



February 2023

The INTERCOM is the RMR family's newsletter, which originally started as "The Bugler" in 1914 on the troopship carrying the 14th Bn (RMR) overseas. Censorship quickly squashed the initiative, but the RMR tried again in 1916 with "The Growler" (which was also squashed!). In WW2 the RMR had two battalions, one overseas from 1939-45, and a Home unit stationed in Westmount. In an effort to boost morale and keep the lines of communication open between the two battalions, the "Intercomn" ("n" intentional) was born. The current "Intercom" (masthead from the the 1950's) is published monthly and is intended to keep the friends & family of the Regiment up to speed with the accomplishments of the current serving members of the Regiment and all affiliated organizations.



Members of the RMR Family and guests gathered in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess for Levee on 01 January 2023. Photo credit: LCol (ret'd) Harry Hall.

Greetings,

The Regiment hosted their first in-person Levee since 2020 this year, and all in attendance enjoyed themselves thoroughly. The RSM was kind enough to make a hot breakfast for everyone, and Captain Furholter made enough Moose Milk to serve, well, a small army! Happy New Year to all, wishing you the very best for 2023.

If you've ever wondered the musical roots of our regimental march past, thanks to Colonel (ret'd) Chuck Hamel for sharing this [YouTube video](#) about the origins of the RMR's regimental march. There are also [detailed explanations](#) on the RMR website, including an [excellent article](#) written by Captain (ret'd) Hamilton Slessor.

February is Black History Month and to mark the occasion, the RMR maintains [profiles of service of members](#) that can be viewed on the RMR website. The RMR has longed prided itself on being a diverse unit and it appears that the Regiment had no problem promoting Black soldiers to the rank of Sergeant over 100-years ago. According to

[Legion Magazine](#), [Sergeant Wellesley Seymour Taylor](#), a Trinidadian-born sergeant in the 14th Battalion (Royal Montreal Regiment), who had already been shot twice in the right leg the year before he was killed on May 1, 1916, in the Ypres Salient. Thanks to Captain (ret'd) Tim Reid for bringing Sergeant Taylor's story to our attention.

While there is a widely held perception that Black soldiers serving in the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) were only in support trades and labour battalions, it is clear from the RMR's experience that some did see combat during World War I, and unfortunately some like Sergeant Taylor, made the supreme sacrifice.

Of course, I am only surmising that Sergeant Taylor was Black, because no photos have yet been found of him. His medical records list his complexion as "very dark" (yes, the word "very" appears to have been underlined). You can [view his service records file](#) that was prepared by Captain (ret'd) Hamilton Slessor.

Description of <i>Taylor Wesleyon</i>	
Apparent Age <i>24</i> years <i>1</i> months. <small>(To be determined according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.)</small>	Distinctive marks, and marks peculiarities or previous disease <small>(Should the Medical Officer be of opinion before he will, unless the man has service, attach a slip to that effect Approving Officer.)</small>
Height <i>5 7 1/2</i> ft. <i>12</i> ins.	<i>mole on l</i>
Chest measure - Girth when fully expanded <i>37 1/2</i> ins.	<i>mole on r</i>
Range of expansion <i>2 1/2</i> ins.	<i>left shoulder</i>
Complexion <i>very dark</i>	<i>no trace</i>
Eyes <i>dark brown</i>	<i>Small po</i>
Hair <i>curly black</i>	
Church of England <i>l</i>	

Overall Black soldiers in the CEF were typically not treated equally to their white counterparts and often faced discrimination, including segregation and being denied promotions. Despite this, they served bravely and made significant contributions to the war effort. I encourage everyone to visit the [Black Canadian Veterans website](#) and view the stories, pictures, and video testimonials they have created that span from pre-Confederation until today.

I also encourage you to read all the profiles of service of Black Canadians who served with the Regiment that are on the RMR's website, including the latest from [Sergeant Megal Johnson](#) who is also featured as this month's 'Meet the RMR NCO's'.

On behalf of the Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel, David Bensadoun, the Regiment's Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Maciej Jonasz, and the Regimental Sergeant-Major, Master-Warrant Officer Jim Quesnel, please accept our continued best wishes.

Honi Soit Qui Mal Y Pense.



LCol (ret'd) Colin Robinson, CD
Editor

Articles from the past month:

Meet the RMR's NCO's: Sergeant Megal Johnson, CD.

Westmount, Quebec – 21 January 2023:
Sergeant Megal Johnson grew up in Jamaica and immigrated to Canada as a teenager, where he settled in Montreal's West Island.

