

Immediately after the Americans began their retreat, Sir Gordon Drummond detached all his light troops, cavalry and Indians in pursuit to harass the retreat.

But the cavalry force available was too small to be able to accomplish much against such a strong force of artillery and infantry as still remained with the American general.

Several times during the war small parties of the regular and militia infantry corps were occasionally mounted to supply the deficiency in mounted men. Sir Gordon Drummond, for instance, in a report dated in camp before Fort Erie, 4th August, 1814, wrote:—"I have this morning detached an officer of the Quartermaster-General's Department with a party of dragoons and a few mounted men of the Glengarry Light Infantry by the road leading upon Fort Erie by Bird's and Tyce Horn's, along the lake shore, to make an accurate reconnaissance of the enemy's position."

A squadron of the 19th Light Dragoons under Captain Eustace figured honorably in these operations against Fort Erie. Sergeant Powell of the Dragoons, who acted as guide at the disastrous assault on August 16th, behaved most gallantly and was mentioned in orders.

District General Orders of September 7th, referring to the successful attack on the American "Picket No. 4" the previous day, an exploit in which the whole cavalry detachment participated, contained the following:—"Sergeant Powell, 19th Light Dragoons, has been named to the Lieutenant-General as having again distinguished himself on this occasion."

In a report by Lieut.-General Drummond on the repulse of the American sortie from Fort Erie on September 17th, appeared the following:—"I have reason to be pleased with the activity and zeal which Major Lisle and the officers and men of the 19th Dragoons have uniformly displayed."

The Provincial Dragoons also had their place in these trying operations, participating with the 19th in patrol and reconnaissance duties. A particularly smart naval brigade under Captain Dobbs, R.N., was present with Sir Gordon Drummond's besieging force, and the Provincial Dragoons appear to have divided with the blue jackets and marines the distinction of being the handy men of the force, being used as scouts, boatmen, axemen, etc.

In a letter from Lieutenant-General Drummond to Sir George Prevost, dated in camp before Fort Erie, August 24th, 1814, appeared the following:—"Having long seen the necessity of the appointment of a provost marshal with this division, I beg to recommend that a commission of that kind be accordingly prepared, and if your Excellency has no candidate for the situation, that it be conferred upon Cornet Amos McKenney of the Niagara Light Dragoons, that officer at present acting in that capacity and apparently well qualified."

Altogether it is evident that if the services rendered by the few extemporized militia cavalry corps of 1812-14 were not very conspicuous, they were very useful.

There does not appear to have been any attempt to organize any cavalry in York during the war, but the flank companies of the York Regiment covered themselves with glory whenever they faced the foe.

In a list of officers who served in the East York Battalion during 1812 and 1813, appear several names which are familiar to those acquainted with the history of the Governor-General's Body Guard. Among such being those of Lieutenant-Colonel William Chewitt, Captain John Button, Lieutenant Charles Denison and Lieutenant George T. Denison.

Captain John Button, whose father had served in the Revolutionary War, was great grandfather of Major J. R. Button of the Governor-General's Body Guard. Lieutenants Charles