



## Dec 2024

*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 above is from 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.*



*Lieutenant-Colonel Maciej Jonasz, CO RMR, salutes while the colours are dipped during the Last Post in Westmount. Photo credit: Bryan Wilkat.*

Greetings,

November is typically a month where a lot of the energies in the greater regimental family are focused on Remembrance. Branch 14 (RMR Association), under the leadership of their Branch President, Comrade Sue Guerin, executed an exceptional Poppy Campaign with the supervision of the dedicated Poppy Chairman, Comrade Georges Gohier. 2024 was a long campaign due to the vagaries of the calendar, so a big thank you to all who volunteered - including the CO, RSM, and a beloved former padre!



**Left to right: CWO James Quesnel, LCol Maciej Jonasz, and LCol (ret'd) Jean Zoellner**

As we reflect on The Royal Montreal Regiment's enduring legacy, this edition of the Intercom highlights the themes of Remembrance, community, and tradition.

From the commemoration of Private Denman's sacrifice and the poignant honours in Sains-lès-Marquion, to the Regiment's active participation in Remembrance Day ceremonies across Westmount, Hampstead, Montreal, and Pointe-Claire, we are reminded of the importance of preserving the stories and honouring those who came before us.

Speaking of preserving and honouring the stories of past RMR's, this issue highlights the Regiment's ongoing connection to history through a meaningful visit to the Canadian War Museum and the recognition of exceptional service with the Command Team Coin given to Ron Zemancik, the Curator of the RMR Museum. There will be more Command Team citations coming in the next issue of the Intercom - lots of good news to share!

Finally, we explore the vital transition from military to civilian life through a seminar initiative designed to support CAF members. Thanks to LCol (ret'd) George Siket for sharing this information which will undoubtedly benefit many readers of the Intercom.

Together, these stories reaffirm our shared commitment to honouring the past while fostering a vibrant and supportive community.

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

*Honi Soit Qui Mal Y Pense.*

LCol (ret'd) Colin Robinson, CD  
Editor, Intercom

**Article from the past month:**



## COMMAND TEAM COIN FOR RON ZEMANCIK

Westmount, Quebec – 06 November 2024: Mr. Ron Zemancik, Curator of the RMR Museum, was awarded the RMR's Command Team Coin. He has provided exemplary service to the RMR for more than a decade and his passion for preserving the regiment's history is contagious. The commendation for Ron Zemancik reads:

*Ron Zemancik, a dedicated retiree, devotes his time to volunteering with the Royal Montreal Regiment (RMR) Museum and the Ahuntsic 1st David Thompson Scouts. He is renowned for his expertise in repairing and repurposing camping equipment, giving it new life for the Scouts while promoting environmental sustainability by reducing landfill waste.*

*Since 2000, Ron has actively engaged the youth community through guided tours of the RMR Museum, and for the past 11 years, he has served as its Director. His leadership has been instrumental in the museum's renewal, including the installation of custom displays and interpretative panels that bring the regiment's history to life.*

*Ron's voluntary efforts extend to preserving regimental artifacts, such as rescuing WWI commemorative plaques and stained glass windows from defunct churches, safeguarding these historical treasures for future generations. He also fosters youth engagement through the Je me Souviens program, helping students and RMR members understand and take pride in their shared history and service to Canada.*

*For over 50 years, Ron has been an active volunteer with the Ahuntsic 1st David Thompson Scouts, playing a pivotal role in mentoring countless young people. His efforts have helped shape generations of responsible, community-minded citizens who embody the values of leadership and service.*

*Through his tireless dedication, Ron has made a profound impact on preserving Canadian military heritage and nurturing the next generation of leaders.*

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## RMR LEADS REMEMBRANCE PARADES IN POINTE-CLAIRE, WESTMOUNT

Following decades of custom, the RMR participated in the Pointe-Claire Remembrance ceremony in the morning and then later were bussed back to their Westmount armoury to march to the Westmount cenotaph for their annual service. Cadets from the regiment's affiliated units marched in both parades, and the RMR Association (Br. 14) of the Royal Canadian Legion took their place of honour to lead the Westmount parade, with the veterans taking their customary place of precedence for this sacred ceremony.



## From military to civilian: Introducing My Transition Seminars for members of the Canadian Armed Forces

**Westmount, Quebec – 16 November 2024: Thanks to Lieutenant-Colonel (ret'd) George Siket for passing this valuable resource along to share among the RMR Family.**

The Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) recently rebranded its Second Career Assistance Network (SCAN) Seminars to My Transition Seminars. This change aims to better support the diverse goals of members transitioning to civilian life, recognizing that not everyone is looking for new employment after service.

The new My Transition Seminars are designed to be more inclusive and efficient. They

now have standardized content with centralized program oversight. Decentralized execution and hybrid delivery format (in-person and online) via Transition Centres allows for greater accessibility to CAF members. There are three different types of seminars:

- My Transition Seminar – General, for those undergoing a voluntary release;
- My Transition Seminar – Medical, for those who are, or may undergo, a medical release;
- My Transition Seminar – Executive, for senior members at the rank of Colonel and above.

