



# The RCR Catechism 2017

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## REGIMENTAL CATECHISM

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### WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE REGIMENT?

The Royal Canadian Regiment. The short title is The RCR.

### WHICH UNITS COMPRISE THE REGIMENT?

There are four battalions, and a Regimental Headquarters located as follows:

- Regimental Headquarters - Victoria Barracks, 4 CDSB Petawawa, ON
- 1st Battalion - Victoria Barracks, 4 CDSB Petawawa, ON
- 2nd Battalion - Gregg Barracks, 4 CDSB Gagetown, NB
- 3rd Battalion - Foulkes Barracks, 4 CDSB Petawawa, ON
- 4th Battalion - Wolseley Barracks, London and Stratford, ON

### WHO HOLDS THE FOLLOWING REGIMENTAL APPOINTMENTS? (2017)

The Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment	His Royal Highness, The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, KG, PC, KT, OM, GBE, QSO, CD
The Colonel of the Regiment	Major-General J.I. Fenton, OMM, CD
Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel (4 RCR)	Colonel W.J. Pettipas, CD
The Regimental Colonel (R Col)	Colonel P.K. Scott, CD
The Regimental Chief Warrant Officer (RCWO)	Chief Warrant Officer S.G. Hartnell, MMM, MSM, CD

## **WHEN WAS THE REGIMENT FORMED?**

On 21 December 1883. It was then called the "Infantry School Corps". In 1892 it was renamed "Canadian Regiment of Infantry", and on 24 May 1893, Queen Victoria's birthday, the honour of a "Royal" prefix was granted and the name changed to "The Royal Regiment of Canadian Infantry". Again in 1899, the name was altered to "The Royal Canadian Regiment of Infantry", and finally, in 1901 to "The Royal Canadian Regiment". The RCR is the oldest Regular Force infantry unit of the Canadian Forces. It was decided on amalgamation of the London & Oxford Fusiliers in 1954 that the regiment would continue to celebrate 21 Dec 1883 as the regimental birthday.

## **WHAT IS THE REGIMENTAL PRAYER?**

*Almighty God; we humbly implore Thy blessing on The Royal Canadian Regiment and all of us who serve therein.*

*Help us to prove worthy to accept the high ideals and traditions of the past; to honour and revere the memory of those who have gone before us; to face our responsibilities in the future, in both peace and war, with courage, justice, love, honesty, and faithfulness.*

*Remove all greed, hatred, selfishness, and envy from our thoughts that we may render true service to the Regiment and for Thee our God; for our fellow man, and "For Country".*

*Amen.*

## **WHAT IS THE MOTTO OF THE REGIMENT?**

"Pro Patria", a Latin motto meaning: "For Country".

## **WHAT IS THE REGIMENTAL SLOGAN?**

"Never pass a fault."

## **WHERE HAS THE REGIMENT SERVED IN PEACE AND WAR?**

- 1883 - 1899 Canada including North West Canada and the Yukon
- 1899 - 1900 South Africa & England

- 1900 - 1914 Canada
- 1914 - 1915 Bermuda
- 1915 - 1919 England, France and Belgium
- 1919 - 1939 Canada
- 1939 - 1945 England, France, Sicily, Italy, Belgium, Holland & Germany
- 1945 - 1950 Canada
- 1951 - 1953 Korea
- 1953 - Present; Canada, Germany, Norway, Cyprus, Qatar, Bahrain, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Bosnia, Croatia, Macedonia, Somalia, Kosovo, Ethiopia & Eritrea and Haiti.
- 2003 - 2014 Afghanistan
- Individual members of the regiment have served on many UN tasks and missions throughout the world.

### **IN WHICH CAMPAIGNS HAS THE REGIMENT TAKEN PART?**

- North-West Canada Rebellion; 1885 (C Coy)
- South African War; 1899 - 1902
- World War I; 1914 - 1919
- World War II; 1939 - 1945
- Korean War; 1951 - 1953
- Gulf War; 1990 - 1991 (C Coy 1 RCR and M Coy 3 RCR).
- Afghanistan; 2003 - 2012

### **HOW MANY BATTLE HONOURS HAVE BEEN AWARDED TO THE REGIMENT?**

The Regiment has been awarded or perpetuates 61 battle honours for specific distinguished actions and general actions on active service. Of these, twenty-seven battle honours (those in bold capital letters) have been approved for emblazonment on the Regimental Colour.

