

British Cavalry Regiments and the Men Who Led Them 1793-1815

By [Steve Brown](#)

12th Light Dragoons

Secondary Title: Prince of Wales's

Regimental History, 12th Light Dragoons

1715: Raised as Phineas Bowles's Regiment of Dragoons
1740: Hose's Regiment of Dragoons
1743: Whitehead's Regiment of Dragoons
1746: Bligh's Regiment of Dragoons
1747: Mordaunt's Regiment of Dragoons
1749: Cholmondeley's Regiment of Dragoons
1749: Sackville's Regiment of Dragoons
1750: Whiteford's Regiment of Dragoons
1751: Numbered as 12th Regiment of Dragoons
1768: 12th (The Prince of Wales's) Regiment of (Light) Dragoons
1816: 12th (The Prince of Wales's) Regiment of (Light) Dragoons (Lancers)
1817: 12th (The Prince of Wales's) Royal Regiment of (Light) Dragoons (Lancers)
1861: 12th (Prince of Wales's Royal) Lancers
1921: 12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's)
1960: 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's) (on amalgamation with the 9th (The Queen's Royal) Lancers)
2015: The Royal Lancers (on amalgamation with The Queen's Royal Lancers)

Service History and Demographics, 12th Light Dragoons

1793: England; to Mediterranean; seige of Toulon
1794: Mediterranean; May - Cita Vecchia; Rome; August - Corsica
1795: Corsica; January - to England; July - Tavistock; Exeter; Portsmouth; ordered on foreign service but countermanded
1796: York; May - Nottingham; October - Croydon
1797: To Portugal; Lisbon
1798: Lisbon
1799: Lisbon
1800: Lisbon; October - to Egypt; Marmorice
1801: EGYPT; Alexandria; Cairo; Malta; November - to England
1802: February - Portsmouth; to Ireland; Dublin
1803: Clonmel; July - Dublin riots; Limerick
1804: Ireland; August - Curragh camp
1805: Ireland; to England; May - Liverpool; June - Romford; October - Guildford
1806: Blatchington; April - Romsey; May - Hythe
1807: Hythe; March - London riots; July - Hounslow
1808: Hounslow; July - Deal; coastal duties
1809: Deal; August - 4 troops at Deal, 6 troops to Walcheren; October - regiment reunited at Deal
1810: Deal; June - Romford
1811: Romford; June - 6 troops to Portugal; 4 troops at Norwich; Castello Branco; Aldea de Ponte; Llerena; Celorico
1812: 4 troops at Radipole; Seixo; Tomar; Los Santos; Villagarcia; Alentejo; Ciudad Rodrigo; Guarena; Salamanca; Valladolid; Burgos; Quintana de Puente; Mondego Valley
1813: Mondego Valley; Aguida; Oporto; advance to Vitoria; Vitoria; San Sebastian; Tolosa; Nivelle; Nive; Bayonne; Urrugne
1814: Urrugne; Bayonne; Bordeaux; to England; June - Dover; Hounslow; regiment reunited at Dorchester
1815: Dorchester; March - Reading; Canterbury; Ramsgate; April - Dover; to Flanders; WATERLOO; advance to Paris; Army of Occupation
1818: November - to England.

Colonels

Sir James STEUART (-DENHAM), Bt.

Royal Military Calendar Entry: 20

Born: Edinburgh August 1744

Relations: Son of James Steuart, 2nd Baronet Coltness, a Jacobite exile; took additional surname of Denham in 1780

Regimental Service: Major in 13th Dragoons 6 November 1772; Lieutenant-Colonel in 13th Dragoons 15 July 1776; Colonel of 12th Light Dragoons 8 November 1791; Colonel of 2nd Dragoons 12 January 1815

Early Service: Served in Germany 1761-1762

Service 1793-1815: Commanded Southern District of Ireland during Irish Rebellion of 1798

Staff & General Officer Service: Brevet Colonel 20 November 1783; Major-General 12 October 1793; Lieutenant-General 1 January 1796; General 25 September 1803

Awards & Honours: MP 1784-1802

Died: Cheltenham 12 August 1839.

Sir William PAYNE (-GALLWEY), Bt.

