Footguards Dark blue facings, button-loops in threes; Thistle star on cap

5th Foot 'Gosling-green' facings; St George and Dragon on cap. (All ranks adopted fur grenadier caps in 1761, having captured them from the Grenadiers de France at Wilhelmstahl)

8th Foot Dark blue facings; white horse within crowned Garter on cap

11th Foot Green facings; 'GR' cypher on cap

12th Foot Yellow facings; 'GR' cypher

20th Foot Dark blue facings; Fusiliers — all ranks and companies wore caps with Prince of Wales's badge of three white feathers

24th Foot Light green facings; 'GR' cypher on grenadier cap

25th Foot Yellow facings; 'GR' cypher (see Plate E2)

33rd Foot Red facings; 'GR' cypher

37th Foot Yellow facings; 'GR' cypher

56th Foot Black facings; 'GR' cypher

51st Foot Dark green facings (see Plate E1); 'GR' cypher
HANOVERIAN INFANTRY

Aside from the Fussgarde, which boasted two battalions, Hanoverian infantry regiments each comprised a single battalion of seven companies, with an authorized establishment of 122 officers and men in each company, and a regimental staff of 19 (the Fussgarde had 20 staff, covering both battalions). Each company included (administratively) eight grenadiers, who were detached to provide the personnel for a composite company; this was itself assigned to one of three consolidated grenadier battalions for the duration of the campaign (except in the case of the Fussgarde, whose grenadiers were permanently assigned to protect Ferdinand of Brunswick’s headquarters). The initial establishment of 29 battalions thus consisted of two Fussgarde battalions, 24 musketeer battalions and three grenadier battalions. Two further musketeer battalions were subsequently raised in 1758, with only five companies apiece and apparently without grenadiers.

A notional increase of a different sort was the decision to take a number of composite grenadier battalions into the line as units in their own right. Grenadier battalions were always regarded as a drain on their parent units, because the nature of their duties resulted in a higher degree of attrition than normal; these casualties then had to be made good by taking drafts from the musketeer companies, which in consequence sometimes dwindled alarmingly. Turning the consolidated grenadier battalions into permanent formations did not therefore increase the actual establishment of the army, but compelled the grenadiers to maintain themselves by regular recruitment rather than by simply milking the musketeer units.

All regiments wore red coats, with regimentally-coloured facings and (usually) waistcoats, and straw-coloured breeches. The grenadiers’ cloth mitre caps had facing-coloured fronts and red ‘bags’. As with the cavalry, regimental numbers were not allocated until the post-war reorganization, and until then units were referred to by the name of the current Inhaber; those listed below are the designations in 1757.

Regimental distinctions

Fussgarde Dark blue facings, yellow lace; white/yellow hat pompons Scheitler Dark green facings, yellow lace; green/yellow pompons Ali-Zaustin White facings, yellow lace; red/yellow pompons Spürken Straw-coloured facings, yellow lace; red/yellow pompons Fabrício Straw-coloured facings, white lace; straw/red pompons Kneesebach Black cuffs and lapels, white lace; white waistcoats and turnbacks; red/black/white pompons Druchtleben Black cuffs and lapels, yellow lace; yellow waistcoats and turnbacks; black/red pompons Ledebour Medium blue facings, white lace; red/blue/white pompons Stolzenberg Black cuffs and lapels, red turnbacks, white lace; straw-coloured waistcoats; yellow/white pompons Grote Deep yellow facings, white lace; red/yellow/white pompons Hofenstein Orange or straw-coloured facings, yellow lace; yellow pompons Hardenberg Orange facings, white lace; red/yellow pompons Canoffia Yellow facings, white lace; yellow/red pompons Wangenheim Straw-coloured facings, white lace; straw-coloured pompons

HANOVERIAN INFANTRY

At the outset of the war the Hesse-Kassel infantry regiments each comprised one battalion of ten companies, but, as with the cavalry, a substantial reorganization took place in 1760. Thereafter the ten musketeer companies were consolidated into eight, and then divided into two battalions of four companies. At the same time the practice of drawing eight men from each company to serve as grenadiers ceased, and instead the two remaining companies from each regiment were designated as grenadiers and detached to form consolidated battalions.

The 1760 reforms also brought about some confusing retitling. In 1757 the senior infantry regiment was promiscuously referred to as the
Uniforms of three Hanoverian Line regiments, by Knotel: LEFT Fahnen-junker (standard bearer) of Infanterie-Regiment von Hardenberg – see also Plate A2. Red coat with orange cuffs, lapels and turnbacks; silver lace edging to cuffs and lapels and on hat. Orange waistcoat trimmed with silver; and pale straw-coloured breeches.

CENTRE Infanterie-Regiment von Knesebeck. Black cuffs and lapels, white lace button-loops; white turnbacks and waistcoat; buff-coloured breeches; buff leather belts and gaiter-straps.

RIGHT Infanterie-Regiment Alt-Zastrow. Yellow hat-lace and red pompons. Red coat, white cuffs, lapels and turnbacks, yellow lace button-loops; white waistcoat; buff breeches; buff leather belts.

Garde or Leibgarde zu Fuss, while Infanterie-Regiment Nr.5 was the Leib-Regiment. However, in 1760 an entirely new guard battalion was raised and designated 1. Bataillon Garde; a consolidated grenadier battalion previously ranked sixth in seniority became 2. Garde; and the original Leibgarde found itself redesignated 3. Garde, both of the latter two being divided into two battalions. To further complicate matters the Regiment Erbprinz, formerly seventh in seniority, was first elevated to become 4. Garde, and then almost at once retitled Leib-Regiment; the former Leib-Regiment now became Infanterie-Regiment Wutginau; and the old Infanterie-Regiment Nr.12 became Erbprinz. Two regiments were also redesignated as fusiliers, probably because the Landgraf himself had commanded a fusilier regiment (Nr.48) when in the Prussian service.

Otherwise the reasons for this complex reorganization are unclear. The Landgraf was certainly consciously attempting to remodel his army at least outwardly on Prussian lines, and ostensibly the new two-battalion organization was also intended to induce the French to believe that the strength of the Hessian infantry had doubled (in reality it may also have been calculated as a way of increasing the British subsidy). Ferdinand of Brunswick responded to the changes by commenting in July 1761 that 'I always count the Hessian infantry regiments as two battalions, despite their weakness and the fact that they do the job of only one battalion. I do this in order not to upset calculations made on this basis since the beginning of the campaign' – i.e. since before he realized that the additional battalions he had been promised did not actually represent an increase in the strength of the Hessian contingent.

