

**MUNSELL'S HISTORICAL SERIES. NO. 19.  
THE GERMAN ALLIED TROOPS IN THE  
NORTH AMERICAN WAR  
OF INDEPENDENCE, 1776-1783.  
TRANSLATED AND ABRIDGED FROM THE  
GERMAN OF MAX VON EELKING**

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**J. G. ROSENGARTEN & MAX VON EELKING**

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*Munsell's*  
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*Knyphausen*

Portrait of a man in 18th-century attire, likely a military officer, wearing a powdered wig and a dark coat with a high collar. The portrait is framed in an oval.

THE  
GERMAN ALLIED TROOPS

IN THE  
North American War of Independence,

1776-1783.

TRANSLATED AND ABRIDGED FROM THE GERMAN OF

MAX VON EELKING,

*Captain Saxon-Meiningen Army; Member of the Historical Society of New York.*

UNIV. OF  
CALIFORNIA

BY

J. G. ROSENGARTEN.

ALBANY, N. Y.:

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1893.

# THE GERMAN ALLIES IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, 1776-1783.

BY MAX VON EELKING,

Captain in the Saxon-Meiningen Army, and Corresponding Member of the Historical  
Society of New York.

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"*SUUM CUIQUE.*"

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TRANSLATED (AND ABRIDGED) FROM THE GERMAN.

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NOTE.—Published in Hanover, in 1863, in two volumes, of pp. 379 and pp. 271, this book still remains full of interesting details as to the German troops serving in America. Leaving out all that relates to the general history of the Revolution, there is much that is likely to have value for special students of American history, and to them these pages are submitted as a contribution that cannot but serve to give a better idea of the actual facts of the part taken by the German soldiers in the British army, in the struggle for American independence, than can easily be gathered from other sources.





## PREFACE.

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It is now just eighty years\* since the German troops returned home from the seven years' war beyond the Atlantic, in which they had fought as allies of England against the great American rising. They are known as the German Allied or Subsidiary Troops. Since that long and hard-fought war, the Union, with passing exceptions, has enjoyed the blessings of a long peace. Now a new war is raging; this time the sword is not drawn against a foreign power, but between hitherto sister states — their own flesh and blood. Again Germans are fighting, just as before throwing their weight in the balance, now not for a foreign interest, but for their own. Even if nearly a century has elapsed between the first great war and that now being waged, the careful observer will find much resemblance between the war of that day and the present war. Let us look, however, at the subject we have in hand. While we find in other campaigns in which German soldiers

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\* The original was published in Hanover in 1863.

have taken part the results gained by them more or less fully described, there is wanting, in the most marked way, the history of the share they took in the war of the American Revolution. There has been plenty of time to fill this void, but hitherto it has not been attempted in any complete form. In the literature of Germany it has appeared only in separate accounts in historical works and periodicals. Even this proportionately brief material is not only small in bulk, but is, for the most part, either of particular portions of the forces engaged, or from ignorance, or by accident, it is erroneous. The absence of any complete or impartial story is noteworthy in the present wealth of German history. Hitherto the archives in which the original documents were preserved have been jealously closed to the world. There is, however, abundance of other material in the journals and correspondence of the principal leaders, of officers and private soldiers, who shared in the war. Most of them wrote with no expectation that their pages would ever be made public, and plainly put down what was seen and what was heard. The value to be ascribed to such material is to be seen in its use in modern works on the history of recent wars. To gather such material has been no light labor. Much was lost, much in family papers