Royal Military Calendar Entry: 159

Born: West Indies 1759

Relations: Adopted additional -Gallwey surname 7 March 1814

Regimental Service: Major in 1st Dragoons 1794; Lieutenant-Colonel in 1st Dragoons 1 March 1794; Lieutenant-Colonel in 3rd Dragoon Guards 5 October 1796; Lieutenant-Colonel in 10th Light Dragoons 12 September 1805; to Colonel of 23rd Light Dragoons 18 November 1807; Colonel of 19th Light Dragoons 13 July 1814; Colonel of 12th Light Dragoons 12 January 1815 (vice Stuart-Denham)

Service 1793-1815: Served in Flanders 1794; commanded cavalry in Peninsula June 1809 to June 1810

Staff & General Officer Service: Brevet Colonel 1 January 1798; Brigadier-General in Ireland 1802 to 1805; Major-General 1 January 1805; Lieutenant-General 4 June 1811

Awards & Honours: CB; Baronet 8 December 1813; LAGM (Tal)

Died: 16 April 1831.

Lieutenant Colonels

AGC = Army Gold Cross (clasps in brackets)

LAGM = Large Army Gold Medal (clasps in brackets)

SAGM = Small Army Gold Medal (clasps in brackets)

MGSMS = Military General Service Medal (Silver Medal) (clasps in brackets)

James St CLAIR-ERSKINE, Bt.

Royal Military Calendar Entry: 77

Born: Scotland February 1762

Relations: Eldest son of General Sir Henry Erskine; took additional surname St Clair- in 1789

Regimental Service: Major in 8th Light Dragoons 28 August 1783; Lieutenant-Colonel in 12th Light Dragoons 14 March 1792; Colonel of 9th Light Dragoons 1 August 1810

Service 1793-1815: Commanded 12th Light Dragoons 1792-1798; Adjutant-General at Toulon 1793 and Corsica 1794; Adjutant-General in Portugal 1796-1797, and on Minorca 1797-1799

Staff & General Officer Service: Brevet Colonel 28 May 1795; Brigadier-General in Portugal 1797; Major-General 1 January 1798; Lieutenant-General 1 January 1805; General 4 June 1814

Later Service: Lord Privy Seal 1828-1830; Lord President of the Council 1834-1835

Awards & Honours: GCB; PC; Baronet Alva 1765; MP 1782-1805; 2nd Earl of Rosslyn 1805

Died: Fifeshire January 1837.

Mervyn ARCHDALL

Royal Military Calendar Entry: 155

Born: Fermanagh April 1763

Relations: Son of Colonel Mervyn Archdall

Regimental Service: Major in 12th Light Dragoons 31 March 1793 (vice Willey); Lieutenant-Colonel 1 March 1794

Service 1793-1815: Served in Mediterranean 1793-1796; served in Portugal 1796-1800; commanded 12th Light Dragoons 1798-1805; served in Egypt 1801, lost right arm at Alexandria

Staff & General Officer Service: Brevet Colonel 1 January 1798; Major-General 1 January 1805; Lieutenant-General 4 June 1811; General 27 May 1825

Later Service: Lieutenant-Governor of Isle of Wight 9 August 1815; Governor of County Fermanagh 1813-1831; Grand Master of Orange Order 1818-1822

Awards & Honours: MP 1802-1834

Died: Fermanagh July 1839.

Robert BROWNE

Royal Military Calendar Entry: 376

Born: Ireland c.1769

Regimental Service: Major in 12th Light Dragoons 1 March 1794 (vice Archdall); brevet Lieutenant-Colonel 1 January 1798; Lieutenant-Colonel 30 August 1799 (vice Erskine)

Service 1793-1815: Served in Corsica 1794-1796; served in Portugal 1796-1800; served in Egypt 1801; commanded 12th Light Dragoons 1805-1811; served at Walcheren 1809

Staff & General Officer Service: Lieutenant-Colonel in Portugal 30 November 1796; brevet Colonel 25 April 1808; Major-General 4 June 1811; Lieutenant-General 19 July 1821; General 28 June 1838

Died: Bath March 1845.

