



May 2025

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.



Arctic vista as seen by Master-Corporal Savage on his Arctic Operations Advisor course. Photo credit: RMR Instagram.

Dear members of the RMR family,

Welcome to the latest issue of The Intercom, your source for news from across the RMR's greater regimental family, featuring stories about our serving soldiers, Cadets, and members of Branch 14 (RMR Association). This issue highlights a variety of recent activities and upcoming events that showcase the dedication and diverse contributions of our members over the past month.

A significant upcoming event is the **RMR Change of Command** parade on **Sunday 04 May 2025 at 13h00** in the armoury, where command will pass from Lieutenant-Colonel Maciej Jonasz to Lieutenant-Colonel Kevin Langlois

COURTESY ANNOUNCEMENT: You are invited to attend the upcoming Annual Commemorative Ceremony at the **National Field of Honour on Sunday 25 May 2025 at 14h00**. This event will commemorate the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe day and the Liberation of the Netherlands, and honour the legacy of Sergeant Leo Major, known for his solo liberation of Zwolle. Guests, including Her Excellency Margriet

Vonno, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, will be present. The ceremony will also feature the consecration of a new Artillery Memorial and a potential helicopter flyby.

April saw several notable events and achievements. The 109th annual Ypres Dinner was hosted by the Warrant Officers' & Sergeants' Mess, continuing a tradition honouring the Regiment's service in the Second Battle of Ypres. Additionally in terms of commemoration, an episode of [The Rum Ration podcast](#) exploring the RMR's role in the Battle of Vimy Ridge was released on the 108th anniversary of the battle.

Individual excellence was recognized in April, with Master-Corporal Lachance-Paquin awarded for his leadership in United Way fundraising, and Master-Corporal Sanda-Staicopol also earned 34 Brigade recognition as an instructor on a Canadian Armed Forces mortar course, demonstrating dedication and leadership. Speaking of mortars, serving members also conducted local training on the 81mm mortar at the armoury in April.

Further showcasing advanced training, Master-Corporal Savage qualified as an Arctic Operations Advisor after completing two challenging courses.

The RMR Association's 'Ottawa chapter' held a well-attended 'Beer Call' organized by Sergeant (ret'd) Nikita Rambaransingh, and Branch 14 (RMR Association) held elections and awarded Long Service Pins to members who had marked significant milestones: from five to 50-years! Congratulations to Comrade Sue Guerin for being elected as President of Branch 14 (RMR Association)!

These stories illustrate the commitment to service, remembrance, and strong bonds within the RMR family. You can find more details on these events and the individuals involved linked within this newsletter, all articles below are linked to the RMR website.

On behalf of the Honorary Colonel, David Bensadoun, the Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel, Isabelle Racicot, the Regiment's Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Maciej Jonasz, and the Regimental Sergeant-Major, Chief Warrant Officer Jim Quesnel, please accept our continued best wishes - and spare a moment for a thought and prayer for our RMR soldiers who are currently deployed overseas on operations.

Honi Soit Qui Mal Y Pense.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colin', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

LCol (ret'd) Colin Robinson, CD
Editor

Articles from the past month:



RMR Change of Command Scheduled for 04 May 2025

Westmount, Quebec – 18 April 2025: The Royal Montreal Regiment will be conducting a change of command parade to be held at the RMR's armoury on **Sunday 04 May 2025 at 13h00**. Guests are asked to please be seated for 12h45.

The ceremony will be held at the Saint-Catherine armoury 4625 St-Catherine St, Westmount, Quebec, H3Z 1S4.

Command of the RMR will pass from Lieutenant-Colonel Maciej Jonasz, CD to Lieutenant-Colonel Kevin Langlois, CD, and the ceremony will be presided over by Colonel David Shane, MOM, CD, the 34th Canadian Brigade Group Commander.

Dress for the parade is 1A (CF w medals) or Business Suit for civilians.

All members of the extended Regimental Family are encouraged to attend.



Master Corporal Sanda-Staicopol Earns Brigade Recognition for

Excellence on Mortar Course

Westmount, Quebec — 03 April 2025: During a formal presentation held on Tuesday, 26 March 2025, Master-Corporal Sanda-Staicopol was recognized for his outstanding performance while acting as Detachment Commander on the Canadian Armed Forces mortar course (MEMA 2501). The award of a 34 École de Combat challenge coin was presented by Major Nda-Ngye following a glowing citation that commended his unwavering dedication, adaptability, and leadership throughout the demanding course.

Though it was his first time teaching on a mortar course—and while not formally qualified for the instructional role—MCpl Sanda-Staicopol exceeded expectations. His commitment to the success of his candidates was evident as he stayed after hours to provide remedial instruction, ensured all students had the opportunity to master the material, and worked extended hours across weekdays.