All regiments had dark blue coats with various facing colours. In c.1748 Morier had depicted a very distinctive combination of dark blue breeches and buff or straw-coloured waistcoats, and this combination may have survived until the reforms of 1760 brought a much closer conformity to Prussian styles. At that time, if not before, both waistcoats and breeches were variously described as yellow, straw-coloured or white, which suggests that exact colours may have varied from issue to issue. Grenadier caps were Prussian in style, with tin or brass fronts according to button colour, as were the fusilier caps issued to two regiments in 1760.

**Regimental distinctions, 1757 (with 1760 changes)**

Garde or Leibgarde zu Fuss: Red facings, white lace; tin grenadier cap plate with yellow 'bag'; red pompons with white centre

Capellan (1760, Fusilier-Regiment von Berthold – see Plate F2) Orange facings; brass cap plate, orange bag; red pompons with orange centre

Fürstenberg (1760, Fusilier-Regiment von Gilso) Red facings (1760, black); brass cap plate, cream bag; blue pompons

Prinz; Ysenburg: Pale buff facings; brass cap plate, pale buff bag; white pompons

Leib-Regiment (1760, Wutginau) Red facings with no lapels; brass cap plate, red bag; yellow pompons

Grenadier-Regiment (1760, 2. Garde) Ponceau-red facings; tin cap plate, red bag (1760, yellow); red pompons with white centre

Erbprinz (1760, 4. Garde/Leib-Regiment) Yellow facings (1760, rose-red); tin cap plate, yellow (1760, red) bag; red pompons with yellow centre (1760, rose-red)

Mansbach: White facings; brass cap plate, white bag; white pompons

Prinz Karl: Blue lapels (1760, red); brass cap, red bag (1760, blue); white pompons with blue centre (1760, all blue)

This Knotel illustration depicts the uniform worn in 1785 by the Hessian 1. Bataillon Garde raised in 1760, the only new feature being the fur grenadier cap that had by now replaced the original tin-fronted mitre.

Uniforms of the pre-1760 Hesse-Kassel Leib-Garde zu Fuss/Regiment Garde, as reconstructed by Knotel: LEFT Grenadier. Dark blue coat and breeches; red facings, white lace, straw/buff waistcoat – see Plate F1 for details.

RIGHT Officer. Hat with rich silver lacing, white-over-red plume, black cockade. Dark blue coat with red collar, cuffs and lining, richly decorated with silver brandenburgs. Yellowish-buff smallclothes; silver-and-red sash; note gorget – silver ground, gold-wreathed blue cartouche – and spencer.
HESSIAN MILITIA

Like a number of other German states, Hesse-Kassel also boasted a Landmiliz or militia. These were ordinarily employed as garrison troops and to maintain order in the absence of a police force; however, the French invasion of Hesse saw them forced to take the field in 1758. The experience was not a happy one, although they performed rather better than might be expected of militia. On 23 July 1758, Prince Ysenburg was forced to make a stand at Sandershagen against the invading French army under the Duc de Broglie. Although badly outnumbered he had a strong position, and deployed his regulars on each flank with the three Militia units in the centre, supported by a scratch battalion of “invalids”. For some time he held his own, but as the Militia took casualties they began closing to the centre, gradually losing contact with the regular units on either flank. As those regulars in turn came under increasing pressure the Militia were soon all bunched together in the centre and firing on anyone who came near them, friend or foe. At this point Ysenburg rightly decided that enough was enough and ordered a retreat, which – surprisingly – was carried out more or less successfully.

Only dire necessity had prompted the employment of the Militia in battle, and the experiment was not repeated. Instead, in 1760 the three Militia regiments were reorganized into Garrison battalions of four companies each, and one standing battalion of Garrison Grenadiers with four companies. The uniforms worn by the Garrison battalions were presumably the same they had worn as Militia: plain-finished dark blue coats with red turnbacks and Swedish cuffs, straw-coloured waistcoat and breeches, and white-laced hats.

Regimental distinctions

Wurmb Orange cuffs; tin or pewter grenadier cap plates, blue bags; white pompons with red centre

Gundlach White cuffs; tin cap plates, red bags; white pompons

Freybold Yellow cuffs; tin cap plates, yellow bags; yellow pompons

Prior to 1760 the grenadier companies had worn the uniforms of their parent units as above, but when the consolidated grenadier battalion turned into a standing unit it adopted red caps, and caps with dark blue bags.

PRUSSIAN INFANTRY

At the very outset of the war the Rhine fortress of Wesel was garrisoned by six infantry battalions belonging to Fusilier-Regiments Nr.44 (Jungkenn), Nr.45 (von Dossow) and Nr.48 (Hessen-Cassel). It was hoped that the garrison commander, Gen de la Motte, might be able to hold out for some weeks in order to delay any French invasion and so give the Allies time to concentrate, but in the event that concentration was so much delayed that he had to evacuate the fortress and retire on Lippestatt.

This caused some awkwardness; since Gen de la Motte was merely the fortress commander, as soon as the garrison marched out of the gates the senior infantry officer, LtGen the Erbprinz of Hesse-Kassel (the man who was to embark on the complete reorganization of his army, described above, on succeeding as Landgraf in 1760) insisted on taking command of the force. He was manifestly incompetent to do so, but although Gen de la Motte complained to King Frederick the monarch declined to intervene; there was a danger that if the Erbprinz was displaced it could create difficulties with the Hessian contingent then serving under the Duke of Cumberland. Frederick appealed to Gen de la Motte to have patience: “for Heaven’s sake do me a favour and do not worry about rank. You know quite well that precedence is all he thinks about ... so if you want to do me a really good turn, flatter him and be obsequious”. After some minor skirmishing, ‘Old Fritz’
 withdrew the entire brigade before the Erbprinz could do anything damaging, but in the event, Gen de la Motte's pessimism was justified: only some 900 men ever got back to Magdeburg, the rest having deserted on route.

All three regiments had collarless coats with red cuffs and turnbacks, but only Fusilier-Regiment Nr.48 had red lapels. Waistcoats and breeches were straw-coloured for Nr.44 and Nr.48 and white for Nr.45; all three units had black gaiters, and brass-fronted fusilier caps. The caps had a black rear ‘bag’ and headband (Nr.44), straw-colour and red (Nr.45), and all-blue (Nr.48). Other than these, and the lapels worn by Nr.48, the only real distinguishing features were the lace loops on the coats; Nr.44 had red with white tassels, Nr.45 white loops and tassels, and Nr.48 yellow loops with red tassels. Leather equipment for all three comprised broad whitened-buff belts with a black cartridge box slung behind the right hip, and the usual cowhide knapsack slung on the left together with a tin canteen and canvas bread bag.