Hon. Frederick Cavendish PONSONBY

Royal Military Calendar Entry: 801

Born: 6 July 1783

Relations: Second son of Frederick, 3rd Earl of Bessborough; cousin of Major-General Hon. William Ponsonby

Regimental Service: Major in 10th Light Dragoons 25 June 1807; Lieutenant-Colonel in 23rd Light Dragoons 15 March 1810; Lieutenant-Colonel in 12th Light Dragoons 11 June 1811; Colonel of 86th Foot 4 December 1835; Colonel of 1st Dragoons 31 March 1836

Service 1793-1815: Served in Peninsula June 1809 to July 1811; again in Peninsula September 1811 to April 1814, wounded 13 October 1812; commanded 12th Light Dragoons 1811-1815; badly wounded at Waterloo; to half-pay 26 August 1820

Staff & General Officer Service: Brevet Colonel 4 June 1814; Major-General 27 May 1825

Later Service: Inspecting Field Officer on Ionian Islands 1824; Commander-in-Chief Ionian Islands 1825; Governor of Malta 1826

Awards & Honours: GCMG; KCB; KCH; KMT; LAGM (Bar Sal Vit Nive)

Died: Basingstoke January 1837.

Majors

AGC = Army Gold Cross (clasps in brackets)

LAGM = Large Army Gold Medal (clasps in brackets)

SAGM = Small Army Gold Medal (clasps in brackets)

MGSM = Military General Service Medal (Silver Medal) (clasps in brackets)

Edward WILLEY

Regimental Service: Major in 12th Light Dragoons 30 July 1791 (on transfer from 6th Dragoon Guards); to Lieutenant-Colonel in 4th Dragoon Guards 31 March 1793

Retired: August 1795.

James HARE

Royal Military Calendar Entry: 418

Regimental Service: Major in 12th Light Dragoons 19 March 1796 (on transfer from 10th Light Dragoons); to Lieutenant-Colonel in 28th Light Dragoons 5 December 1799; to half-pay 1802; Lieutenant-Colonel in 22nd Light Dragoons 22 August 1805

Service 1793-1815: Served West Indies as ADC to Sir Charles Grey 1794; served in Portugal 1796-1797; Inspecting Field Officer of Cavalry 1804; served in India 1806-1820

Staff & General Officer Service: Brevet Colonel 25 October 1809; Major-General 1 January 1812

Later Service: Commanded in Mysore 1819-1820

Died: India 1820.

Overington BLUNDEN

Royal Military Calendar Entry: 599

Born: Kilkenny August 1767

Relations: Third son of Sir John Blunden, 1st Baronet

Regimental Service: Major in 12th Light Dragoons 30 August 1799 (vice Browne); brevet Lieutenant-Colonel 1 January 1805

Service 1793-1815: Served in Peninsula April to June 1811; again in Peninsula April to June 1812

Staff & General Officer Service: Brevet Colonel 4 June 1813; Major-General 12 August 1819; Lieutenant-General 10 January 1837

Awards & Honours: MP 1812-1814

Died: December 1837.

Lord Robert Edward Henry SOMERSET

Royal Military Calendar Entry: 463

Born: Gloucestershire December 1776

Relations: Fourth son of Henry, 5th Duke of Beaufort; elder brother of Fitzroy Somerset, Lord Raglan

Regimental Service: Major in 20th Light Dragoons 21 November 1799; Major in 12th Light Dragoons 5 December 1799 (vice Hare); exchanged to Major in 28th Light Dragoons 19 November 1800; Lieutenant-Colonel in 5th Foot 25 December 1800;

Lieutenant-Colonel in 4th Dragoons 3 September 1801; Colonel of 21st Light Dragoons 15 January 1818; Colonel of 4th Dragoons 31 March 1836

Service 1793-1815: ADC to Duke of York at Helder 1799; served in Peninsula April 1809 to January 1811; again in Peninsula May 1811 to June 1813; commanded a cavalry brigade July 1813 to April 1814; commanded Household Brigade in Waterloo campaign

Staff & General Officer Service: Brevet Colonel 25 July 1810; Major-General 4 June 1813; Lieutenant-General 27 May 1825

Later Service: Lieutenant-General of the Ordnance 1829-1830; Surveyor-General of the Ordnance 1834-1835

Awards & Honours: GCB; LAGM (Tal Sal Vit Ort Toul); MP 1799-1831 and 1834-1837

Died: London September 1842.

Hew Dalrymple HAMILTON

Born: 1774

Relations: Son of Sir Hew Dalrymple, 3rd Baronet

Regimental Service: Major in 28th Light Dragoons 20 March 1799; exchanged to Major in 12th Light Dragoons 19 November 1800

Awards & Honours: MP 1795-1800, 1803-1807, 1811-1818 and 1820-1826

Retired: December 1800

Died: 1834.

