



July 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 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.



LCol Maciej Jonasz (left) and MWO James Quesnel present the RSM's Trophy to Sgt Stewart-Waywell. Photo credit: Corporal Yeung

Happy Canada Day!

July is the 80th anniversary of Op HUSKY, where more than 25,000 Canadians took part in what was the largest seaborne invasion in history (only eclipsed by D-Day a year later). It is largely forgotten. I'd wager that most Canadians don't even realize that there are more than 500 Canadian soldiers buried in Sicily, killed helping liberate Europe from the Nazi's.

Comrade Steve Gregory, member of Branch 14 (RMR Association) for a decade now, has been the driving force behind ensuring that the sacrifices made by our fellow Canadians aren't forgotten. In 2013 he organized the first March for Remembrance which followed the path the Canadian Army took as it liberated Sicily, culminating in an emotional ceremony at the [Agira Canadian War Cemetery](#). Here, the roll call of the 485 dead Canadians buried together was read out. There was a participant standing behind every tombstone who answered for the soldiers buried there,

symbolically letting them know that they hadn't been forgotten.

A decade later, Steve is still at it. He has received no financial support from the Canadian government, VAC, nor DND, and yet he works tirelessly to honour the memory of those who lived our Canadian values to the fullest 80-years ago.

During this year's March for Remembrance, from July 10th to July 31st, a marker will be placed for each of the fallen Canadian soldiers, near where they died. Each marker will identify the soldier, their rank and regiment. The plaque placed on the marker will be written in Italian. This Canada Day, if it is within your means to do so, I encourage you to join me in making a donation to [sponsor a grave marker](#).

Lest We Forget.



Some key RMR Family dates that are coming up sooner than later:

- 02 September 2023: RMR Association Reunion Smoker
- 09 September 2023: RMR Army Run

Best of luck to all RMR serving members and Cadets from affiliated units who are on summer courses - set the standard and make us proud!

For the rest of us who won't be sweating our way through the mosquito-infested swamps of Valcartier, Gagetown, Petawawa, etc., enjoy your summer!

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

Honi Soit Qui Mal Y Pense.

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

Articles from the past month:



"EXPERIMENTAL INFANTRY TRAINING"

Westmount, Quebec – 16 June 2023: The RMR command team visited the RMR candidates participating in the “Experimental Infantry Company” today in Farnham, Quebec. This is a test concept to qualify soldiers DP1 Infantry with more of a focus on the “on the job” format style training. This is a departure from the traditional DP1 Infantry course which is a fundamental training program conducted by the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) for newly enlisted infantry soldiers. Spanning a duration of several weeks, the course aims to equip recruits with the essential skills and knowledge required to serve effectively in an infantry unit. The curriculum encompasses a wide range of subjects, including individual weapon handling, marksmanship, tactical movement, fieldcraft, navigation, first aid, and communication.

[Read more here.](#)



Command Team Coin for Sergeant Kevin Cowling

Westmount, Quebec – 02 June 2023: On Sunday afternoon 07 May 2023, during a Battalion Review parade following the traditional annual church parade, Sergeant Kevin Cowling was awarded the RMR's Command Team Coin.

[Read Sgt Cowling's commendation here.](#)



RMR PAYS ANNUAL 'RENT' TO WESTMOUNT

Westmount, Quebec – 03 June 2023: On Sunday afternoon 07 May 2023, during a Battalion Review parade following the traditional annual church parade, the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Maciej Jonasz, “paid the rent” to Westmount with a ceremonial amount of \$1.00 to Her Worship Mayor Christina Smith. This annual \$1.00 lease symbolizes a payment to the City of Westmount for the land upon which the Armoury sits, originally donated by Westmount in 1925.

[Learn more about the history of this tradition by reading the full article here.](#)



OTTAWA 'BEER CALL' WELL ATTENDED

Westmount, Quebec – 16 June 2023: 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 Mill Street Brewery. 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 LCol (ret’d) George Siket for being the spark in getting this started – stay tuned for the next one which will be in September or October.

