

lad of his village. He arrived at the camp immediately before an attack was to be made on the allied army under Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick.

In this attack, known as the battle of Willingshausen (14th July 1761), which ended in the signal defeat of the French, young Lamarck at last found himself in charge of his company, whereof all the officers had been killed in the action, and which was left behind unnoticed in the confusion of the retreat. The oldest grenadier of the band counselled him to retire, but the youthful volunteer, with characteristic courage, refused to move without orders from the post that had been assigned to them. Not without some risk and difficulty he and the remnant of his company were at last relieved and withdrawn. He was at once rewarded for his valour by being made an officer by the Commander-in-Chief. Further promotion followed, and after the peace he passed some time in garrison duty. The enforced leisure of this kind of life, and the seclusion rendered necessary by a severe accident, led him to return to some of the studies, more particularly to botany, which had interested him during his stay at the College.

Seeing at last no prospect of a satisfactory future in the army he resolved to try his fortune elsewhere, and to qualify himself for the medical profession. Having, however, an annual allowance of no more than 400 francs, he eked out his slender income by working for a portion of his time in the office of a banker. His medical education is said to have extended over four years. But he does not seem ever to have taken up the practice of the profession,