TECHNICAL TROOPS

Like that of the cavalry, the performance of the Allied artillery was at first less than effective. Early practice seems to have been largely a matter of establishing batteries, assigning a suitable infantry escort, and then leaving them to their own devices. Factoring in a general shortage of guns – and those neither particularly modern nor mobile – it is easy to see why Ferdinand and his mentor Frederick were less than satisfied with the artillery arm.

The army’s original artillery commander, the Graf von Schaumberg-Lippe, had a fair reputation as an artillerist, but his expertise lay largely in the science of gunnery rather than in the tactical use of artillery on the battlefield. While the strength of the artillery arm soon increased, in part by making extensive use of captured French guns, its tactical handling still lagged behind. This was exemplified by an undifying dispute between the Graf von Schaumberg-Lippe and Gen Wangenheim at Minden over the question of deciding priorities for artillery fire, which so distracted all concerned that Ferdinand himself had to personally attend to the deployment of much of the Allied artillery. Consequently, when Schaumberg-Lippe received an attractive offer to enter the Portuguese service in 1762 Ferdinand parted from him with few obvious regrets.

Brunswick

To all intents and purposes the Brunswick artillery was a subordinate arm of the infantry, as its three companies had no heavy guns and were solely employed in manning the ‘regimental’ artillery. They wore plain dark blue coats with red cuffs and turnbacks, being distinguished from
1: Hanoverian cavalry, Grenadier zu Pferde
2: Hanoverian dragoon, Prussian dragon, Dragoner-Regt Nr.9 (Holstein-Gottorp)
3: Carabinier, Buckeburg contingent, 1758

LIGHT CAVALRY
1: Prussian hussar, Hüsare-Regt Nr.5 (Reusch)
2: Hanoverian hussar, Luckner'scher frei-Hüsaren, 1757
3: Carabinier, Buckeburg contingent, 1758
HANOVERIAN LIGHT TROOPS
1: Mounted Jäger, Freytag'scher Freikorps
2: Grenadier, Scheithauer'scher Freikorps
3: Musketeer, 1st Battalion, Légion Britannique

BRITISH CONTINGENT AT MINDEN, 1759
1: Private, 51st (Brudenell's) Regt of Foot
2: Grenadier, 25th (Edinburgh) Regt of Foot
3: Trooper, 6th (Inniskilling) Dragoons
HESSE-KASSEL CONTINGENT
1: Grenadier, Leibgarde zu Fuss, 1760
2: Fusilier, Fusilier-Regt von Berthold, 1760
3: Musketeer, Frei-Regiment von Gerlach

BRUNSWICK CONTINGENT
1: Hussar, Husarenkorps
2: Officer, Infanterie-Regt von Imhoff
3: Dragoon, Dragoner-Regt von Bibow
Britain

The basic administrative unit of the artillery was the company. Tactically, British guns were grouped in 'brigades' of light and heavy artillery, but unlike their German counterparts there is no evidence for the use of 'battalion guns' by British infantry units serving with the Allied army.

All Royal Artillery personnel wore dark blue coats with red facings, and yellow or gold lace according to rank. Officers were primarily distinguished from the rank and file by wearing red waistcoats and breeches, while the ordinary gunners and NCOs had blue smallclothes.

For full dress, officers' coats and waistcoats were generously laced in the usual fashion, but on active service plain 'frocks' and unlaced waistcoats were the norm. Similarly, although white gaiters were supposed to be worn in full dress, for other duties officers had boots and all other ranks wore black gaiters.

At this date there was no corps of drivers as such, and civilian contractors were normally employed instead. Morier's group painting of artillery personnel at Roermond in 1748 includes a figure in a steel-grey coat with red cuffs and white lace, who appears to be a driver; but in 1756 the Ipswich Journal noted that 'The drivers attached to the train of artillery wear white frocks [smocks?] with the letters GR in red on their backs'. Given the lack of a military corps of drivers, it is striking that the performance of the Royal Artillery in Germany was distinguished by mobility; they not only came into action more rapidly than their German counterparts at Minden and Warburg, but proved capable of efficient tactical redeployment during battle.

Buckeburg

The Schaumberg-Lippe/Buckeburg contingent was - reasonably - organized on the presumption that as it would only ever take the field as part of a coalition force, and it was felt that it could do so more effectively by specializing in artillery than by attempting to field a more balanced 'army in miniature'. At the outset the contingent comprised a single battalion of infantry, theoretically numbering 820 officers and men, and supported by a single company of artillery with two light 3-pounder guns. By 1759 the artillery had acquired eight heavy 12-pounder cannon; and in the summer of 1761 there were 16 pieces in total, including siege howitzers. It is not clear where the gunners to man these additional guns came from. Some sources suggest that they were found by drafting men from the Carabiniers, but it seems rather more likely that they came from the infantry battalion; like the Sachsen-Gotha regiment, this was solely employed as an escort for the artillery train rather than as a line unit.

The infantry uniform was a blue coat with red collar, cuffs and turnbacks, and a white waistcoat the infantry by wearing straw-coloured waistcoats and breeches. Officers and NCOs had gold-laced hats, while ordinary gunners had yellow lace.

Drivers had essentially the same uniform, but with blue cuffs and grey turnbacks.
Knötel illustrations of technical troops:
LEFT Hanoverian officer of the Ingenieur-Korps. Gold hat-lace; blue coat with red cuffs, lapels and lining; gilt buttons; gold knot hanging behind right shoulder but otherwise no decoration. Buff or straw-coloured smallclothes, gold sash.

RIGHT Hesse-Kassel artilleryman (see Plate H2). White hat-lace, red pompons; dark blue coat, waistcoat and breeches, with red cuffs, lapels and turnbacks; white belts.

and breeches. Musketeers had the usual black hat with white lace, and red-over-white pompons; the grenadier company was distinguished by blue cuffs, and a brass-fronted fusilier cap with dark blue bag in the Prussian style. The artillery had light blue or steel-grey coats and breeches, with black cuffs and red turnbacks, white waistcoats, and unlaced hats.

Hanover
At the outset of the war the Hanoverian artillery comprised six companies each of 67 officers and men, but under Ferdinand it was reorganized into four field brigades each of two to three companies.
All artillerymen wore light blue-grey coats, sometimes referred to as steel-grey, with red cuffs, lapels and turnbacks. Officers had straw-coloured waistcoats and breeches, while all other ranks had red waistcoats and straw-coloured breeches. Lace was yellow or gold according to rank, and equipment was buff leather. As with the infantry, they started the war with a generous amount of lace trimming on the lapels and waistcoats, but this was soon abandoned. Drivers had red coats with red turnbacks, but bright blue cuffs and lapels, with brass buttons in pairs. Waistcoats were straw-coloured, and buff breeches were worn with heavy boots; the hats were plain black.

