

The 44th. Battalion of Welland County has had a glorious record. It has been particularly fortunate in having officers of sustained energy, and as a result the character of the men enrolled has been above the average. In peace it has maintained its efficiency, although this is particularly difficult in view of the obvious handicaps under which rural regiments carry on.

Several companies were called out in 1866, and took an active and highly creditable part in driving out the Fenians. The organization of the Battalion was not authorized until shortly after this.

The records of the year 1867 contain the following names: Capt. Thomas Butters: , Price, T. Macklem and Kirpatrick. Lieutenants W. Russel: Wm. Stiff and John Flett: surgeons F.C. Newburn: M.D. and B.H. Lemon M.D.

When the Red River Rebellion broke out in 1869, Lt. Colonel Barnett wired to Ottawa an offer of his services with five hundred men from the Battalion. Although the offer was not accepted, the 44th. was allowed to send an officer and eight men to the "Ontario Rifles" a composite Battalion forming part of General Wolseley's expeditionary force. Capt. Thomas Macklem was the officer sent, with the eight men, and he was placed in command of # 3 Company of the composite Battalion. The contingent returned to safety, and on March 30th., 1871, were honoured at a grand Military banquet held at the Rosli Hotel Niagara Falls

In 1855 when the North West Rebellion broke out, Lt. Col. James Morin at once offered the services of the 44th., but was notified that this unit would not be required.

Again at the outbreak of the South African War a similar offer was made and several men succeeded in being selected as members of the Royal Canadian Regiment, which represented this County in the conflict.

In 1914 the 44th. was called out to assist in guarding the Welland Canal and other Government property. From this unit 1,500 men were recruited for overseas service in the first year of the war. These were attached to various battalions of the C.E.F. after a short period of training at Valcartier, and proceeded to the scene of hostilities. Then in 1915 Lt. Col. Hugh A. Rose was selected to take a complete unit overseas. Although this unit was known as the 98 Overseas Battalion, it was largely the old 44th., in personnel and origin. Its strength was 275 of all ranks.

On various occasions companies of the old 44th. were called out to put down local troubles chiefly when danger arose during strikes. It assisted the civil authorities when the attempt was made to dynamite the canal in 1900, and also during the Grand Trunk strike in 1910.