

and cannonaded the British quarters, particularly the house where General Phillips lay dying. They had already been informed by a flag of truce of the condition of the British General, so that their conduct may fairly pass for a specimen of French and American chivalry during the war. Lafayette after this exploit, by which he succeeded in killing an old negro woman, a servant of Mrs. Balling, marched off to Osborne's. Simcoe and his Rangers marched with all speed to Nottaway River, twenty-seven miles from Petersburg. There leaving his infantry he pushed on with the Hussars, captured Col. Gee, a Militia Officer, and also a Militia Captain and 30 men. After communicating with Cornwallis and capturing two or three officers with dispatches Simcoe returned to Petersburg, and Lord Cornwallis' whole army reached there the 20th May. The army having marched to Bottom Bridge on the 28th, Simcoe patrolled to Newcastle, where he captured a number of American officers. Capt. Cooke's troop of Hussars at this time joined from New York. The Rangers continued on patrol duty for several days, capturing several parties of the enemy, and then were ordered to march against Baron Steuben, who was at the head of James River at the point of Fork. As the Rangers, owing to the severity of this service, having been constantly in the field for six months, had scarcely more than 200 infantry and 100 chivalry fit for duty, 200 of the 71st Regiment were ordered to join them. The incessant marches of the Rangers and their distance from stores had so worn out their shoes that nearly fifty of the men were absolutely barefooted.

Simcoe assembled them, told them they were wanted for active employment and said that those who chose to stay in the army might do so; but there was not a man who would remain behind the corps. The Rangers then marched against Steuben, Lt. Spencer with 20 Hussars forming the advance guard. They advanced with such celerity that they captured many prisoners and the enemy had no intimation of their approach. They learned that Baron Steuben's force amounted to 900 effective men, exclusive of militia. At Napier's ford on the third day's march, Lt. Spencer accompanied by the Hussars approached the house of a Col. Thompson and leaving his two men behind the wall, entered the garden, where the Colonel and four militia were, and asked in a very familiar manner the road to the Baron's camp. The party did not like Spencer's looks, innocent as he seemed, and immediately bolted, leaving five good horses behind them. The Hussars next captured a patrol of Dragoons within two miles of the Baron's encampment, which was at the further side of Fluvana. The Rangers captured 30 of Steuben's people, who had not got over, and then encamped for the night, the men having marched nearly 40 miles and being greatly fatigued. Elaborate preparations were made to resist a night attack, which was expected, Steuben being more than double his strength, but the Baron apparently did not relish being in the vicinity of the Rangers, and at midnight marched off, leaving a vast quantity of arms and ammunition behind him, which fell into Simcoe's hands. The booty included a 13-inch motar