



October 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 Home unit stationed in Westmount. In an effort to boost morale and keep the lines of communication open between the two battalions, the "Intercomm" ("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.



*RMR troops keeping morale high during the forced march portion of Ex BACK BREAKER in Potton, Quebec.
CORPhoto credit: Sergeant Laurentne.*

Greetings,

As the fall season settles into the traditional collective training routine, the RMR and extended regimental family continues to forge ahead with pride and purpose. In this issue, we celebrate some of the achievements and milestones within our ranks. Master Corporal Fils-Aimé was honoured with the Canadian Forces decoration (CD) for his dedicated service, setting an inspiring example for all. We also welcomed new Honoraries who will undoubtedly help guide the regiment through the challenges and opportunities ahead, and the regiment's Infantry skills have been further strengthened by the addition of two newly qualified reconnaissance patrolmen!

The serving battalion kicked off the 2024 training year with Exercise Back Breaker, a great reminder of the physical and mental endurance required in the Infantry's line of work. It culminated in a badging ceremony in Potton welcoming the next generation of RMR soldiers.

Meanwhile, our Regimental Association's annual 'Smoker' Reunion reconnected past and present members, reinforcing the strong bond that defines the RMR family. A big thanks to Comrade Sue Guerin for holding the torch high for keeping all of us connected!

This October marks the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Leopold Canal, and to commemorate the role the RMR played in this battle and in remembrance of our comrades who were killed, wounded, and/or taken prisoner, the RMR museum will be presenting a temporary exhibit titled: *A Regiment's Sacrifice: Defeating Hitler's Army*. The exhibition will be held in the Warrant Officers' & Sergeants' Mess in the armoury and will run from 01 – 10 November 2024. Admission is free, schools and group visits welcome.

Each of these stories reflects the enduring spirit and camaraderie of the RMR regimental family, uniting members past and present in shared pride and purpose.

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.



LCol (ret'd) Colin Robinson, CD
Editor

Articles from the past month:



Two New Recce Soldiers in the RMR!

Westmount, Quebec – 04 September 2024: The Canadian Armed Forces Basic Reconnaissance Patrolman's (RECCE) course is one of the most demanding qualifications a soldier can achieve. It rigorously trains candidates in the essential skills required for operating behind enemy lines, including navigation, surveillance, camouflage, and infiltration. This course pushes soldiers to their physical and mental limits, honing their ability to work in small, self-reliant teams in the most challenging environments.

We are proud to announce that two members of The Royal Montreal Regiment (RMR), Master-Corporals Archer and Calixte, have recently qualified RECCE, demonstrating not only their exceptional perseverance and resilience but also their unwavering

commitment to the regiment and its operational excellence. Their accomplishment serves as an inspiration to all of us, reinforcing the RMR's proud tradition of professionalism and field readiness.



Branch 14 Hosts Successful 'Smoker' Reunion

Westmount, Quebec – 02 September 2024: The RMR Association held yet another successful reunion 'Smoker' this past Saturday, with more than 50 attendees from all parts of the regimental family in attendance at the annual event (originally started for the RMR's centennial in 2014). Held at the Kahnawake Marina on a beautiful sunny day, the brisk wind kept most folks out of the pool, but also kept the wasps at bay (they can be a menace some years). With a roaring charcoal BBQ, cash bar, and lots of friends – it was easy to have a good time!



RMR Badges 15 new soldiers

Westmount, Quebec – 18 September 2024: On a beautiful late summer day held on the Honorary Colonel's property in Potton where they had recently completed a forced march in Full Fighting Order (FFO), The Royal Montreal Regiment held their traditional badging ceremony on Sunday 15 September 2024 where 15 soldiers were officially badged into the Regiment and promoted to the rank of Private. The Honorary Colonel David Bensadoun and the Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Isabelle Racicot, individually replaced each soldier's generic Infantry Corps cap badge with the RMR's cap badge, welcoming each soldier to the regimental family.



RMR Museum Announces temporary exhibition commemorating 80th Anniversary of Leopold Canal

Westmount, Quebec – 30 September 2024: This October marks the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Leopold Canal, and to commemorate the role the RMR played in this battle and in remembrance of our comrades who were killed, wounded, and/or taken prisoner, the RMR museum will be presenting a temporary exhibit titled: *A Regiment's Sacrifice: Defeating Hitler's Army*. The exhibition will be held in the Warrant Officers' & Sergeants' Mess in the armoury and will run from 01 – 10 November 2024. Admission is free, schools and group visits welcome.

The Battle of Leopold Canal took place from October 6th, 1944 until the 13th of October 1944 as the opening act to the Battle of the Scheldt (Oct 2 – Nov 8 1944) and Operation Switchback (Oct 6 – Nov 3 1944). Located right on the border between Belgium and the Netherlands, the Leopold Canal was a difficult landscape for battle, which was used to the German's advantage. This attack required tactics, skill and the element of surprise, and although the RMR was not initially supposed to be a part of this battle, their service would help lead to the liberation of North-West Europe, a major turning point for the eventual Allied victory in 1945.

So why was the RMR involved? How did their role lead to the eventual liberation of North-West Europe? Who were the men who fought so gallantly and lost their lives for the Allied war effort? In the following weeks leading up to the opening of the exhibit, we will be releasing different stories answering these questions and more on the RMR website as a lead up to the exhibit opening.



New Honoraries for the RMR

Westmount, Quebec – 16 September 2024: On Sunday 15 September 2024, the 34th Brigade Commander, Colonel David Shane, promoted David Bensadoun from his appointment as Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel to become the RMR's Honorary Colonel, and welcomed Isabelle Racicot as the RMR's new Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel. Honorary ranks in the Canadian Forces have been modeled on British traditions. The first honorary appointment was in 1895, and the RMR's first Honorary Colonel in 1914 was Right Honourable Lord Mount Stephen, with the first appointment of an Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel in 1936 (Lieutenant-Colonel Fisher, VC – the original CO of the 58th Westmount Rifles).



CD for MCpl Fils-Aimé

Westmount, Quebec – 17 September 2024: On Sunday 15 September 2024, the 34th Brigade Commander, Colonel David Shane, presented the Canadian Forces Decoration to Master-Corporal Fils-Aimé during a parade held on Honorary Colonel David Bensadoun's property in Potton. The ceremony was held shortly after the regiment had

recently completed a forced march in Full Fighting Order (FFO), and a wonderful BBQ lunch served by the Honorary Colonel's family & friends. The Canadian Forces' Decoration is awarded to officers and Non-Commissioned Members of the Canadian Forces who have completed twelve years of service. The decoration is awarded to all ranks, who have a good record of conduct.



Capt McLaughlin earns commendation

Westmount, Quebec – 25 September 2024: As part of the CO's parade held at the armoury on Tuesday 23 September 2014, Captain Ross McLaughlin was presented with the 34th Canadian Brigade Group Commander's Commendation. The citation reads as follows:

"On 24-26 November 2023, Captain Ross McLaughlin, Royal Montreal Regiment, accepted command of an infantry company while concurrently assuming the Second in Command position at short notice during EXERCISE XERUS AGUERRI.

The acceptance of this role speaks volumes for the member who assumed both roles, provided guidance to platoons and delivered timely reports to higher headquarters. He allowed validation of multiple platoons, reflecting great honour on the 34th Canadian Brigade Group.

His actions brought great credit to the 34th Canadian Brigade Group"

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 which provides free materials to supplement Quebec's history curriculum.

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