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May 2021

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.



Captain George Siket conducting a PsyOps leaflet drop over the Arghandab Valley, Afghanistan

Greetings,

April was another long Covid kind of month for all members of the RMR Family, although the proverbial light at the end of the tunnel doesn't appear to be a train anymore, and signs of normalcy are returning. Listening in to Zoom meetings of the RMR Association, most members have already received their first dose of the vaccine, and the Quebec government will be opening it up to all adults within a couple of weeks from today.

It gives us hope that perhaps life will be returning to a semblance of what we used to take for granted as 'normal'. Perhaps the RMR Association's annual 'Smoker' reunion which is typically held around Labour Day will be able to take place in person this year.

Regardless of the restrictions, the regimental spirit of "adapting and overcoming" means that we soldier on and make the best of a bad situation. The CO has organized a RMR team to run the virtual Canadian Army Run this fall, RSM Leroux and the RMR NCO's held a virtual version of their annual *2nd Battle of Ypres* commemorative mess dinner in April, the serving battalion continues to train and go in the field, and our Cadets and the Legion are still meeting virtually.

You can read an article below about the efforts at maintaining normalcy during a lockdown, with the officers of No 1 West Montreal Squadron really going above & beyond and delivering meal kits to all of their cadets in order to host a virtual mess dinner together. Congratulations to all of the leaders who continue to make a difference in the lives of all of us in the RMR family, it really means a lot.

On a personal note, I would like to extend my congratulations to the very recently retired Lieutenant-Colonel George Siket. Affectionately known in the RMR officers' mess as "Furious George", he joined the regiment in 1998 after 12-years of service with the Black Watch. Over the years, George was one of many RMR's who volunteered countless hours of service with the RMR while being employed full-time by the military. And just like all of them, he never complained about the fact that we was spending his nights and weekends away from his family without being paid for it. George's service was noted by his serious professionalism and his drive for the

regiment to set the standard. The RMR is a better place for his service, and I look forward to welcoming him into the RMR Association (take a hint, Furious - membership forms can be [downloaded here](#)). You can read his profile of service [here](#).

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 Lieutenant-Colonel David Bensadoun, the Regiment's Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel John Shone, and the Regimental Sergeant-Major, Chief-Warrant Officer Stephan Leroux, please accept our continued best wishes.

Honi Soit Qui Mal Y Pense.



LCol (ret'd) Colin Robinson, CD
Honorary Colonel
The Royal Montreal Regiment

Articles from the past month:



VIRTUAL MESS DINNER FOR 1 WEST MONTREAL SQUADRON

Westmount, Quebec – 11 April 2021: On the night of March 17th, 2021, the Royal Canadian Air Cadets of 1 West Montreal Squadron conducted a Virtual Mess Dinner over the Zoom online meeting platform. As the cadets adapted to the virtual platform through their online class

meetings every Wednesday, the officers of 1 West Montreal Squadron helped make the experience as immersive to a real mess dinner.

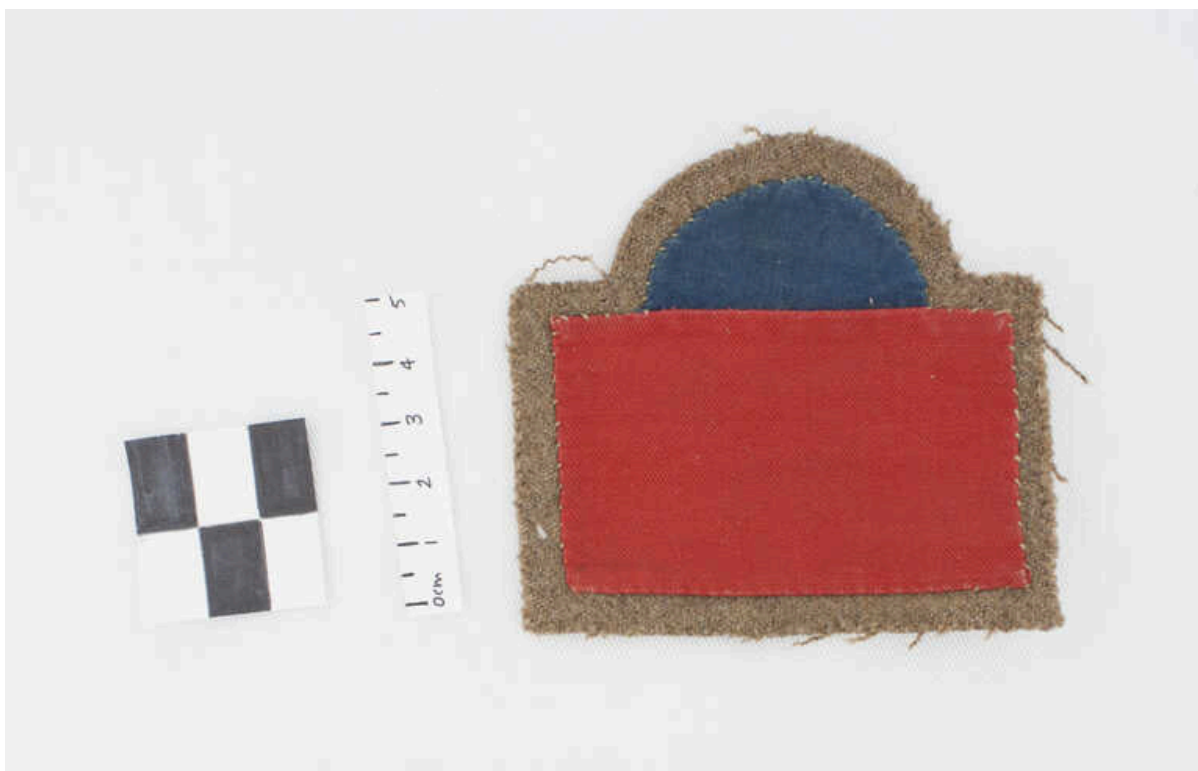
[Learn more by reading the full article here.](#)



36-YEARS OF SERVICE: LCOL GEORGE SIKET RETIRES

Westmount, Quebec – 28 April 2021: Lieutenant-Colonel George Siket will be adding “retired” to his list of military achievements after today when he becomes a civilian for the first time in 36-years. In a ‘Departure with Dignity’ ceremony held as a hybrid in-person and virtual event, the highlights of his career and service to the RMR and the CAF were reviewed for all attendees. What came out loud and clear was his deep love of family, country, the Canadian Armed Forces, and the Regiment.

[Read story here.](#)



RMR MUSEUM'S COLLECTION GOES VIRTUAL

Westmount, Quebec – 19 April 2021: Because it is impossible to display the vast majority of the RMR Museum's collection in the permanent exhibition, steps have been taken to create a digital archive available to all for free online. Now the RMR Museum can share artifacts, photographs, and documents that otherwise would be hidden. The collection numbers nearly 6,000 entries at the moment, but not all are currently available to the public. Over 1,000 items are now available online. New items are released every week or so, after validation by the team of volunteer researchers. A great example is a collection of RMR Intercoms that covered the 1990's, providing an excellent selection of social history.

[Read the full article and learn some tips about searching online 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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