

homes. It is certain that at least 25,000 Loyalists (exclusive of those in Canada) served the king in arms during the course of the war.

In point of numbers, the foremost of the Loyalist corps was that known as the New Jersey Volunteers, or "Skinner's Greens." It was organized in the latter part of the year 1776, by Brigadier-General Cortland Skinner. It comprised at first six battalions commanded respectively by Lieutenant-Colonels Elisha Lawrence, John Morris, Edward Vaughan Dongan, Abraham VanBuskirk, Thomas Barton, and Isaac Allen. General Skinner's brigade, at the time of its maximum strength, numbered about 1,400 of all ranks.

While the record of the New Jersey Volunteers on the field of battle was perhaps less brilliant than that of such corps as the Queen's Rangers, the 1st and 2nd DeLancey's, and the British Legion, it rendered substantial service at various points in New Jersey, and also in the defence of Staten Island; and one of the battalions, under Lieut.-Colonel Isaac Allen, was conspicuous for its gallantry in the southern campaigns in Georgia and the Carolinas. In consequence of severe losses incurred at Staten Island and elsewhere, the first and fifth battalions were amalgamated under Lieut.-Colonel Barton, and the third and sixth under Lieut.-Colonel Allen. This occurred about March, 1778. A further consolidation took place in the autumn of 1781, when the companies of Lieut.-Colonel Morris' battalion were attached to the first and fourth battalions. Thus at the close of the war the six original battalions had been reduced to three. These were commanded respectively by Lieut.-Colonel Stephen DeLancey, Lieut.-Colonel Isaac Allen, and Lieut.-Colonel Abraham VanBuskirk.

Colonel VanBuskirk's battalion contained a very large Dutch element. It was recruited at New York, Staten Island and in the neighboring parts of New Jersey. It appears to have been a reliable and serviceable corps, and had as its commander a rough and ready old soldier. Among the officers were Major Philip VanCortland, Captains William VanAllen, Peter Ruttan, Samuel Ryerson, Jacob VanBuskirk and Waldron Blaauw; Lieutenants Martin Ryerson, James Sarvenier, John Heslop, John VanNorden, Joost (or Justus) Earle and John Simonson; Ensigns Colin McVean, Xenophen Jouett, Malcolm Wilmot, William Sorrell, and Frederick Handorff.

The fleet, with such of the Loyalist troops as had elected to be disbanded on the River St. John, left New York on the 15th day of September, 1783, and arrived safely at St. John on the 27th of the