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



MAJOR RUIZ-LAING EARNS HAMPSTEAD TROPHY

Westmount, Quebec – 12 June 2023: At the Regiment’s battalion review parade held

on 07 May 2023, His Worship Mayor Jeremy Levi of Hampstead presented The Hampstead Trophy for Community Service to Major Dexter Ruiz-Laing. This award is presented annually to the member of the Regiment who demonstrates an exceptional dedication to civic duty.

[Read Major Ruiz-Laing's citation here.](#)

14TH CANADIAN BATTALION.				WAR DIARY	Army Form C. 2118.
Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in P. 3 & Reg. Part II and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.				INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.	
PAGE 6.				(Urban heading not required)	3 SEP 20 23 1917.
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information		Reference and Information to Appendix
BRIGADE RESERVE STRIKE	SEPT. 19th		Fine day. Enemy's activity, normal. Our artillery strafed fairly heavily during the morning and the latter part of the afternoon. This Battalion supplied the usual working parties. Totalling to 7 Officers and 300 other ranks.		
-do-	SEPT. 19th		Fair day. Day passed quietly with the Battalion in Brigade Reserve. At night the usual working parties were supplied by this Battalion. Enemy aeroplanes were fairly active in the morning and just before dark. Our anti-aircraft fired effectively against enemy aircraft. Our aircraft showed their usual activity, reconnoitring the enemy's forward and rear areas.		
-do-	SEPT. 20th		Fine day. Day was fairly quiet up until the latter part of the afternoon when the enemy artillery opened up on some of our batteries close by. Enemy's aeroplanes were fairly active, observing their artillery fire. They were fired on by our anti-aircraft guns. Our artillery fired intermittently during the day.		
-do-	SEPT. 21st		Fair day. At 11.30 a.m. the enemy opened up a heavy bombardment on the reserve position with High Explosive and Gas Shells. A gas shell exploded at the entrance of No. 4 Company's Headquarters. The enemy on duty was gassed and did not wear the occupants of the dugout with the result that all within were gassed. Another direct hit was made on the Battalion Platoon's billet, causing the gasproof shelter and causing the occupants. The bombardment was kept up until 4.15 a.m. A great deal of gas remained in the trenches, shell-holes and cellars and it was very bad during the night. The total casualties of the bombardment amounted to about 60 all ranks. Type of Gas-Mustard - with a 50 per cent of mustard. Effect being felt about 12 hours after being gassed. Symptoms-sickness. Irritation of lungs. Gas working parties were supplied this night on account of the bombardment. See Disposition Report for Trench Strength and Locations. Appendix 10.11.		Disposition Report 10.11

MUSEUM NEWS: 14th CEF (RMR) WAR DIARY AVAILABLE IN MS WORD, EXCEL, and PDF

Westmount, Quebec – 05 June 2023: The RMR's war diaries from WW1 have been transcribed into Word and Excel formats to make it easier for researchers. Jane and Hamilton Slessor undertook this project, and while they did not attempt to transcribe the many hundreds of pages of Orders and Reports attached to the Diary as Appendices, they did transcribe a dozen Appendices which record names of Officer Reinforcements, Casualty Reports, and Lists of Honours and Awards. The hope is that this transcription may prove useful as a teaching tool to remind the younger generation of the Regiment of the hardships our forefathers endured and the sacrifices they made.

[Download the war diaries here.](#)



SERGEANT STEWART-WAYWELL EARNS RSM TROPHY FOR 2022-23 TRAINING YEAR

Westmount, Quebec – 03 June 2023: On Sunday afternoon 07 May 2023, during a Battalion Review parade following the traditional annual church parade, Sergeant Thomas Stewart-Waywell was awarded the RSM's Trophy.

[Read his citation 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 providing free materials to supplement Quebec's curriculum.

Please DONATE to support the RMR Family

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