



November 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 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.

**IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF LEOPOLD CANAL
THE RMR MUSEUM PRESENTS**

A REGIMENT'S SACRIFICE : DEFEATING HITLER'S ARMY
MEET THE MEN WHO FOUGHT FOR NORTH WEST EUROPE'S FREEDOM

NEW EXHIBIT
NOVEMBER 1ST - 10TH 2024
10H00 - 18H00
**4625 SAINTE-CATHERINE ST W,
WESTMOUNT**
FREE ADMISSION

COME EXPLORE THE DETAILS OF THE BATTLE, THE WEAPONRY
AND MORE SPECIFICALLY, THE MEN WHO GALLANTLY FOUGHT
FOR CANADA AND THE LIBERATION OF NORTH WEST EUROPE.

SCHOOL / GROUP VISITS WELCOME.
RSVP AT [INFO@RMRMUSEUM.COM](mailto:info@rmrmuseum.com)
CONTACT : [INFO@RMRMUSEUM.COM](mailto:info@rmrmuseum.com)
(514) 496-2003 EXT. 2328

'A Regiment's Sacrifice: Defeating Hitler's Army'

- **01 - 10 November 2024**
- **RMR Armoury, 4625 Ste-Catherine West**
- **10h00 – 18h00 daily**
- **Open to the public / free admission**
- **Schools and group visits welcome.**

Greetings,

Remembrance Week has kicked off and Branch 14 (RMR Association) has already been

hard at work collecting donations in exchange for poppies for a week now. This is a particularly long campaign and Branch 14 is in dire need of volunteers, even for just a few hours. If you can make yourself available between now and 10 November, please email info@royalmontrealregiment.com to volunteer.

In October 1944, the RMR played a crucial role in securing a bridgehead across the Leopold Canal which ultimately led to the Allies securing the vital supply route to Antwerp. Crossing a canal in small boats under intense machine-gun fire, the RMR soldiers faced fierce resistance in treacherous terrain, instantly taking heavy casualties. Their actions not only contributed to the successful Allied advance into Europe but also helped alleviate the suffering of civilians under Nazi occupation.

This year, we honour their legacy and humbly reflect upon ordinary Canadians achieving the extraordinary: [‘A Regiment’s Sacrifice: Defeating Hitler’s Army’](#), is a temporary museum exhibition marking the contribution of Canada’s citizen soldiers in defeating the evils of the Nazi domination of Europe. Visit and learn about the terrors of the battle, the sacrifices made, equipment and weapons, life as a Prisoner of War forced to work in salt mines, life on the home front, and most importantly, learn about the ordinary Canadian soldiers who achieved the extraordinary.

Speaking of the RMR Museum, Ron Zemancik, our legendary Curator, is pleased to share the good news about RSM Mitchell’s medals, which have been preserved now within the museum’s permanent exhibition. These medals are a tribute to his service and a testament to our ongoing commitment to honoring those who have served the regiment with distinction. THANK YOU to everyone who made a donation in response to our appeal for funding this summer, you allowed us to move with alacrity and secure the medals for where they’ll be appreciated and viewed by multiple future generations.

Reflecting on the significance of Remembrance Day parades is something that a lot of us have done in the past as we gather our thoughts about the reasons why we continue to parade annually and keep faith with our dead comrades. Here are some key RMR Family dates that are coming up in November:

- **25 October – 10 November: Poppy Campaign**
- **07 November: Hampstead Remembrance Parade**
- **08 November: Officers' Mess Reunion Dinner**
- **09 November: Breakfast and Parade in Kahnawake**
- **10 November: Annual Remembrance Day Parades: Pointe-Claire & Westmount**
- **11 November: Montreal Parade Downtown – Dominion Square**

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 Colonel David Bensadoun, Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Isabelle Racicot, the 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

Articles from the past month:



2024 Poppy Campaign has started

Westmount, Quebec – 25 October 2024: The RMR Association (Branch 14) kicked off the 2024 annual poppy campaign in Westmount with the help of the Mayor of Westmount, Her Worship Christina Smith. She was pinned by the President of the RMR Association, Comrade Sue Guerin, CD in a ceremony held outside the IGA in Alexis-Nihon plaza marking the start of the 2024 campaign in Westmount.



Crossing through Fire

During the Battle of Leopold Canal, Private Stanley Enair, a stretcher-bearer with the Royal Montreal Regiment, displayed extraordinary bravery. He crossed the battlefield under heavy fire multiple times to rescue wounded comrades, earning the Military Medal for his courage. After the war, Enair returned to Montreal and lived a quiet life with his family until his passing in 1989. His legacy, marked by heroism and dedication, continues. He is buried at the National Field of Honor Cemetery in Pointe-Claire, Quebec.