Hesse
The original establishment of two companies was increased to three in 1757, with a total of 15 officers, 27 NCOs and 385 men including drivers, and in 1760 to five companies. These companies were only responsible for the heavy artillery, however, and by the end of the war there were four other companies providing personnel for the two light cannon assigned to each infantry battalion. The basic uniform for both officers and men was a dark blue coat with red facings, and a dark blue waistcoat and breeches. Drivers had loose white jackets, and round hats with red bands.

LIGHT TROOPS
The seemingly exponential growth in what were termed 'light troops' during the war was largely attributable not to any revolution in tactics, but to two closely related factors.
At the outset it was naturally recognized that reconnaissance and outpost work was best undertaken by light cavalry such as hussars and carabiniers, or light dragoons, in order to avoid dispersing and wearing out battle cavalry on such time-consuming duties.
With that in mind, a certain Rittmeister Nikolaus Luckner and his Free Company of Hussars were induced to exchange the Dutch service for the Hanoverian just prior to the commencement of hostilities. As the French were obviously engaged in exactly the same task, it was soon found necessary by both sides to back up these scouts by attaching infantry or Jäger companies to the light horse; and so the business of what became known as Kleinkrieg rapidly escalated, as this recruitment assumed a momentum of its own.

There was little that the Allies could do to expand their regular forces during the course of the war, other than – as already mentioned – by rather hopefully increasing the official establishment of existing battalions, and turning consolidated grenadier battalions into permanent units. This was partly because all the available native Brunswick, Hanoverian and Hessian recruits were needed to maintain the existing units, and partly due to the perceived practical difficulty of training new battalions up to pre-war standards. Instead the necessary increase in the size of the army was achieved by the creation of 'free corps' – independent or unattached units, supposedly recruited from neutral states such as Hamburg or Denmark, but all too frequently made up of deserters, former prisoners of war and other mercenary riff-raff.
Frederick the Great himself was famously disdainful of such troops. As a rule these new corps lacked the discipline, training and equipment of regular units, and were employed almost exclusively in 'small war' operations or on garrison duties, simply because they were unfit to stand in a proper battle-line. There is no doubt that some of them acquired a certain expertise in this kind of work, but the net effect of pumping more and more men into this particular role was that the enemy were obliged to counter their efforts by doing likewise, so the numbers on both sides inevitably spiralled upwards to no great effect.

Conversely, the 'free corps' often had great difficulty in maintaining the necessary numbers in their ranks. Partly this was because their being so frequently engaged in skirmishing with the enemy led to higher casualties, and partly because the easier discipline and opportunities for plunder were counterbalanced by a lack of basic logistic support; allied to the drudgery of ceaseless outpost work, this all produced high rates of sickness and desertion.

Notwithstanding the tendency to fill out the ranks with ever more dubious (and occasionally exotic) material, a certain amount of reorganization and consolidation took place as the war went on. In late 1761 Ferdinand was compelled to raise an entire brigade of Chasseurs or Frei-Corps; to avoid confusion, we use the style Freikorps throughout this text.

2 The promiscuous use of both German and French languages in 18th-century military contexts produced several different spellings, e.g. Frei-Corps; to avoid confusion, we use the style Freikorps throughout this text.

Knötel illustration of a Brunswick officer of the Husarenkorps (see Plate G1). Brown fur Kolpack with yellow bag, silver-and-red cords. Yellow dolman and breeches, blue cuffs and pelisse, silver cords and lace, black fur trim on pelisse. Horse furniture and sabretache blue with silver lace.
Jägers under Lord Cavendish, comprising four battalions of 'volunteers' drawn from the regular units in each of the four national contingents.

**Brunswick**

As one of the smaller Allied contingents, Brunswick contributed proportionately few light troops. The **Brunswick Hussars** (see Plate G1) were raised late in 1759 with the aid of the inevitable British subsidies, and at first consisted of four companies each of 114 men plus a staff of 17, for a total of 473 men under Maj Antön von Roth. For the 1761 campaign the regiment was augmented to six companies totalling about 747 men, led by Maj Friedrich Adolf Riedesel zu Eisenbach (who was later to achieve some fame commanding the Brunswick contingent in North America). A **Jäger corps** commanded by Col von Hoyum was raised in 1779, comprising two companies of mounted Jäger zu Pferde and three companies or 'brigades' of Jäger zu Fuss, each notionally 95 strong but usually numbering rather fewer. Only the second company was equipped with rifles, the rest having to make do with ordinary muskets. In 1762 an additional company of each type was added, to give a notional total of 766 officers and men, including 15 gunners serving two amusées – very light artillery pieces. As was customary, all the Jägers wore green coats; the mounted companies were distinguished by straw-coloured collars and turnbacks, while the foot companies had red. All wore green waistcoats and straw-coloured breeches, with black boots or gaiters, and the usual plain black hats with green pompons. All equipment was of black leather.

For most of the war these units comprised the totality of the Brunswick light troops, but in 1762 a **Light Infantry battalion** was raised as the Brunswick contribution to Cavendish's Jäger brigade (see above). Details of its uniform appear to be unrecorded; but the Light Infantry Battalion von Barner which served a decade later in North America had dark blue coats with black collar and cuffs and red turnbacks, white smallclothes, hats trimmed with white lace and black/white pompons, so a similar uniform may possibly have been worn in 1762.

In the same year a rather exotic unit entitled the **Volontaires auxiliaires de Brunswick** was also formed, under Col von Rauch; its curious title reflects the fact that French was then the common 'lingua franca' in Europe, so from sheer necessity served as the 'official' language used within such units. This one comprised three rather large companies of cavalry, totalling 338 officers and men, and three equally large companies of infantry mustering a further 417 all ranks. In common with many 'free corps' its composition was cosmopolitan in the extreme, and a substantial proportion of these Volunteer Auxiliaries appear in fact to have been Balkan deserters and prisoners taken by the Prussian army. At any rate, the cavalry comprised a company each of Husaren, Grenadien zu Pferde, and Bosniak, while the infantry were officially designated as grenadiers but were more commonly referred to as 'Turcos'. At the armistice they were handed back to the Prussians, who promptly disbanded them and dispersed the personnel into regular units.