In addition to his training duties, MCpl Sanda-Staicopol stepped into an unofficial leadership role when the course's 2IC was unavailable. He effectively became the main point of contact with the course officer, coordinating schedules, relaying essential information, and setting up leadership meetings. His initiative and problem-solving skills proved crucial in maintaining the course's momentum, even reaching out to fellow RMR members to provide supplementary support when needed.

Members of the RMR can take great pride in MCpl Sanda-Staicopol's recognition, which reflects not only his individual excellence but also the high standard of professionalism and commitment upheld by the Regiment.



RMR NCO's Host 109th "Ypres Dinner"

Westmount, Quebec – 14 April 2025: On Saturday evening, 12 April 2025, the Warrant Officers' & Sergeants' Mess of The Royal Montreal Regiment hosted its annual Ypres Dinner in the historic Westmount Armoury. Held in honour of the Regiment's service and sacrifice during the Second Battle of Ypres in April 1915, the tradition of this dinner has been faithfully maintained since it was first held in 1916—making this year's edition the 109th.



Rum Ration Podcast Episode 10: Vimy – Birth of a nation

Westmount, Quebec – 09 April 2025: 108-years ago today, on April 9th, 1917 — arguably the day Canada’s identity was forged in blood atop Vimy Ridge. In this episode of The Rum Ration, the hosts revisit the harrowing story of the RMR’s role in one of the Great War’s most iconic battles, an incredible feat of Canadian arms.

From the brutal snowstorm at Zero Hour to the heartbreak of the West brothers’ shared grave, the episode brings Vimy’s human cost into sharp focus. The hosts speak with [Caitlin Bailey](#), [Executive Director of the Vimy Foundation](#), about the legacy and mythology surrounding the ridge — and how remembrance efforts are evolving.

They explore Sergeant Lambourne’s uniquely arranged Nine Elms cemetery, the politics behind calling Vimy a “nation-making moment,” and why the story still matters today. If you think you know Vimy, think again. Listen, reflect, and raise a glass. Cheers to history.

Available now at rumration.ca or wherever you get your podcasts.



MCpl Savage Qualifies as Arctic Operations Advisor

Article written by Corporal Theodore Ion

Westmount, Quebec – Rain, snow, or Arctic wind—RMR soldiers train to lead in all conditions. Between January and March 2025, Master-Corporal Savage pushed this engagement even further by completing two of the most intense cold-weather courses in the Canadian Army: Cold Weather Operations Leader (CWOL) and Arctic Operations Advisor (AOA).

CWOL, held at CFB Shilo, Manitoba, began with a winter solo survival phase—building shelters, making fires, setting snares, and signaling for rescue, all alone in subzero temperatures. After passing survival, candidates led field missions in deep snow and conducted through-ice survival simulations, learning how to react when a soldier breaks through ice into freezing water.

For AOA in Resolute Bay, Nunavut, candidates further honed their Arctic survival skills by building emergency shelters like igloos and snow caves, and then learning how to advise commanders on operations in the harshest Arctic environments. The course ended with a multi-day sovereignty patrol to a remote northern community.



RMR members train locally on the 81mm mortar

Westmount, Quebec, 08 April 2025 – Some of the 25 members of the RMR who have qualified on the 81mm mortar over the past 2-years had the opportunity to train with the weapon at the RMR's armoury on Tuesday night. Big thanks to Master-Corporal Pratt who managed to arrange for two 81 mm tubes to be lent to the RMR from some of his contacts.

The weapon is a versatile and potent indirect fire weapon used by the Canadian Army, including both regular and reserve units. This medium mortar system is designed to provide infantry units with high-angle fire support, bridging the gap between the maximum range of hand-thrown (or rifle-fired) grenades and the minimum range of artillery.



MCpl LaChance-Paquin Recognized for United Way Leadership

Westmount, Quebec – 02 April 2025: Every year, members of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) from coast to coast join forces to support the United Way through the Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign (GCWCC). The campaign is one of the largest of its kind in the country, raising millions of dollars annually to help improve lives and strengthen communities. Whether through payroll deductions, special events, or creative fundraising initiatives, CAF members consistently demonstrate their commitment to service—both in and out of uniform.

This year, one of our own stood out for their leadership in the campaign. Master-Corporal LaChance-Paquin was awarded a Certificate of Recognition for their outstanding efforts in organizing and promoting fundraising events at the unit level. Their initiative and energy were instrumental in making the campaign a success—and in inspiring others to get involved.



