

Organization and Strength
of the Hanoverian Army
and the Mercenary Contingents
of Hesse-Kassel and Brunswick-Lüneburg
During the Seven Years War

Hanoverian Army
Total Strength 29,000

Cavalry:

Household Cavalry (2 sqns)
8 Regiments of Horse (2 sqns ea) (258 men ea)
4 Dragoon Regiments (4 sqns ea) (714 men ea)

Infantry:

Foot Guards (2 bns) (In England in 1756-7)
Line Infantry Battalions (24) (11 in England in 1756-7)
Grenadier Battalions (3)

7 Companies per battalion, total 814 men per battalion. Each company had 8 grenadiers which were stripped out to form the grenadier battalions. There were two light guns per battalion manned by artillerists.

Artillery

8 Companies (some in England) (696 men)
36 - 6pdrs
12 - 12pdrs
8 - 30pdrs

Engineers (10 officers and men)

Light Troops

Lu"ckner's Hussars (1 company)
Schulenburg's (later Freytag's) Mounted Ja"gers (2 cos)

In 1758 two line battalions and two artillery companies were added. In 1762 three new grenadier battalions were formed and all grenadier battalions were made independent units, no longer dependent on the line battalions.

The strength of the light troops rose steadily from 915 in 1757 to 4,086 in 1762 (2/3rds mounted, 1/3rd foot). By the end of the war the Hanoverian Army had 44,452 men.

Hesse-Kassel and Brunswick-Lu"neburg

Treaty signed on 18 June 1755 called for the Landgrave to hold a force of 8,000 men. He was to provide a force of 8,000 men consisting of:

3 Regiments of Horse or Dragoons (1,400 men)
8 Infantry Battalions (800 men ea) (6,400 men)

Forces provided by Brunswick-Lu"neberg were approximately the same.

Hesse-Kassel

The entire army consisted of:

Cavalry

- 4 Regiments of Horse (2 sqns ea) (362 men ea)
- 2 Dragoon Regiments (4 sqns ea) (662 men ea)

Infantry

- Foot Guards (1 bn) (In England 1756-7)
- Line Infantry Battalions (11) (7 in England 1756-7)
- Grenadier Battalions (2)

Each battalion had 10 companies with a total of 773 men. Each company had eight grenadiers which were stripped out for the grenadier battalions. Each battalion also had two light guns manned by artillerists.

Artillery

- 2 Companies
- 3 Companies added in 1759

Light Troops

- Hussars (1 sqn)
- Foot Jaegers (2 cos) (added in 1758)

In 1760 a squadron of Household cavalry and a second battalion of Foot Guards was added. Each battalion was divided in half in an effort to cause the French to believe that the Hessian army had doubled its strength. It is doubtful that this effort succeeded, but the Landgrave insisted that half the battalions perform the duties of full battalions.

The infantry battalions were also required to provide men for a further four grenadier battalions. By the end of the war the army had 21,756 men, of whom 16,061 were effective. The army was subject to a very high desertion rate.

Brunswick-Lu"neburg

Cavalry

- Dragoons (6 cos) (500 men)
- Riedesel's Hussar Regiment (Raised in 1759)

Infantry

- 4 Line Infantry Regiments (2 bns ea)
Each battalion had 6 companies, including 1 grenadier company.
- 2 Grenadier Battalions (formed from the detached grenadier companies of the line regiments.)
- 2 Grenadier Battalions (raised in 1759)
- 1 Grenadier Battalion (raised in 1760)
- 1 Auxiliary Battalion (raised in 1762) (passed to Prussia in 1762)

Artilleries

3 Companies (provided crews for the regimental artillery)

Light Troops

Nil in 1757

Ja"ger Corps (Raised 1759)

At the end of the war the army had 9,290 men with 6,965 effective.

Contingents of Bu"ckeberg and Saxe-Gotha

Bu"ckeberg - 1 Battalion Line Infantry

1 Regiment Light Infantry

28 guns

Bu"ckeberg Carabiniers (60 mounted & 40 foot)

Saxe-Gotha - 1 Infantry Battalion (attached to the Hanoverian
army.

Savory, Lt. Gen. Sir R., His Brittanic Majesty's Army in Germany During the Seven
Years War