Unsurprisingly, their uniforms are poorly recorded. The Hussars apparently had a dark blue uniform with yellow facings and cords, and black for on the pelisse; a black *Kolpack* with yellow bag; and dark blue horse furniture edged in yellow. They thus seem to have been fairly conventional in appearance, but the Bosniaks were much more exotic. They supposedly had a bright blue jacket and Turkish trousers, with a dark grey kaftan trimmed with white, and a white fur turban wrapped around a red cap; they may also have been equipped with lances. References to grenadiers are slightly complicated by uncertainty as to whether they apply to the Horse Grenadier squadron, the infantry, or both. At any rate, they seem to have had blue coats (with a suggestion that the cavalry wore dark blue and the infantry light blue), with green facings, green waistcoats, and straw-coloured breeches with black boots or gaiters. Headgear is described as a *Kaskett*, which would suggest a cylindrical Balkan-style cap as worn by Pandours.

**Britain**

Britain contributed a surprising number of light troops, exclusive of locally raised units in British pay. The best known were the 15th Light Dragoons of Ensdorf fame; but the 87th and 88th Highlanders were employed as light troops from the outset, and in 1761 a third battalion known as Fraser's Chasseurs (or Jagers) was raised from volunteers out of the Line regiments. (Arguably, if counter-intuitively, the two British grenadier battalions should also be considered under the heading of 'light troops', since they were brigaded with the 87th and 88th Highlanders and almost exclusively employed on Kleinkrieg operations.)

The 15th Light Dragoons had: 'A short coat lapelled and turned up with dark green, white lining and white waistcoat, with a green collar, broad white buttons and buttonholes, two white shoulder straps, two pairs of white linen breeches, jockey boots and spurs, the cloak with a green cape and lined with white. Instead of a hat, a copper cap enamelled with black, brass crest with white and red hair; the front turned up, with the King's cypher and crown painted or enamelled on it, a flap rolled up behind in order to cover the neck on occasion. A tanned leather cartouch-box instead of a pouch, with a running spring swivel, and a tanned leather sword belt'. A contemporary painting by David Morier largely confirms this description, though the 'flap' on the helmet actually took the form of a green turban with two ends hanging down at the rear; he also shows a red cockade on the left side of the helmet, as well as a lion-mask at the front of the brass 'crest' or comb.

The Highlanders were formed around a nucleus of recruits originally intended for the Black Watch, but instead formed into first one and then two battalions and shipped to Germany rather than North America. Although separately numbered, throughout their existence they served in effect as two battalions of the same corps, with officers frequently being
cross-posted between the two units, and so far as can be ascertained both wore the same uniform. From portrait evidence, this comprised the usual Highland dress of flat blue bonnets, short red jackets with medium green facings, plaid or kilts in the familiar Army tartan, and red and white chequered stockings. Officers’ portraits show pale buff-coloured waistcoats but, as noted elsewhere, this was a common affectation, and it is likely that the rank-and-file had red. Officers had gold lace, edging the collar and cuffs and in alternate bastion and round loops at the front of the jacket. All equipment was of black leather, comprising a sword belt over the right shoulder supporting a basket-hilted broadsword on the left hip, and another holding a belly-box in front.

There is no indication of any distinguishing attribute that may have been worn by Fraser’s Chasseurs or Jägers, although precedent suggests that at the very least they probably stripped the lace from their various regimental coats.

Britain also maintained a substantial auxiliary unit in the five-battalion Legion Britannique. As its title suggests, this was a somewhat cosmopolitan crew, largely comprised of Germans but including Swiss and Dutch (and at least one Russian). While it is usually considered a part of the Hanoverian Army, it was paid for by Britain and ultimately had a British commanding officer, MajGen John Beckwith. Each Legion battalion primarily comprised four musketeer companies notionally of about 125 men, for a total battalion establishment of 500 all ranks, although it is unlikely that any of the battalions actually succeeded in parading anything like this number. In addition to the four musketeer companies each battalion also had an organic cavalry element in the form of a 100-strong dragoon company. In practice, however, all of the Legion’s dragoon companies were normally consolidated as a single unit; eventually this was regularized, by the creation in 1762 of a distinct cavalry regiment under Rittmeister von Hattorf.

All five battalions of the Legion had straw-coloured breeches, but otherwise their uniforms were completely different. The 1st Battalion (see Plate D3) had light blue coats with straw-coloured cuffs and turnbacks, and straw-coloured waistcoats; the 2nd Bn were in medium blue with scarlet facings and white waistcoats; the 3rd Bn had orange facings and straw-coloured waistcoats, the latter with black cuffs, white turnbacks and white waistcoats. The 1st Battalion had brass buttons (and gold lace for the officers’ hats), while the others had tin. The hats worn by the rank-and-file were unlaced and decorated only with green cockades (and probably green leaves as well, when they could be had). Equipment was of buff leather with black cartridge boxes. The dragoon companies wore the same uniforms as their parent battalions, and had red horse furniture, trimmed in yellow for the 1st Bn and white for the others. There appears to be no evidence that they received a new uniform on being consolidated into a regiment under Capt von Hattorf.

Buckeburg

In addition to the artillery train and its attendant infantry escort, the contingent also included a small unit of carabiniers – light cavalry armed with short hausar-style carbines – and a supporting company of Jägers. The former (see Plate C3) were issued a black Kofert with red facings and straw-coloured breeches, with black armour and fur-trimmed helmets. The accompanying Jägers had dark green coats with yellow collar and cuffs and green turnbacks, yellow waistcoats, green breeches, plain black hats, and the usual boots.

Hanover

The Hanoverian light troops fell into two ill-defined categories: those which were specifically raised as part of the Hanoverian Army, and those paid for by the British government.

It would appear that there were no light troops of any description prior to the war, but in May 1757 a Jäger corps was formed by Graf von Schwalenburg; as was customary, this comprised two companies, one of mounted and one of foot Jägers. At about the same time Luckner and 54 of his ‘free hussars’ came over from the Dutch service (see above), and from this modest beginning a considerable expansion soon took place.

Luckner’s Hussars mustered 90 men by the end of 1757, but in the following year they doubled their strength to two companies totalling 8 officers and 174 men. In 1759 they redoubled to four companies, and by 1760 there were no fewer than eight companies, paired in four squadrons, with an official establishment of 32 officers and 632 hussars. The original uniform of Luckner’s light horse is depicted as Plate C2.

As its title suggests, this was a movement of mounted volunteers - white uniform with green facings and waistcoat worn by the cavalry element of Scheithauer’s Freikorps was totally different from that worn by his green-coated infantry. The hussar of Luckner’s corps is illustrated wearing the lower uniform – white dolman and breeches, red pelisse and Kolpack bag, yellow lace and boots – adopted after it became clear that the original (see Plate C2) was dangerously similar to that of the Chasseurs de Fischer in the French army.
that the full 500-man establishment was ever achieved, hence the amalgamation with Freytag's unit in 1762.