You can [read the entire story here](#).



RSM Mitchell's Medals On Display

Westmount, Quebec – 30 October 2024: In an exciting update to the RMR Museum's permanent exhibition, RSM "Jimmy Jesus" Mitchell's medals have undergone meticulous refurbishment, with each medal now fitted with new ribbon. This

restoration enhances the medals' appearance while preserving their historical authenticity, providing a fitting tribute to RSM Mitchell's legacy in our WWII exhibit.

Alongside the medals, visitors can now see RSM Mitchell's silver-plated life membership card to the Warrant Officers' & Sergeants' Mess. This card, a symbol of his dedicated service and esteemed position, adds depth to the display and underscores the regiment's commitment to preserving the heritage of our distinguished members.



How Canada Helped Free Belgium: What it Means Now

Article written by Amynte Eygun, MA.

Westmount, Quebec – 18 October 2024: Belgium and Canada have a strong allied relationship and friendship, with both countries sharing core values of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights, openness and tolerance.[1] The connection between these two countries originates from the role Canada had in the liberation of Belgium during both World War I (1914-1918) and World War II (1939-1945).

During the early years of the Second World War, Belgium and the rest of North-West Europe were invaded by Hitler's Nazi army and subsequently under Axis control for the majority of the war. Spring of 1940 saw Germany invading Belgium and they would continue controlling the country until the end of 1944. This control meant that basic rights of civilians were stripped and they were left with minimal supplies because of the German control over the Scheldt estuary. After the D-Day landings in Normandy on June 6th, 1944, Belgian civilians were impatiently waiting for the Canadians and the Allied forces to break open the German "Fortress Europe"; a large-scale defensive position and obstacle across the coast of Western Europe. It was only a matter of time before the Canadians breached the German stronghold, moving towards Belgium, the Netherlands and the rest of occupied N-W Europe.

The battle of Leopold Canal and in turn, the Battle of the Scheldt were the major military operations that would liberate Belgium, but it was not without massive casualties and difficulty. In early September of 1944, Brussels, the Belgian capital was liberated by British forces, and by the 6th of September 1944, the 4th Canadian Armoured Division crossed into Belgium. The 2nd Canadian Infantry Division also made headway in early September, after making their way along the European coast, they pushed across the Belgian border to capture the port town of Ostend on September 9th 1944. The battles and operations that took place in the fall of 1944 were not without destruction and massive losses, as the German army knew that the loss of North-West Europe would ultimately lead them to losing the war. They fought to the death with nothing to lose. This meant that Canadian and Allied soldiers suffered heavily under German attack, with more than 6,000 soldiers becoming casualties (KIA, POW and wounded), and over 800 buried in Commonwealth cemeteries around Belgium, eternally resting in the country they were attempting to liberate.



Appointment to Master-Corporal

Westmount, Quebec – 07 October 2024: On Sunday 06 October 2024, the RMR's Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Jonasz, appointed Corporal Skalkogiannis to Master-Corporal in the field following a training exercise.

In the Canadian Armed Forces, an appointment to Master-Corporal, particularly in the Infantry, represents a significant advancement. This rank not only acknowledges the individual's proven leadership and skills but also assigns greater responsibilities. Master-Corporals often act as second-in-command within a section, responsible for tactical decisions, leading soldiers, and maintaining discipline. This rank serves as a critical step towards more senior non-commissioned officer roles.



How Canadian Factories Fueled the Allied Victory in WW2

Canada had a big role in the production of weapons for Allies during the Second World War, especially after the Dunkirk Evacuation in May-June 1940. Canadians mobilized in manufacturing and they made more than 800,000 military transport vehicles, 50,000 tanks, 40,000 field, naval and anti-aircraft guns and an astonishing 1,700,000 small arms. Canada supplied the British with 38% of their 800,000 military vehicles, keeping 168,000 for Canadian troops and the rest was spread out to Allied troops. Canadians also dabbled in the making of heavy utility vehicle bodies, the General Motors factory in Oshawa made 4,000 vehicles, all that could be used as ambulances, personal carriers, light wireless vehicles, trucks or machinery.

You can [read the entire story here](#).

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



Fondation RMR Foundation | 4625 Ste-Catherine Street West | Westmount, QC H3Z 1S4 CA

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