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March 2021

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 second '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" (the masthead is 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.



Greetings,

February was a promising month as Canada started rolling out vaccines at a slightly faster rate, while our neighbours are distributing them at a brisk clip which lends hope that we will be returning to a world of "in-person" events sooner rather than later.

February was also Black History Month, which is a time to honour Black Canadians, both past and present. It is also a time to reflect and learn more about their distinguished service. The RMR, by its nature as a 'city regiment', reflects the communities that it draws recruits from, and in honour of Black History Month, the RMR Foundation published a series of profiles of service of some of the Black Canadians who have served (and continue to serve) in our ranks. I hope you find them all as interesting as I did - please take the time to read them, particularly to learn more about RSM Edward Watkins, appointed RSM some 60-years ago, and most likely the first Black RSM in the history of the Canadian Army.

Congratulations are in order for Major Dexter Ruiz-Lang, who has been awarded the Chief of Defence Staff commendation for *"exceptional analytical ability and professionalism when deployed to Kyiv as Liaison Officer to the Armed Forces of Ukraine, April 2019 to January 2020."* Well done, Major Ruiz-Lang - way to set the standard.

Congratulations as well to Lieutenant-Colonel Jung Seo who was recently promoted to that rank. He is currently serving in Ottawa.

There are two more congratulations that you can read about below. Spoiler alert: Both involve Sergeants, one serving, one retired.

Please take a moment to read this selection of the accomplishments & news of the RMR Family over the past month that are shown below. As well, please take a few moments to think of or utter a prayer for deployed RMR members and those of our extended regimental family who are battling illness or disease.

On behalf of Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel David Bensadoun, the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel John Shone, and the Regimental Sergeant-Major, Chief-Warrant Officer

Stephan Leroux, please accept our continued best wishes.

Honi Soit Qui Mal Y Pense.



LCol (ret'd) Colin Robinson, CD
Honorary Colonel
The Royal Montreal Regiment

Articles from the past month:



Home on the Range...

Farnham, Quebec – 01 February 2021: The RMR didn't let the cold weather slow them down from conducting the Level 3 run-down of the Individual Battle Task Standards this weekend. The job still has to get done, *"Regardless of weather, terrain, or other conditions"*, after all!

Regimental Sergeant-Major Eddie Watkins, EM

60-years ago this year, WO1 Edward (Eddie) Watkins became the first Black Regimental Sergeant-Major (RSM) of the RMR, being the first of several firsts.

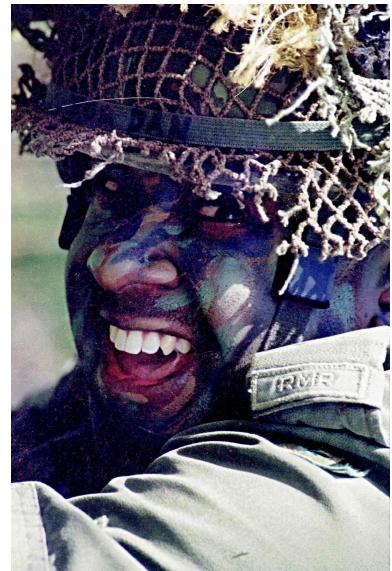
First that he was the RMR's first Black RSM, second that he was quite likely the first Black soldier to be promoted to that position in the entire Canadian Army, and most importantly – he wasn't the RMR's only Black RSM. He blazed a trail that has been followed twice more since.

[Read his story here.](#)

Warrant Officer Cyril Jordan, CD

Warrant Officer Cyril JORDAN, CD joined the RMR in 1987 and retired in 2012 as the Company Sergeant-Major of “B” Company, the RMR’s operational rifle company.

Aside from his Infantry trade and leadership training, WO Jordan has military qualifications in Reconnaissance Patrolman, Small Arms, Machine Gunner, Rappel Master and Bison AFV Driver.

[Read his story here](#)

Sergeant Fabiola Camille, CD

Westmount, Quebec – 17 February 2021: **Sergeant (ret’d) Fabiola Camille, CD** joined the RMR in 1995 and retired in 2017 as the Records Management Clerk in the RMR’s Battalion Orderly Room, where she had also served as the Chief Clerk and the Assistant Chief Clerk.

In 1995 she became officially qualified as the first female infantry soldier in the RMR. She set a standard followed by many women since.

[Read her story here.](#)

Sergeant James D'Haiti, CD

Le sergent James D'Haiti, CD, s'est enrôlé au sein des Forces armées canadiennes en 2009 et sert actuellement à temps plein dans la salle des rapports du RMR à titre de surveillant de la section des finances.

Il se prépare maintenant à être déployé pour sa première mission opérationnelle, qui débutera cet été dans le cadre de l'opération IMPACT au Koweït.

[Read his story here](#)



Corporal John Tobas, CD

Corporal John Tobas, CD joined the Canadian Armed Forces in 2002 and is currently serving in the RMR's operational rifle company as the Company Quartermaster Storeman Driver.

Corporal Tobas has all the usual military qualifications for the Infantry trade, along with numerous driver wheeled qualifications, and he is also qualified as a Civil-Military Operator (CIMIC). Basically if it can shoot something, he's qualified to operate it, and if it has wheels and is painted green, he's qualified to drive it.

[Read his story here.](#)



34th Brigade Coin for Sergeant Stewart-Waywell

During OP LASER, Sergeant Thomas Stewart-Waywell contributed virtually to the generation of over 900 reservists by consistently publishing all Class C service reserve contracts issued during OP LASER. For his exemplary service to the protection of the Force, he was awarded this commendation.

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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