

shall be pitied against a French regiment, the first time he can procure a meeting."

The Queen's Rangers remained at the east end of Long Island until the 9th August, when they fell back to Coram, from whence they returned eastward on the 15th, being joined by the King's American Regiment. They returned to Oyster Bay on the 23rd August after a fatiguing march of three hundred miles in very hot and sultry weather. Immediately after this the Rangers were augmented by two troops of dragoons, which were placed under the command of Captains Saunders and Shank, whom Simcoe describes as "officers of distinguished merit."

Simcoe was entrusted with a knowledge of the negotiations which culminated in Arnold's treason and also in the death of Major Andre, who was his personal friend, and for whom the Rangers went into mourning. They were to have been entrusted with a very hazardous service in connexion with these events had occasion called for it, such was the esteem in which they were held by the army and Commander-in-Chief. On the 8th October the Rangers resumed their old post at Richmond, Staten Island, and shortly afterwards Captain Saunders with his Lieutenant Wilson and Cornet Merritt, embarked for Virginia in the expedition with General Leslie. Captain Agnew, who had been practically unfit for service for three years, owing to a wound received at the battle of Brandywine, also went with Leslie, and his father, John Agnew, the Chaplain of the Regiment.

In the latter part of October it was generally supposed that the enemy

meditated an attempt upon Staten Island. Lafayette with an army was in the neighborhood and had been heard to boast that he would plant French colors on Richmond Redoubts. This boast was read to the Rangers in public orders and excited great indignation. The Highland company immediately assembled and marched to the Redoubt, which in the distribution of posts was allotted to them and, displaying their national banner, with which they were accustomed to commemorate St. Andrew's day, fixed it on the ramparts saying, "No Frenchman or rebel shall ever pull it down." The Rangers were prepared to repel any attack which might be made upon their redoubts. About this time a false alarm, which was given by an armed vessel stationed at Newark Bay, occasioned a considerable movement in the army; and troops from New York embarked to reinforce Staten Island; the post at Richmond being supposed to be the object of attack. On the first gun being fired, patrols had been made on all sides by the cavalry, and the infantry slept undisturbed, Lieut. Col. Simcoe apprehending the alarm to be false. The Rangers were very alert on guard and proud of their regimental character, of not giving false alarms or being surprised; and "the sentinel," as Simcoe remarked in orders, "felt a manly pleasure in reflecting that the lives and honor of the regiment was entrusted to his care, and that under his protection his comrades slept in security." But greater events than any attack that Lafayette could make were on the carpet. The regiment early in December was ordered to Virginia and was about to enter upon the last and most brilliant of its six