The uniform of both corps was broadly similar (see Plate D1 for a Jäger zu Pferde of Freytag's). All wore the traditional dark green coats, with green facings, green waistcoats, tin buttons, straw-coloured breeches, plain black or green hats, and either expeditious red trousers or brown breeches. All wore the traditional dark green coats, with green facings, green waistcoats, tin buttons, straw-coloured breeches, plain black or green hats, and either expeditious red trousers or brown breeches. Whether they were mounted or on foot. Horse furniture for the mounted element of both corps was green with white or silver trimming. The only distinguishing features were the absence of lapels from the coats worn by the mounted element of Stockhausen's corps, and the curious grenadier caps worn by some of his men. These resembled the Koschett then being worn by some Prussian and Austrian light troops, with a cylindrical leather skull and low frontal plate, similar in size to fusilier caps but more rounded. In the case of Stockhausen's grenadiers the caps were green and bore the arms of Hanover on the front in silver; although it is uncertain whether these were embroidered, or if the front was tin with a green-painted ground, the latter seems more likely. In theory, as Jägers all of the men in both corps should have been armed with rifles, but it is more likely that ordinary infantry muskets predominated, and these were certainly carried by Stockhausen's grenadiers.

Scheither's Freikorps was formed by Capt H.A. Scheither in May 1758 as part of the process of expansion of light troops following the lessons of Ferdinand's first campaign. Initially it comprised a single company apiece of carabiniers, grenadiers and Jakobsmenn, but by 1760 it had increased somewhat to muster four companies of carabiniers and two of fus-furred grenadiers, besides the jäger company and an artillery detachment. There are also suggestions that there may have been a troop of Uhlan, but this was most likely the one which ended up in the Brunswick Auxiliary Volunteers as 'Bosniaks'.

The carabiniers had a very pale straw-coloured coat or Kollet with dark green collar, cuffs, turnbacks and trimming, a straw-coloured waistcoat and breeches; apart from the jäger's brown fur caps (see Plate D2) they were further distinguished from Freytag's men by a vandyked lace pattern on collar and cuffs.

To improve their self-sufficiency each infantry company had a six-strong detachment of Zimmermen or carpenters, wearing the same uniform but distinguished by a low-crowned helmet with a crest and a green turban trimmed with white, bearing the white horse of Hanover on the front. The corps' artillery were probably detached from the regulars, as they appear to have worn the same steel grey/blue uniform with minor distinctions as to the cuffs and waistcoat (see Plate F3).

Hesse-Kassel

The Hessian contribution was surprisingly small in relation to the overall size of the contingent. It comprised a regiment of hussars and the predictable jäger corps, and later a 'free regiment' was contributed to Cavendish's multi-national Chasseur/Jäger brigade.
PLATE COMMENTARIES

A: HANOVERIAN INFANTRY

Superficially there was a strong resemblance between the uniforms worn by King George II’s Hanoverian and British troops. In both services the infantry wore red coats, and in both the Hanovrians also wore cloth grenadier caps rather than the brass- or tin-fronted ones favoured by the other North German armies. There were, however, a number of differences and variations in style. In about 1748 the Swiss artist David Morier depicted just as in the British Army; but the later regimental drill books established that by 1762 the facings had finally changed to red and the smallclothes to white, with red pompons on white-laced hats (see illustration, page 40).

A1: Grenadier, Fussgarde-Regiment Hardenberg, 1759

This Musketier also displays some typical features of Hanoverian uniform, including the pompons or cord-pulls in the two side corners of the hat; the case-coloured red and original Stockenband was one of the better Hanoverian regiments; at Hastenbeck it was part of the outflanking force under Breidenbach and Dachenhausen which recaptured the key Obensbachtel pass towards the end of the battle, thus causing near-panic amongst the French – leading to the unusual spectacle of both armies hastily withdrawing from the battlefield at the same time. At Minden it took part in Spörcken’s advance, and when Scheel’s brigade, to which it belonged, was effectively crowded out, it determinedly kept up with the Fussgarde and participated in the destruction of the French cavalry.

A2: Musketier, Infanterie-Regiment Hardenberg, 1759

This regiment was a mercenary contingent hired by the Hanoverian government in 1756. Dressed at first in white coats with green facings, it changed to red coats on being taken into the Hanoverian Army in 1759. There is a suspicion that it was not regarded as a particularly efficient unit; it had seen little action prior to that date, and was therefore permanently assigned as an escort to the artillery and bridging train. Apparently its most notable exploit was to contrive to deploy well back from the fighting at Minden, in a position that effectively blocked the advance of the Allied cavalry, thus materially contributing to the unfortunate chain of misunderstandings that followed.

A3: Infanterie-Infanterie-Regiment Sachsen-Gott, 1759

This regiment was a mercenary contingent hired by the Hanoverian government in 1756. Dressed at first in white coats with green facings, it changed to red coats onto being taken into the Hanoverian Army. There is a suspicion that it was not regarded as a particularly efficient unit; it had seen little action prior to that date, and was therefore permanently assigned as an escort to the artillery and bridging train. Apparently its most notable exploit was to contrive to deploy well back from the fighting at Minden, in a position that effectively blocked the advance of the Allied cavalry, thus materially contributing to the unfortunate chain of misunderstandings that followed.

B: HANOVERIAN CAVALRY

B1: Grenadier, Grenadier zu Pferde

The Horse Grenadiers were in effect the dragon element of the Guard cavalry, and by all accounts were well mounted but rather old-fashioned in their training, which emphasised precision in movements at the expense of speed, and the Hanoverian Fussgarde, as depicted in Knötel’s Uniformenkunde (see Plate A1). This illustration seems intended to depict the battle of Minden, but while the musketeers of the Fussgarde certainly participated in Gen von Spörcken’s advance, the grenadier companies did not. Note in the background the regimental colour with the arms of King George II, as carried by all Hanoverian infantry units.
at Warburg – their behaviour induced near-apoplexy among their officers. This was certainly not helped by their commander’s reputation as a poor disciplinarian, and his casual attitude to military accountability.

Johann Nikolaus Luckner was the son of an innkeeper from the Upper Palatinate. Entering the Bavarian Army in 1727, by 1745 he was an Oberleutnant in the French Hussars, from where he transferred to the Dutch service. In 1757 the then-Rittmeister as usual, they gave themselves out to be genuine antiquarian taste, with large infantry-style gorgets. While unquestionably dramatic, this ensemble was soon found impractical for formal duty and is shown here – and in 1759 all but the cuirass and helmet were discarded. The helmet was emblazoned not only with the fugur turban depicted here, but with a narrow green band running underneath it bearing the inscription Pulchnum Mori Succurrat in Extremis (‘in danger, a beautiful death lies waiting’) – a sentiment that was doubtless a great comfort to the men who wore it.