He didn't originally intend to join the Infantry, as he had applied for and been accepted as a Vehicle Technician as part of 34 Service

Battalion. There was a SNAFU with the recruiting paperwork and he ended up joining the RMR in 1997, and the rest, as they say, is history! His military career has taken him around the world on expeditionary operations and across Canada on domestic operations, such as Op PODIUM which was the security task force for the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. In his civilian career he has been recently promoted to Lieutenant in the Hampstead Public Security. He currently resides in Vaudreuil, Quebec, and he is serving as the Training NCO for the RMR's Bravo Account.

[Read Sergeant Johnson's story here.](#)



RMR GREETS 2023 WITH LEVÉE

Westmount, Quebec – 02 January 2023: The New Year was kicked off in fine fashion yesterday at the RMR, with approximately 30 members of the extended RMR family gathering for the “RSM’s breakfast”, as well as some traditional moose milk carefully prepared under the supervision of Captain Grant Furholter.

[Read more here.](#)

PROMOTION TO CAPTAIN: STEPHAN LEROUX

Westmount, Quebec – 17 December 2022: The Regiment’s Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Maciej Jonacz, was pleased to promote Captain Stephan Leroux as part of the Honorary Colonel’s Christmas Parade activities.

Captain Leroux was commissioned from the ranks, having served as Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) of the RMR from 2018-2022. In the post of RSM he was instrumental in helping boost the RMR’s recruiting numbers, as well as overseeing the



development and promotion of an impressive number of NCO's.



RMR'S BATTLE FOR LEOPOLD CANAL: VIDEO

Westmount, Quebec – 08 January 2023: At the end of October 2022, friend of the Regiment, Brigadier-General (ret'd) David Patterson, was featured on the YouTube channel “On This Day In Canadian Military History” to discuss the RMR's participation in the Battle for Leopold Canal, one of the Regiment's principal battle honours won in the Second World War.

[Watch the video here.](#)

Command Team Coin for Sergeant Didier Dupuis

Westmount, Quebec - 17 December 2022: The Regiment's Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Maciej Jonasz, and the Regimental Sergeant-Major, Master Warrant Officer James Quesnel, were pleased to award a 'Command Team Coin' to Sergeant Didier Dupuis in recognition of his years of dedicated service as the RQMS.





C9 LIGHT MACHINE GUN LIVE-FIRE TRAINING

ARTICLE WRITTEN BY CORPORAL RAZAVI

Westmount, Quebec – 07 December 2022: The C9 light machine gun (LMG) is a weapon of great importance for the infantry soldier, usually two per section; it generates most of the fire-power at the section level and about half at the platoon level. Therefore it is important for each infanteer to qualify in said weapon and refresh/build upon their skills as much as possible. On the 22nd of October, officers LT Faiz and 2LT Ray brought the troops to the range assisted by Sgt Cowling, MCpl Pellow and Cpl Wooden to accomplish this objective.

[Read the full article here.](#)

RMR MUSEUM'S VISITOR OF THE YEAR: PRIVATE PARK



Westmount, Quebec – 25 January 2023: Mr. Ron Zemancik, the RMR Museum Curator, is pleased to announce the winner of this year's Visitor of the Year: Private Edward Park. In recognition of his outstanding performance as a BOR Clerk and in appreciation of his continued assistance to the Regimental Museum staff during our Renewal Project and subsequent ducting renovations.

Seen presenting the award is Amélie Chalifoux, a recent addition to the RMR Family who comes to us from the Musée de Beaux Arts here in Montreal. Welcome

Amélie!



OUTGOING HONORARY RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE

Westmount, Quebec – 19 December 2022: As part of the annual Honorary Colonel's Christmas Parade, the Regiment bade farewell to their former Honorary Colonel, Lieutenant-Colonel (ret'd) Colin Robinson, whose mandate ended over the summer. Former Honorary Colonel, Lieutenant-Colonel (ret'd) Harry Hall introduced him with **notes that can be read here.**

About the RMR Foundation



Foundation

The RMR Foundation is a non-profit incorporated body with charitable status, designed to

"Serve the best interests of The Royal Montreal Regiment and accept such tasks designated by the Trustees to help any member body of the Regimental Family."

Donations help with providing emergency financial assistance to RMR soldiers identified by the chain of command, and providing relief to veterans of the RMR.

Beyond direct veteran support, the RMR Foundation provides assistance for the needs of the RMR family, advises on request, the CO of the RMR or any of its affiliated units, promotes the role of the Reserve Forces within the Canadian Armed Forces and the Regiment's affiliated municipalities, lobbies for the promotion of a more effective Canadian Defence Force, funds the operation of the RMR Museum's annual exhibitions, and supports the *Je Me Souviens* education program which provides free materials to supplement Quebec's history curriculum.

Please DONATE to support the RMR Family

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