



## December 2020

*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.*



Greetings,

November was actually a little more exciting a month than others have been during the Covid pandemic. The serving members are conducting training as best as possible, with a couple dozen soldiers who went to Valcartier to conduct mechanized training with the R22eR. Nothing like [storming across the countryside in a Light Armoured Vehicle](#) while listening to soothing sounds of the 25 mm cannon ripping targets apart to snap you out of any "Zoom fatigue".

The RMR Association (Branch 14) were equally busy, [conducting a successful Poppy Campaign](#), despite the massive restrictions because of Covid-19. They managed to raise 72% of the total from the year prior, which is incredible. A hearty congratulations to Comrades Sue Guerin and Georges Gohier for leading the branch members through such a challenging time!

Proving the old infantry adage of "adapting and overcoming" certainly applies during a pandemic, I was honoured to host a [virtual officers' mess reunion to mark the 100th anniversary of the officers' mess annual reunion dinner](#). Held on the Friday before Armistice Sunday, as is our custom, it was delightful to see so many attend, pay our respect to our fallen, and renew our customs and traditions.

Speaking of adapting & overcoming, I would like to congratulate the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel John Shone, for ensuring that the RMR still honoured our fallen and missing comrades with a modified annual Remembrance service as per our customs, despite the pandemic. There is usually more than one path to victory, and I participated in several virtual and in-person Remembrance events with our affiliated Cadet units, our regimental church (St Matthias), local schools, and of course the civic ceremony in Westmount where Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel David Bensadoun and I had the honour of laying a wreath on behalf of the Regiment. Lest We Forget.

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 Regiment's 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:



## **RMR'S 2020 POPPY CAMPAIGN A SUCCESS**

Westmount, Quebec – 26 November 2020: The challenges for the 2020 Poppy Campaign were considerable: a short campaign because of where the last Friday in October fell this year, two of three kiosk locations were unavailable due to physical distancing restrictions, and many branch members who normally give generously of their time were unable to volunteer this year due to being in a high risk category for Covid-19. The RMR Association (Branch 14) has confirmed that despite the challenges of operating a Poppy Campaign during the Covid 19 pandemic, it still managed to raise 72% of the amount raised last year, which had been one of the best ever. Comrade Georges Gohier, the Poppy Campaign Chairman, was pleased to report the final figures and summed it up as “wow, Wow, WOW!!!”

[Learn more by reading the full article here .](#)

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## **MORE ACT(S) OF KINDNESS**

Westmount, Quebec – 18 November 2020: This is an update to the original story about ‘the kindness of strangers’ that highlights the importance and strength of inter-regimental





bonds. Inspired by this story and noting how close it was to Remembrance Day, Lieutenant-Colonel (ret'd) Rick Garber, worked his connections with the Yorkshire Regiment and was put in contact with a Mr. Stuart Kilminster, late of the PWO where he had served as a Corporal. Mr. Kilminster volunteered to place a wreath on Private Denman's grave and recite the Act of Remembrance for him.

[Read story and see images here.](#)

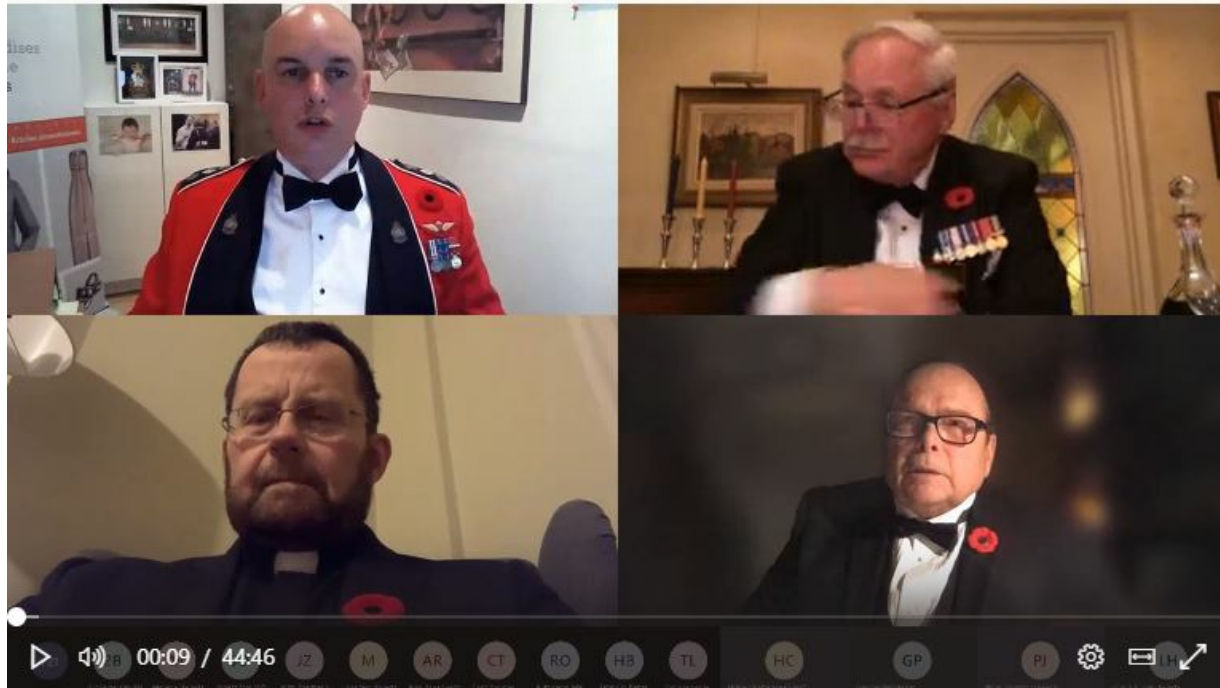


## [Exercise Castor Mécanisé 2020](#)

### **ARTICLE WRITTEN BY SECOND-LIEUTENANT FAIZ**

Westmount, Quebec – 30 November 2020: As part of our task as mechanized infantry this year, the Royal Montreal Regiment sent a platoon to be attached to the 2nd Battalion Royal 22nd Regiment's B Company for the Castor Mécanisé ex. The goal of this ex is to build up and train soldiers for a live fire platoon attack with LAV's (Light Armoured Vehicles).

[Read the full article and see photos here.](#)



## 100th ANNIVERSARY OF OFFICERS' MESS REUNION DINNER HELD ONLINE

Due to the restrictions on gathering on groups imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the officers' mess of The Royal Montreal Regiment were not be able to hold their annual reunion dinner, which originally began in 1920, in person this year.

Honorary Colonel Colin Robinson hosted a virtual reunion event, where all serving RMR officers, former serving officers, and their guests were invited to join him at 20h00 on Friday 06 November 2020. No meal, however the traditional toasts were proffered, and the act of Remembrance was conducted.

*"We're doing this because we cannot get together physically, but marking the 100th anniversary is important in order to maintain traditions that bind us to the Regiment, and its heritage of sacrifice and valour."* said the RMR's Commanding Officer Lieutenant-Colonel John Shone. *"While we must forego the pleasure of breaking bread together this year due to the Covid-19 restrictions in place, we will take care of the orders of business that bring us together as Army officers: the Loyal Toast, the Act of Remembrance, the Regimental Toast, the Allied Regiment, Toast to our Guests, and addresses from the Honoraries and the CO."*

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## 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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