The Uniformenkunde illustration of the Prussian Hussaren-Regiment No.5 (von Reusch) – the Black Hussars (see Plate C1), who displayed a death’s-head badge on their ‘wimped’ cap.

D: HANOVERIAN LIGHT TROOPS

D1: Mounted Jäger, Freytag’scher Freikorps

Freytag’s Jägers were the first unit of light troops raised for the Hanoverian Army, and comprised both mounted and dismounted companies. The original commanding officer, Graf von Schnellenberg, appears to have been an unenterprising sort, so it was under his successor Freytag that the unit made its name, although he never quite matched his rival Luckner’s reputation, and seems to have been regarded as more reliable than brilliant. As was customary for Jäger units their uniform was green, but this was deepened to a pine green shade on the helmet. The mounted companies had boots and buff leather breeches as shown, while the foot companies had straw-coloured breeches and grey or brown gaiters.

D2: Grenadier, Scheithauer’scher Freikorps

Scheithauer’s Freikorps was raised in May 1758 and originally comprised just three companies, but soon expanded dramatically; by 1761 there were four companies of mounted carbineers, two companies of foot and one light company, totalling about 90 officers and men. Most unusually for the Allied army, the grenadiers wore fur caps; secondary sources sometimes refer to these as being Austrian in style, but they were most likely captured French headgear. (This is certainly not an unknown practice; for example, the entire British 5th Foot adopted the caps that they captured from the Grenadiers de Reichenbach.) Notwithstanding their having only been raised as early as 1755 the 1st Foot were in fact the first British troops to arrive in Germany, landing to serve as a garrison for Emden in early April 1758. At Minden they were brigaded with the 28th and 29th Foot under Col William Kingsley, marching in the second line of Sprencke’s division as it embarked on its famous advance against the French centre. The ‘Minde Roses’, which legend tells us were plucked by the division as they went into action to serve as an emotive prop field sign, actually came from a hedge further down the battlefield where they halted to reorganize after the French had been utterly defeated.

E: BRITISH CONTINGENT AT MINDEN, 1759

E1: Private, 51st (Brudenell’s) Regiment of Foot

The role initially assigned to Private Edward of Penny a sick British infantryman, presumably serving in Germany, being given money by the Marquis of Granby. Scheithauer’s Freikorps is dramatically identified here as the 51st Foot, by the goosing-green facings. The only other units serving in Germany with similar facings were the 5th and the 24th Foot, but in both cases the Swiss artist David Morier had earlier painted both in quite different uniforms. The green breeches are most unusual for an infantryman, but Penny seems to have been conscientious in adhering to regulation pattern. In his known illustrations of the 51st at this time, this may well have been a regimental affectation by a newly raised corps. Also worthy of note are the stiffened tops to the black gaiters.

Notwithstanding their having only been raised as early as 1755 the 51st Foot were in fact the first British troops to arrive in Germany, landing to serve as a garrison for Emden in early April 1758. At Minden they were brigaded with the 28th and 29th Foot under Col William Kingsley, marching in the second line of Sprencke’s division as it embarked on its famous advance against the French centre. The ‘Minde Roses’, which legend tells us were plucked by the division as they went into action to serve as an emotive prop field sign, actually came from a hedge further down the battlefield where they halted to reorganize after the French had been utterly defeated.

E2: Grenadier, 25th (Edinburgh) Regiment of Foot

Notwithstanding their having only been raised as early as 1755 the 1st Foot were in fact the first British troops to arrive in Germany, landing to serve as a garrison for Emden in early April 1758. At Minden they were brigaded with the 28th and 29th Foot under Col William Kingsley, marching in the second line of Sprencke’s division as it embarked on its famous advance against the French centre. The ‘Minde Roses’, which legend tells us were plucked by the division as they went into action to serve as an emotive prop field sign, actually came from a hedge further down the battlefield where they halted to reorganize after the French had been utterly defeated.

F: HESSE-KASSEL CONTINGENT

F1: Grenadier, Leibgarde zu Fuss, 1760

The Leibgarde zu Fuss could trace its unbroken lineage back to the Regiment von Giesey that fought at Lützen in 1632. After the Thirty Years’ War it first became the Kassel Palace Company, and then, when the Landgraf Karl formed his standing army in 1748, the Leibgarde zu Fuss. Notwithstanding this pedigree, in the complex 1760 reforms the regiment was redesignated as 3rd, later being superceded in first place of seniority by a ceremonial Garde-Bataillon.
This grenadier provides a good example of the metal-fronted mitre caps favoured by most such units from northern Germany. In this case the front plate was of tin, embossed with the Langraf's cypher and the lion of Hesse. The infill of red paint, seen here as depicted by Kotelot, is tentative, but it may have been applied when the caps were first issued and then subsequently polished away. The regiment's musketeers had the usual cocked hats, distinguished by white scolloped lace and red-over-white pompons. Also of interest here are the distinctive dark blue breeches, depicted by the Swiss artist David Morier in his series of paintings executed for the Duke of Cumberland in c.1748. Originally they were worn by all Hessian infantry, making it easy to distinguish them from the similarly dressed Brunswick troops, but there is some uncertainty as to when they were abandoned in favour of the more conventional straw-coloured breeches sported by regular units. The colour of the waistcoat is uncertain, and one source states that it was green.

The regiment's grenadiers by the regiment's grenadiers; the caps worn by the fusiliers of Fusiller-Regiment von Gilsa followed their grenadiers by having bags in the facing colour of creamy yellow. Originally raised in 1683, the then Infanterie-Regiment von Capellan had seen action at Hastenbeck in July 1757; on 5 August 1758 at Mehr the regiment was part of Imhoft's force which opposed the French attack on the Allied bridgehead at Rees, and it also fought at Lutterberg on 10 October. The following year it was involved in the debacle at Bergen, when Ferdinand of Brunswick brushed, and botched, an attempt to retake Kassel; it had better luck later in the year at Minden, when it was part of Von Wutginau's brigade, and it went on to fight in 1760 at Emsdorf and Warburg.

Hussars, Huassenkorps
 Like the Hessians, the Brunswick troops served in His Britannic Majesty's Army, originally as part of a subsidiary bilateral agreement with the British government. One of the terms of the Convention of Kloster-Zeven in 1757 was a repudiation of that agreement, and accordingly the Brunswick contingent were instructed by their ruler to return home. However, they were intercepted by the Hanoverian General von Zastrow when just on the point of crossing over to the French lines. With one exception the officers agreed to continue serving with the Allies – the appointment of Ferdinand of Brunswick to command the army was obviously a significant factor – and thereafter there were no doubts about the Brunswick contingent's loyalty.

