



1915 "B" Company 114th, Brocks Rangers
Haldimand County Museums
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Brock's Rangers, the 114th Battalion in WWI

Service in times of need has always taken precedence for Canada's First Nations patriots. In a letter dated May 20, 1944, Mrs. Lillian Martin quotes from her husband, Brigadier-General O.M. Martin's WWI scrapbook. The Brigadier was reminiscing about the 114th Battalion, Haldimand Rifles that became known as Brock's Rangers. Many of the First Nations volunteers for the 114th originated with the active militia on the Grand River Reserve. Fifty Mohawk soldiers from Kahnawake, Quebec and several from Akwesasne joined them as well as First Nations soldiers from Western Ontario and Manitoba. Eventually two companies with officers were composed entirely of First Nations. Here are the Brigadier's words from 1944:

"Haldimand is one of the Niagara district counties, a peninsula dotted with the battle grounds of the War of 1812. A little plot of British ground made famous by *Lundy's Lane, Queenston Heights, Beaver Dams, Chippawa*, and a dozen other minor but no less historic battles. In nearly all of these, the First Nations Indians of that day did yeoman service for Canada, and at Queenston Heights where the heroic Brock fell, their contingent contributed notably to the defeat inflicted on the enemy. The word Rangers is a stirring

title of that and earlier times in Canadian History To couple this fine old name with that of Brock, and then to give it to the Corps being formed by the very men whose ancestors fought by his side ... is a peculiarly happy combination, and one which is giving the greatest possible pleasure to the men of the 114th. By such means as these is an *esprit de corps* speedily developed. Men try to line up to noble traditions and the example of the patriot Brock inspires to this day, more than a hundred years after he made his supreme offering to this country and his King.”



Embroidered crest of the 114th Battalion, Haldimand County; also called Brocks Rangers University of Calgary

The 114th adopted a crest with two crossed tomahawks below the motto “For King and Country”; the flag was decorated with Iroquoian symbols thanks to the Six Nations Women’s Patriotic League. Although the

114th was disbanded in 1916, many of its members ended up part of an engineering brigade which contained more than 500 native Canadians.