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Mar
2017



Fondation RMR Foundation

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The INTERCOM

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".

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" is published on an ad-hoc basis and is intended to keep the friend & family of the Regiment up to speed with the accomplishments of the current serving members of the Regiment and all affiliated organizations.



Greetings!

09 April 2017 will mark the 100th anniversary of one of the founding narratives of Canada: the Battle of Vimy Ridge. Arguably the moment that propelled Canada to nationhood, the RMR played an important part in this battle, securing their assigned objectives on schedule and with the quiet, experienced professionalism of a Regiment that had seen many of its officers come through the ranks. Our regimental history tells us that:

"Sharp at 05:30 a.m. the attacking waves of the Regiment stepped over the parapet and advanced towards the German front line, which at the moment was suffering the destroying wrath of a marvellously placed barrage."

The RMR secured their objectives by 07h10.

It must be noted that the tremendous victory came at a steep price: 287 RMR casualties were incurred that day, 98 of which were killed and most of whom are buried together in what is arguably the 'sacred soil' of the RMR: [Nine Elms cemetery](#).

Plot I, Row A of [Nine Elms cemetery is the final resting place](#) for 80 men of the RMR, who fell on the 9th April 1917. Remarkably for a Commonwealth Graves Commission cemetery, our comrades are sorted alphabetically and by rank, so one would have to assume that a dedicated RMR NCO was on duty supervising the burials, carefully preserving the dignity our fallen comrades deserved. **Indeed, it has recently been ascertained that this was the work of Sergeant William James Lambourne.**

Not sure how many of you reading this have done the math (not always a strong point for us Infanteers), but our ancestors suffered an average of nearly three casualties per minute while securing their objectives at Vimy Ridge. And then defiantly stood-to for days repelling any counter-attacks. Solid.

The RMR will be doing its bit to commemorate the Battle of Vimy Ridge locally:

1. The Regiment will be leading the parade for the Montreal commemorations to be held on 09 April 2017 in NDG at the [recently renamed in honour of Vimy](#).
2. Members of the serving battalion, Sergeant Nino and Corporal Vallières will be travelling to France to represent the Regiment as part of the official Canadian Armed Forces delegation.
3. The president of the RMR Association, Comrade Sue Guerin, CD., will be also travelling as part of an official Legion delegation.
4. The RMR Foundation will be hosting the RMR Museum's exhibition: [Regiments on the Ridge: Vimy 100 Years On](#) held at Westmount's Victoria Hall on 03, 04, and 06 April 2017. This free exhibition will feature a detailed timeline corridor designed to transport the visitor back in time, soldiers in period uniform, artefacts from the period, and the National Film Board's The Battle of Vimy Ridge will be shown twice a day.

There will be another historic "*non-Vimy*" historical feature added to the RMR website for the next two years. The RMR Foundation is working to keep alive the memory of those who served during the First World War, and starting on 22 March 2017 we will begin publishing the daily diary of an eye-witness from the RMR: Private Raymond Duval, MM.

Duval enlisted in the summer of 1916 and eventually reached the front and was officially badged into the Regiment in June 1917. He kept a diary throughout his time in the war which he published it as a memoir in 1954.

Finally, please take a few moments to think of or utter a prayer for deployed RMR members and those who are battling illness or disease.

Honi Soit Qui Mal Y Pense.



LCol (ret'd) Colin Robinson, CD
Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel

The Royal Montreal Regiment

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The RMR Foundation is a
non-profit incorporated body,
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."*

**Please DONATE to
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Family.**