

Warlord Games “Black Powder” Series Hessian Regiment

A Review by Rich Barbuto

Those of you familiar with 28mm multi-pose plastic figures will be familiar with Warlord Games’ extensive ranges of quality figures. I was ‘aware’ but not familiar when I acquired the set of Hessians. I’m putting together a Guilford Courthouse scenario and needed figures for the Regiment Von Bose. My figures are metal, but I was having a hard time finding acceptable metal figures in 28mm. I had some bit of good experience with plastic figures by another manufacturer, so I was willing to try Warlord Games’ product. Glad I did.



The models are historically correct (at least as far as wargamers need.) There is a website for Von Bose reenactors, so I had some detailed uniform information to go by. The model kit has versatility. One can create musket, fusilier, grenadier, or jaeger figures. The only shortcoming I think that I found was that the jaeger figures used the same uniform torso and limbs as the others, an ahistorical situation. However, I was happy to accept that because there were also jaeger-specific items provided (hats, rifles, packs, swords.)

Styrene plastic requires plastic cement or superglue. Each works fine. However, you need to hold the pieces together for about 10 seconds before the bond is good enough to go on to something else. You better be holding these fiddly pieces exactly where you want them because you won’t get a second chance. So, the pieces are generally a stand, a torso, a head, a hat, two arms, and a weapon. That is at least 6 different bonds per figure. Assembly is time-consuming. Another thing, the parts are small and therefore assembling them can be a challenge. Tweezers were sometimes useful.

The figures are anatomically satisfactory. The detail is superb. There is no flash to speak of. Just use a sharp modelling knife to smooth out the place where you clipped the piece from the sprue. The casting leaves clear distinctions where one feature ends and another begins. That is to say, there is no blurring; thus, the painting boundaries are easy to follow. Some items are raised just enough to catch the paint brush really well (such as buttons, cuffs, collars and buttons.) Because you add weapons and arms, there are no undercuts or awkward poses that you find in single figure castings. It is possible to paint arms and weapons separately before attaching them. I did this for the swords carried by the jaegers, but for the musketeers, I fully assembled the figure before painting it.

Multi-pose suggests that you have a variety of choices in each figure. Not entirely so. Yes, you can adjust arms, turn heads, and add different choices to some figures, such as the officer. However, for most figures, such as the common infantry, there is practically only one way to assemble the figure. And that is all right because the range of figure poses is sufficient. Below are the musketeers.



The real challenge was the figure at 'present arms' (fourth from the left). This model has half of the hand on the arm and the other half cast to the musket. That means you must have perfect alignment between torso, arms, and musket – a circle of pieces to be glued perfectly. I never got a perfectly aligned bond with all four pieces. Also note that I did not use the plastic stands provided. I used a smaller wood stand (a wonderful Litko product) to match the stands I use with metal figures.

I estimated that it took me easily twice as long to assemble and paint these multi-pose figures than I usually spend on metal single-piece figures. However, the final product surpasses most metal figures.

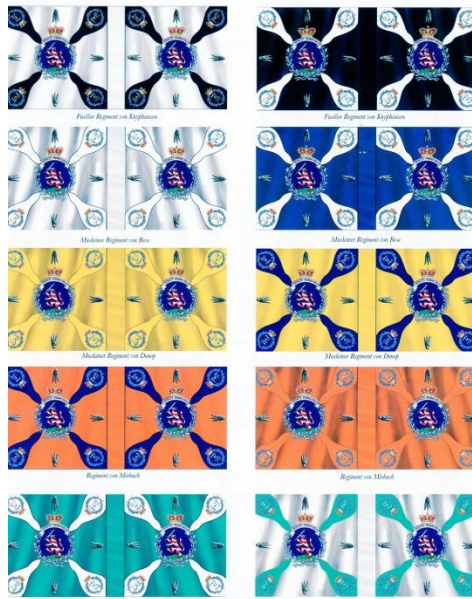
Here are my Hessian jaegers. I used three different walking torsos, turned heads, and adjusted placement of arms to get a decidedly different look. I added the jaeger swords (hirschfanger), but did not use the packs or queues. I'm happy with the results.



I was most pleased with the flags! The kit provides flags for seven different Hessian regiments.

Using Hessian colours down to exact historical minutiae is a colossal proportion as so few survived into posterity. Many believe the Hessian colours matched those of the Prussians in the Seven Years War whilst others submit that each regiment would carry several different colours. With the research and advice of renowned vexillologist, Dr Lesley Prince we provide a variety of colours for several of the more famous regiments fighting in America.

Flags researched by and courtesy of Dr Lesley Prince.



Component Code: 3070000005

Black Powder™ American War of Independence 1775-1783

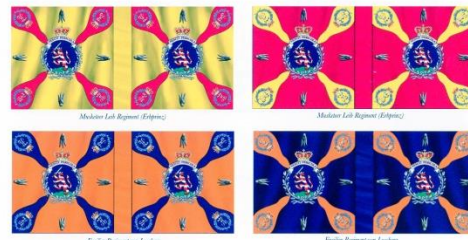
Hessian Infantry Regiment

Taking their name from the German state of Hesse from which most of them hailed, Hessians were German mercenaries in the employ of the British crown. Prior to the American War of Independence Hessians had fought for the British during the Jacobite rebellion of 1715 and had a military tradition as mercenaries for hire, as their local rulers funded their own governments with the proceeds.

Around a quarter of the troops Britain fielded during the War of Independence were Hessians. Although under the overall command of British officers, they had their own commanding officers, fought under their usual flags and in their traditional uniforms. The bulk of the Hessian forces were infantry – musketeer, fusilier, grenadier and jäger units being most common. Hessian regiments performed well and fought in the majority of battles in the war in some respect although the British used them primarily for garrison duty as the war progressed. However, Hessians were a key part of the British forces fighting in the South under General Cornwallis.



Standard Bearers
Use parts marked J to assemble standard bearers. Choose the head and headgear to match the unit you are building (musketeer, fusilier, or grenadier).



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This is really a very satisfactory product. The price was no more expensive than metal castings. The trade off to me is the time required for multi-pose figures. I will be checking out more plastic figures as well as metals as I expand my interests.