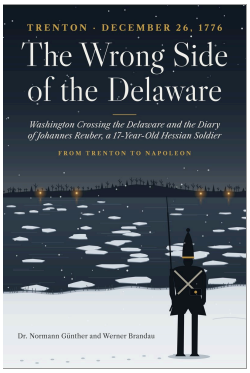
Press Release · Casseler Buch und Bild Verlag, Kassel, Germany · For immediate release · Kassel, Germany, November 20, 2026



The Wrong Side of the Delaware

Washington Crossing the Delaware and the Diary of Johannes Reuber, a 17-Year-Old Hessian Soldier

Dr. Normann Günther and Werner Brandau

Christmas night, 1776: Washington crossed the Delaware. Johannes Reuber was on the other side.

Forget the Headless Horseman. Meet a real Hessian.

He was seventeen in 1776, the only child of a day laborer from a small village near Kassel in Hesse, Germany, the land that gave the Hessians their name. At sixteen he became a soldier. His prince rented him out, along with thousands of others, to King George III. The prince collected millions; the boy went to war.

In the fall of 1776 he **helped the British drive Washington out of New York** and stormed the last American fort on Manhattan. Less than six weeks later he was in Trenton when Washington's army came across the icy river and struck the town on the morning after Christmas. Reuber was one of some 900 Hessians taken prisoner.

What followed is hard to believe. He was marched through Philadelphia and on into Virginia. On the way, the American guards simply turned back. Most of the British prisoners ran off. The Hessians, as Reuber tells it, marched on by themselves through enemy country and reached their destination two days later. Exchanged in 1778, he fought again in the South, at Savannah and Charleston, and came home in 1783.

From Washington to Napoleon.

His war did not end in America. Back in Europe he fought the armies of revolutionary France. In 1806 Napoleon's troops marched into his homeland and broke up the Hessian army, and after thirty years in uniform the veteran grenadier was sent home. Two revolutions, one emperor, one common soldier.

And he wrote it all down, in a diary full of his own drawings of ships, camps, and towns, one of very few by an ordinary Hessian soldier of the Revolutionary War to survive. Historians know him as a witness to Trenton, and at the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia he stands as a life-size figure.
What came after is far less known in English.

Werner Brandau, the historian of Reuber's hometown, recounts his story for today's readers. Dr. Normann Günther introduces it for an American audience.

Inside this book:

- **The story:** Fort Washington, Trenton, and captivity in Pennsylvania and Virginia, seen from the Hessian side and told in part in Reuber's own words
- **After America:** the siege of Mainz, the war in Flanders, and the end of the Hessian army in 1806
- **The Men from Vellmar:** the soldiers from his home villages, from the HETRINA records

- **The account of 1893–94:** F. W. Junghans's narrative from the Kassel journal *Hessenland*, written from the diary, complete in a new English translation
- **For readers who want more:** a map, notes with the evidence, sources, an index, and a QR code to his handwritten diary, kept at the Kassel University Library, online page by page

Published for the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Trenton: the Revolutionary War, seen from the wrong side of the Delaware.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC DETAILS

- Paperback, 168 pages, 6 × 9 in, ISBN 978-3-912050-15-8, US$ 19.99
- Kindle edition US$ 9.99
- Published November 16, 2026
- German edition „Im Dienste der britischen Krone", published November 20, 2026

More about the book: https://wrongsideofthedelaware.com/ · https://www.cbb-verlag.de/reuber/en/

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Review copies and images available on request.