Sir George Allen MADDEN

Royal Military Calendar Entry: 625

Born: London 1771

Regimental Service: Major in 12th Light Dragoons 25 December 1800 (vice Hamilton); brevet Lieutenant-Colonel 1812 (backdated to 4 July 1805)

Service 1793-1815: Served in Mediterranean 1794; served in Portugal 1797-1798; served in Egypt 1801; court-martialled and sold out in 1802; Inspecting Field Officer of Yeomanry 1805-1807; in Portuguese service September 1809 to April 1812; again in Portuguese service August 1812 to April 1814

Staff & General Officer Service: Brevet Colonel 4 June 1813; Brigadier-General in Portuguese service June 1809; Major-General 12 August 1819

Awards & Honours: CB; KTS; LAGM (Pyr)

Retired: 1802 (until 1809); 13 October 1814

Died: Portsmouth December 1828.

Sir James KEARNEY

Royal Military Calendar Entry: 866

Born: Ireland c.1777

Regimental Service: Major in 12th Light Dragoons 27 May 1802 (on transfer from 29th Light Dragoons) (vice Madden); exchanged to Major in 2nd Dragoon Guards 1 June 1805; brevet Lieutenant-Colonel 25 July 1810; Lieutenant-Colonel 16 June 1814; Colonel of 7th Light Dragoons 20 December 1842

Service 1793-1815: Served in India; served in West Indies; served at Walcheren 1809

Staff & General Officer Service: Brevet Colonel 12 August 1819; Major-General 22 July 1830; Lieutenant-General 23 November 1841

Awards & Honours: KCH

Died: Kilkenny 1846.

William Frederick SPICER

Born: Devon 1769

Regimental Service: Major in 2nd Dragoon Guards 2 February 1805; exchanged to Major in 12th Light Dragoons 30 May 1805 (vice Kearney); exchanged to Major in 78th Foot 25 April 1811; brevet Lieutenant-Colonel 4 June 1811

Retired: June 1811

Died: Dover October 1855.

George WYNDHAM

Royal Military Calendar Entry: 1140

Born: London June 1787

Relations: Illegitimate son of George Wyndham, 3rd Earl of Egremont

Regimental Service: Exchanged to Major in 12th Light Dragoons 25 April 1811 (on transfer from 78th Foot) (vice Spicer); to Major in Sicilian Regiment; Lieutenant-Colonel in de Meuron's Regiment 13 March 1812; Lieutenant-Colonel in 20th Light Dragoons 10 December 1812

Service 1793-1815: Joined Royal Navy in 1799; transferred to 5th Dragoon Guards 1802; served in West Indies 1805; served at Copenhagen 1807; served in Peninsula June 1811 to January 1812; again in Peninsula (east coast of Spain) with 20th Light Dragoons November 1813 to April 1814

Awards & Honours: 1st Baron Leconfield in 1859

Died: Petworth 18 March 1869.

John James, Earl WALDEGRAVE

Royal Military Calendar Entry: 1191

Born: Somerset 1785

Relations: Second son of 4th Earl Waldegrave

Regimental Service: Major in 8th Garrison Battalion 9 June 1808; Major in 72nd Foot 20 March 1808; Major in 15th Light Dragoons 25 July 1809; Major in 12 Light Dragoons 13 March 1812 (vice Wyndham); to Lieutenant-Colonel in 54th Foot 26 November 1812; to half-pay of 98th Foot 17 June 1819

Service 1793-1815: Served in Peninsula July to December 1812; commanded 54th Foot 1812-1815 and in Waterloo campaign

Awards & Honours: 6th Earl Waldegrave in 1794

Died: 21 July 1835.

James Paul BRIDGER

Royal Military Calendar Entry: 1564

Born: Sussex 1776

Regimental Service: Major in 12th Light Dragoons 10 December 1812 (vice Waldegrave); brevet Lieutenant-Colonel 18 June 1815

Service 1793-1815: Served in Egypt 1801; served at Walcheren 1809; served in Peninsula February 1813 to April 1814; served at Waterloo; commanded 12th Light Dragoons after Waterloo

Awards & Honours: CB

Retired: 1821

Died: Brighton May 1841.

Frederick J DICKENS

Regimental Service: Captain in 12th Light Dragoons 16 August 1804

Service 1793-1815: Served in Peninsula June 1811 to July 1812; commanded 12th Light Dragoons for various periods in Peninsula

Died: Killed in action at Salamanca July 1812.

Sources:

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