As usual, the Brunswick Hussars were supposedly raised around a substantial nucleus of genuine Hungarians, all of them presumably deserters from the Austrian Imperial forces. Their true nationalities are questionable; there is no doubt that like most Freikorps volunteers they were drawn from an ever-shifting polyglot population of adventurers, and differed from the mercenaries that roamed Germany during the Thirty Years' War only in probably being more regularly paid and properly uniformed – albeit in a deliberately anachronistic style, quite unlike that of the over-dressed hussars of a century later. In this case the yellow uniform may have been inspired by that worn by the two squadrons of Prussian Hussar Regiment Nr.7 serving with the Allied army, but is more likely to have been chosen simply to be as different as possible from the blues and greens generally favoured by French hussars.

Infanterie-Regiment von Imhoff
 By contrast, this smart-looking officer is virtually indistinguishable from his colleagues in the Prussian service. While his uniform is obviously made from better materials than those served out to the rank and file, and bears all the customary marks of rank such as metallic braid decoration and a sash loosely knotted around his waist, another indicator of his status is the tailoring. Coats worn by the rank and file followed Prussian fashion, being lightly cut and relatively short, with permanently turned-back skirts; but officers in all the German states – including Prussia – demanded that they were gentlemen, by continuing to wear very full-cut frock coats. A relatively new regiment formed only in 1748, this unit had a good record; it fought at Hastenbeck in 1757; on 5 August 1758 at Mehr the regiment was part of Imhoft's force which opposed the French attack on the Allied bridgehead over the Rhine at Rees. The regiment was also engaged at Bergen, Minden, Fulda, Ziegenhain, Vellinghausen and Wilhelmsrol.

Dragoner-Regiment von Bibow
 The standard of the regiment represented by this trooper is a little unclear. They did not form part of the original contingent hired by Hesse, and do not appear in the Allied order of battle until 1759, by which time they were redesignated as Karabiniers and employed as heavy cavalry. However, at least one source states that prior to that date they were involved as dragoons in Kleinkrug operations as an allied contingent, but not the French. The colour of the waistcoat is uncertain, and one source states that it was green.

British infantry grenadier's mitre cap, here of the 49th Regiment of Foot but more or less typical of the designs used by all regiments (see Plate E2). The front and the headband at the bottom rear are in regimental facing-colour; the 'little flaps' at the front, and the back of the cap, are red, and the binding of white tape. Unless a regiment had a particular traditional badge the front bore a crowned 'GR' cypher, and the 'little flap' always bore the white horse badge of the Hanoverian dynasty (supplied by permission of the Trustees, National Army Museum, London).

H: TECHNICAL TROOPS

Hanoverian pontoonier
 The large number of rivers that cut across the area of operations in western Germany, including the Rhine and the Weser, obliged Ferdinand's army to become unusually adept at bridging. Civilian barges had to be hired in Holland for the Rhine crossing near Rees, but this arrangement obviously had its limitations, and in early 1760 three 'brigades' with light bridging equipment were raised under the command of Major Bauer, Ferdinand's Quartermaster-General. At first each brigade included a company of hussars, but soon these were themselves assimilated into a small regiment, the Frei-Husar von Bauer, which was taken onto the Prussian establishment. The uniform of these bridging brigades is uncertain; that depicted here is recorded as being worn by pontoniers in the Hanoverian service, and it seems likely that the reference is to Bauer's corps.

Hesse-Kassel artilleryman
 Both gunners and officers of the Hessian artillery wore dark blue coats, waistcoats and breeches, with red collar, cuffs, and cuffs worn by all of Scheither's men. The true nationalities are questionable; there is no doubt that like most Freikorps volunteers they were drawn from an ever-shifting polyglot population of adventurers, and differed from the mercenaries that roamed Germany during the Thirty Years' War only in probably being more regularly paid and properly uniformed – albeit in a deliberately anachronistic style, quite unlike that of the over-dressed hussars of a century later. In this case the yellow uniform may have been inspired by that worn by the two squadrons of Prussian Hussar Regiment Nr.7 serving with the Allied army, but is more likely to have been chosen simply to be as different as possible from the blues and greens generally favoured by French hussars.

Infanterie-Regiment von Imhoff
 By contrast, this smart-looking officer is virtually indistinguishable from his colleagues in the Prussian service. While his uniform is obviously made from better materials than those served out to the rank and file, and bears all the customary marks of rank such as metallic braid decoration and a sash loosely knotted around his waist, another indicator of his status is the tailoring. Coats worn by the rank and file followed Prussian fashion, being lightly cut and relatively short, with permanently turned-back skirts; but officers in all the German states – including Prussia – demanded that they were gentlemen, by continuing to wear very full-cut frock coats. A relatively new regiment formed only in 1748, this unit had a good record; it fought at Hastenbeck in 1757; on 5 August 1758 at Mehr the regiment was part of Imhoft's force which opposed the French attack on the Allied bridgehead over the Rhine at Rees. The regiment was also engaged at Bergen, Minden, Fulda, Ziegenhain, Vellinghausen and Wilhelmsrol.

Dragoner-Regiment von Bibow
 The standard of the regiment represented by this trooper is a little unclear. They did not form part of the original contingent hired by Hesse, and do not appear in the Allied order of battle until 1759, by which time they were redesignated as Karabiniers and employed as heavy cavalry. However, at least one source states that prior to that date they were involved as dragoons in Kleinkrug operations as an allied contingent, but not the French. The colour of the waistcoat is uncertain, and one source states that it was green.

British infantry grenadier's mitre cap, here of the 49th Regiment of Foot but more or less typical of the designs used by all regiments (see Plate E2). The front and the headband at the bottom rear are in regimental facing-colour; the 'little flaps' at the front, and the back of the cap, are red, and the binding of white tape. Unless a regiment had a particular traditional badge the front bore a crowned 'GR' cypher, and the 'little flap' always bore the white horse badge of the Hanoverian dynasty (supplied by permission of the Trustees, National Army Museum, London).
The uniforms, equipment, history and organization of the world’s military forces, past and present

Frederick the Great’s Allies 1756–63

This book describes and illustrates the organization and uniforms of the Allied contingents during the Seven Years’ War. At the outbreak of the war King George II’s dual role as King of England and Elector of Hanover led to Britain creating and funding an alliance with Frederick's Prussia. This colourful multi-national army of British, Brunswick, Hanoverian and Hessian troops, with other smaller contingents, played an essential part by guarding Prussia’s western front against French armies, and in the process the British contingent won some remarkable victories, such as the redcoats’ legendary attack at Minden and Granby’s cavalry triumph at Warburg.

OSPREY PUBLISHING

www.ospreypublishing.com