Ottawa ‘Beer Call’ well attended in April

Westmount, Quebec – 25 April 2025: The ‘Ottawa chapter’ of the RMR Association (OK, no such entity actually exists, but it sounds cool and they should consider making one!) got together yesterday for a ‘Beer Call’ at the Liam Maguire’s public house. They had a chance to catch up with each other before the summer settles in and a few folks are deployed overseas, posted, etc.

Big THANK YOU to Sergeant (ret’d) Nikita Rambaransingh for getting this organized – stay tuned for the next one which will likely be in September or October.



LAST POST FUND FONDS DU SOUVENIR

Invitation to Annual Commemorative Ceremony at the National Field of Honour: 25 May 2025

Westmount, Quebec – 26 April 2025: The National Field of Honour warmly invites all members of the public to attend a special commemorative ceremony on **Sunday, May 25th at 14h00**, commemorating the 80th anniversary of the Victory in Europe day, the Liberation of the Netherlands, and honouring the legacy of Sergeant Leo Major, one of Canada's most remarkable soldiers. He's the only Canadian to win the Distinguished Conduct Medal in two separate wars!

Sergeant Major's extraordinary actions during the Second World War, particularly his solo liberation of the Dutch city of Zwolle, remain a powerful symbol of courage and perseverance. His deeds continue to inspire generations both in Canada and abroad.

Her Excellency Margriet Vonno, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Canada, will serve as Guest of Honour, paying tribute to Sergeant Major's liberation of her hometown. Distinguished guests will include General (Retired) Walter John Natynczyk, former Chief of the Defence Staff, and Brigadier-General J.G.P. Lemyre, the Commander of 2nd Canadian Division. Contingents from Quebec-based units that participated in the liberation of the Netherlands will form an honour guard.

The ceremony will also feature the consecration of a new Artillery Memorial at the site of the National Field of Honour's 105mm artillery howitzer, and, weather permitting, a helicopter flyby.

This event offers a meaningful opportunity to recognize the sacrifices made by Canadian soldiers and to celebrate the enduring impact of Sergeant Leo Major's bravery.

All are welcome to attend.



Volunteers Help Capture RMR History

Westmount, Quebec – 26 April 2025: It may have taken an extra decade, but good things come to those who wait — and photograph! A hardworking crew of volunteers recently rolled up their sleeves to help the RMR Museum capture images of priceless artifacts for the Regiment's upcoming centennial history book, finally set for release

this October.

Under the eagle eyes of Curator Ron Zemancik and Deputy Curator Amynte Eygun, the team spent all day carefully photographing uniforms, weapons, medals, and memorabilia — the physical threads of the RMR's proud story. Housed in the Regiment's Ste-Catherine Street armoury, the Museum is more than a collection of old kit: it's a living tribute to generations of service, sacrifice, and tradition.

Thanks to the volunteers' efforts (and a lot of patience with lighting and gloves), the RMR's legacy will soon be vividly brought to life for a new generation of readers — better late than never!



Branch 14 (RMR Association) Members Honoured for Long Service

Westmount, Quebec – 28 April 2025: During the RMR Association's General Meeting held on 25 April 2025, several members of Branch 14 were recognized for their long and dedicated service. The ceremony, held in the WO's & Sgts' mess at the RMR's armoury, celebrated the commitment and loyalty of those who have contributed to the Legion, the Branch, and the regimental family over many years.

Branch President, Comrade Sue Guerin, presented the awards to those who were present, expressing gratitude for the recipients' unwavering support of the RMR's traditions, activities, and community spirit. Each member called forward received a commemorative lapel pin acknowledging their years of service.

The RMR Association (Branch 14) plays a vital role in maintaining the connection between serving soldiers, veterans, and supporters of the Regiment. Events like these serve as a reminder of the enduring strength and camaraderie within the RMR family.

Congratulations to all the recipients:

- 50 years: Comrades Vincent Colgan, George Gohier, Daria Finnie, and Keith Finnie.
- 45 years: Comrade Roger Archambault.
- 40 years: Comrades Robert Anderson and Dale Roberts.
- 30 years: Comrades Elizabeth Picard and Gary Donovan.
- 15 years: Comrades Andy Bradshaw, Dan Faughnan, Michael Finner, Richard Garber, Suzanne Guerin, Richard Guevara, Charles Hamel, Megal Johnson, Philip Johnston, Lech Kwasiborski, Rolanda Murphy, Eric Provencher, Albert Sebe, Richard Sun, Joel Tartiere, William Thibault, Kim Thomas, Grant Furholter, Toby Glickman, Harry Hall, Nick Rambarransingh, Colin Robinson, and Tom Stibernik.
- 10 years: Comrades Edward Hebert and Thomas Turner.
- 5 years: Comrades Patrick Bouman, Isabelle Goral, Gary Chambers, Colleen Fequet, Antonio Roy, and George Siket.

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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