

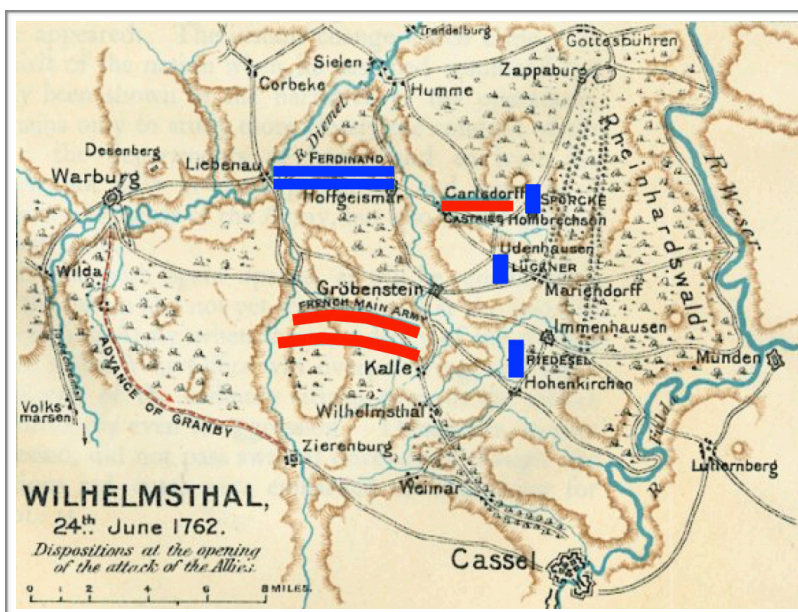
## Johann Ewald (Part I: 1744-1763)

You were born in 1744, in the city of Cassel, the capital of the Landgraviate of Hesse-Cassel. Your father, who served as the postmaster of the town, and your mother, who came from a family of merchants, died when you were young. You thus spent most of your childhood in the care of your grandmother.

As a boy, you displayed great enthusiasm for all things military. In 1758, when you were fourteen, your grandmother attempted to dampen your martial ardor by taking you to Sandershausen, the site of a recent engagement between French and Hessian forces. However, rather than dissuading you from your dreams of bellicose adventure, the experience had the opposite effect.

In 1760, you obtained an appointment as a cadet in the infantry regiment of Eitel von und zu Gilsa. As this unit was then involved in the defense of western Germany, your first year of service provided you with ample opportunity for service of the most active sort. Early in 1761, you were wounded, in the right leg, by a musket ball. Three months later, you returned to duty with your regiment, where your bravery earned you a commission as a *Fänrich*. (At this time, *Fänrich*, which corresponded to *Cornet* in the Hessian cavalry and *Seconde-Lieutenant* in the Hessian artillery, was the lowest commissioned rank in the Hessian infantry.)

In the course of 1762, your regiment took part in the campaign to recapture your hometown of Cassel, the last significant city in Germany that remained in the hands of French forces. In this campaign, you fought in one large battle (that of Wilhelmsthal), two smaller engagements, and a three-month siege.



**Situation at the Start of the Battle of Wilhelmsthal**

**Johann Ewald**  
**(Part II: 1762-1770)**

In February of 1763, the Peace of Hubertusburg ended the war in Germany. Soon thereafter, most of the former belligerents reduced the size of their armies and, in the course of doing so, dismissed many of the officers, who like you, were men of humble birth who had been commissioned in the course of the conflict. Thanks, however, to the decision of his Royal Highness Frederick II, Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel, to keep his army fully mobilized, you managed to avoid this fate. Better yet, in 1766, you earned promotion to the rank of *Premier-Lieutenant*.

In 1770, you took part in a private quarrel that friendly observers characterized as a “duel with daggers.” (A gentleman, after all, does not involve himself in a “knife fight.”) This incident cost you an eye and several other wounds, some of which were so severe that you were obliged to devote several months of convalescence. While you were healing, you enrolled in the premier institute for higher education in Cassel, the Collegium Carolinum. There, under the tutelage of the polymath Jacob de Mauvillon, you studied military engineering and other arts of war.

In 1774, you published a short treatise on the conduct of patrols, raids, and small-scale attacks. This brought you promotion to the rank of captain and command of the *Leibjäger* (“Huntsmen of the Guard”), an elite unit recruited entirely from gamekeepers.



**Johann Heinrich Tischbein, *The Hunting Lodge of the Landgrave of Hesse-Kassel*, 1766**

## Time Line of the Rebellion in the Province of New York 1775

19 April: British troops engage Rebel militia in the countryside north of Boston, in the Province of Massachusetts.

17 June: Led by Sir William Howe, British troops drive Rebel militia (the self-styled “Continental Army”) from a pair of hills overlooking Boston.

23 August: His Majesty George III proclaims that many people in British North America have rebelled against him “in open arms” and commands his loyal subjects to “use their utmost endeavors to withstand and suppress such rebellion.”

4 September: Rebel forces establish a base at the Île aux Noix, on the Richelieu River, just ten miles north of the border between the provinces of New York and Quebec.

17 September: Rebel forces besiege Fort St. Jean in the Province of Quebec.

19 October: William Tryon, Royal Governor of the Province of New York, takes up residence aboard *HMS Halifax*, a vessel of the Royal Navy moored in the harbor of the city of New York.

3 November: Rebel forces capture Fort St. Jean

6 December: Governor Tryon orders that public records be placed aboard warships of the Royal Navy.

31 December: Led by Sir Guy Carleton, British troops and loyal Canadian militia inflict a decisive defeat upon Rebel forces attacking the city of Quebec.



**The City of New York**



## Time Line of the Rebellion in the Province of New York 1776

5 January: The Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel agrees to provide a force of some 12,000 men, organized into 19 battalions of foot and 2 companies of *Jäger*, for service against the American Rebels.

17 March: British forces in Boston, in the Province of Massachusetts, conduct a successful amphibious withdrawal.

8 June: Loyal forces defeat 2,000 Rebels at Trois-Rivières in the Province of Quebec. In the fortnight that followed, the remaining Rebel forces would abandon their siege of the city of Quebec, to withdraw from the city of Montreal, and retreat to their base at Fort Ticonderoga, in the Province of New York.

2 July: The Royal Navy begins to land British troops on Staten Island, in the Province of New York. Over the course of the six weeks that followed, some 24,000 British and 8,000 Hessian troops would land on Staten Island, converting it into a base for operations aimed at the liberation of the city of New York and the surrounding areas.

9 July: Rebels in the City of New York order their slaves to topple a statue of His Majesty George III at the Bowling Green.