Each module has been reduced in duration and is tailored to meet specific needs of the target audience. Members need only attend one of the three types of seminars to obtain the critical release information. This structure ensures that all transitioning members receive the information they need efficiently and effectively.

One of the most notable improvements is the consistency of information provided. Under the old SCAN program, members often needed to attend multiple days to gather all necessary information, and the content could vary slightly from location to location. Under this new program, My Transition Seminars guarantee that the same organizations and presentations are delivered at each location. Local representatives deliver nationally produced presentations, ensuring that every member receives high-quality, consistent information.

[More details here.](#)



## ENDURING ACTS OF REMEMBRANCE

Westmount, Quebec – 23 November 2024: This is an update to the [original story about 'the kindness of strangers'](#) that highlights the importance and strength of inter-regimental bonds.



In October 2020, the Royal Montreal Regiment (RMR) Museum received an unexpected inquiry from Jill Scahill, a dedicated volunteer at St. John's Parish in Upperthong, West Yorkshire, England. While tending to the churchyard, Jill discovered the grave of Private Clarence B. Denman, a young soldier from Montreal who had served with the RMR during the First World War. Moved by his story, she reached out to the museum to learn more about him.

Private Denman, born in London, England, in 1893, emigrated to Canada with his family as a child. By August 1914, he was a 21-year-old salesman living with his parents at 1836 Esplanade Avenue in Montreal. With the outbreak of war, he enlisted in the 14th Battalion (RMR) of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Tragically, he was wounded during the Second Battle of Ypres in April 1915 and succumbed to his injuries on May 26, 1915, at the age of 22. He was laid to rest in the churchyard of St. John's Parish in Upperthong.

Jill's initial act of kindness—placing a plant on Private Denman's grave and speaking to him during her visits—sparked a series of heartfelt gestures. In November 2020, retired Corporal Stuart Kilminster of the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment laid a wreath on Denman's grave and recited the Act of Remembrance. In subsequent years, Jill handcrafted wreaths for his grave, ensuring that his memory remained honored. In 2023, the RMR Museum sent Jill regimental accessories, which she used to further adorn Private Denman's resting place.

Private Clarence Denman may have fallen over a century ago, but thanks to the compassion and dedication of strangers, his legacy lives on. The RMR extends its heartfelt gratitude to all who honor the memory of our fallen soldiers.



## 106 YEARS OF GRATITUDE IN FRANCE

Westmount, QC – 22 November 2024: On November 11, 2024, the town of Sains-les-Marquion, France, held its annual Remembrance Day service, honoring The Royal Montreal Regiment (RMR) for liberating their town on September 27, 1918. This tradition began in 2008 when a bronze commemorative plaque was installed in the town, a gift from individual donors through the RMR Foundation.

The ceremony included a service at the Ontario Cemetery, a Commonwealth War Graves Commission site where numerous RMR soldiers are buried, a result of the actions on September 27, 1918.

The liberation of Sains-les-Marquion was part of the Battle of the Canal du Nord, a critical phase of the Hundred Days Offensive during World War I. This offensive aimed to breach the heavily fortified Hindenburg Line, a formidable German defensive system on the Western Front.

The enduring gratitude of Sains-les-Marquion exemplifies the lasting bonds forged in times of conflict and the importance of remembering those who fought for freedom. The RMR is deeply honored by this continued recognition and remains committed to

preserving the legacy of its members who served with valour.

Special thanks to Marie-José and Maurice Perdu who send us the images every year.



## **RMR VISITS CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM**

**Article written by Private Noah Reich**

Westmount, Quebec – 17 November 2024: Our visit to the Museum of War in Ottawa included a variety of exhibits and video presentations depicting Canada's involvement in conflicts over its many years and its role in the intertwined history of the British Empire. The reservists from the Royal Montreal Regiment who attended the open event held by the museum on the 16th of November 2024 had the privilege of participating in three unique tours of the museum, all of which were truly fascinating and immersive.

The first tour was graciously provided by a museum guide who presented Canada's early military history, focusing on the War of 1812, when Canada was still ruled by and acted in the primary interests of the British Empire. Following this, the guide introduced the regiment to Canada's vital and influential involvement in the Great War and the Second World War. Key topics discussed included the evolution of military tactics, from line battles to trench warfare, and finally, to fast-paced tank and light infantry offensives. The guide also highlighted Canada's adoption of the Statute of Westminster, which gave Canada the legal right to consent before entering any future conflicts.

The tour concluded with a beautiful and solemn natural light show that highlights the grave of the Unknown Soldier. This remarkable display is only properly visible for about a week in November, specifically on November 11th, to pay special tribute to the armistice signed at 11 o'clock in 1918, marking the conclusion of the Great War.

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**Lest We Forget**

## About the RMR 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 providing free materials to supplement Quebec's curriculum.

**[Please DONATE to support the RMR Family](#)**

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**[royalmontrealregiment.com](http://royalmontrealregiment.com)**



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