### **WHAT ARE THE BATTLE HONOURS OF THE REGIMENT?**

#### **War of 1812**

- 1 Defence of Canada 1812-1815
- 2 Detroit

3 Niagara

**Northwest Canada**

4 **SASKATCHEWAN**

5 **NORTH-WEST CANADA,  
1885**

**South African (Boer) War**

6 **PAARDEBERG** 18-27 Feb 1900

7 **SOUTH AFRICA, 1899-1900**

**First World War**

8 **YPRES, 1915** (Note 1) 22 Apr - 25 May 1915

9 Gravenstafel Ridge 22-23 Apr 1915

10 St. Julien 24 Apr - 4 May 1915

11 Festubert, 1915 15-25 May 1915

12 **MOUNT SORREL** 2-13 Jun 1915

13 **SOMME, 1916** 1 Jul - 18 Nov 1916

14 Pozieres Ridge 23 Jul - 3 Sep 1916

15 Flers-Courcelette 15-22 Sep 1916

16 **ANCRÉ HEIGHTS** 1 Oct - 11 Nov 1916

17 Arras, 1917 (Note 2) 9 Apr - 4 May 1917

18 **VIMY, 1917** 9-14 Apr 1917

19 Arleux 28-29 Apr 1917

20 Scarpe, 1917 (Note 3) 26-30 Aug 1918

21 **HILL 70** 15-25 Aug 1917

22 **YPRES, 1917** (Note 1) 31 Jul - 10 Nov 1917

23 **PASSCHENDAELE** 26 Oct - 10 Nov 1917

24 **AMIENS** 8-11 Aug 1918

25 Arras, 1918 (Note 2) 26 Aug - 3 Sep 1918

26 Scarpe, 1918 (Note 3) 26-30 Aug 1918

27 Drocourt-Queant Line 2-3 Sep 1918

28 **HINDENBURG LINE** 12 Sep - 9 Oct 1918

29 Canal du Nord 27 Sep - 9 Oct 1918

30 Cambrai, 1918 8-9 Oct 1918

31 **PURSUIT TO MONS** 4-11 Nov 1918

32 France and Flanders, 1915-1918

**Second World War**

- 33 **LANDING IN SICILY** 9-12 Jul 1943
- 34 Valguarnera 17-19 Jul 1943
- 35 Agira 24-28 Jul 1943
- 36 Adrano 29 Jul - 7 Aug 1943
- 37 Regalbuto 29 Jul - 3 Aug 1943
- 38 Sicily, 1943 9 Jul - 17 Aug 1943
- 39 Landing at Reggio 3 Sep 1943
- 40 **MOTTA MONTECORVINO** 1-3 Oct 1943
- 41 Campobasso 11-14 Oct 1943
- 42 Torella 24-27 Oct 1943
- 43 **SAN LEONARDO** 8-9 Dec 1943
- 44 The Gully 10-19 Dec 1943
- 45 **ORTONA** 20-28 Dec 1943
- 46 Cassino II 11-18 May 1944
- 47 Gustav Line 11-18 May 1944
- 48 Liri Valley 18-30 May 1944
- 49 **HITLER LINE** 18-24 May 1944
- 50 **GOTHIC LINE** 25 Aug - 22 Sep 1944
- 51 **LAMONE CROSSING** 2-13 Dec 1944
- 52 Misano Ridge 3-5 Sep 1944
- 53 **RIMINI LINE** 14-21 Sep 1944
- 54 San Martino-San Lorenzo 14-18 Sep 1944
- 55 Pisciatello 16-19 Oct 1944
- 56 Fosso Vecchio 16-18 Dec 1944
- 57 **ITALY, 1943-1945** 3 Sep 1943 - 22 Apr 1945
- 58 Apeldoorn 11-17 Apr 1945
- 59 **NORTH-WEST EUROPE, 1945** 6 Jun 1944 - 5 May 1945
- Korea**
- 60 **KOREA, 1951-1953**



## **South-West Asia**

### **61 AFGHANISTAN**

*Notes:*

1. "Ypres, 1915" and "Ypres, 1917" are normally combined and written as "Ypres '15, '17".
2. "Arras, 1917" and "Arras, 1918" are normally combined and written as "Arras '17, '18".
3. "Scarpe, 1917" and "Scarpe, 1918" are normally combined and written as "Scarpe '17, '18".

### **WHAT ARE COLOURS?**

Each battalion of the regiment has two colours. They are: the Queen's Colour, signifying allegiance to the sovereign, and the Regimental Colour, signifying loyalty to the regiment.

"Colours are a unit's most prized possession. They are presented personally by the Sovereign or by an individual, normally the Governor General, nominated to act on the Sovereign's behalf. Historically, Colours marked and provided a rallying point for army regiments in the line of battle. Today, they are no longer carried in action or held by a unit in a theatre of war. They continue, however, as visible symbols of pride, honour and devotion to Sovereign and country." (A-AD-200-000/AG-000; The Honours, Flags and Heritage Structure of the Canadian Forces.)

**The Queen's Colour** is carried on the right of the Regimental Colour. It is described as the Canadian Flag with a circle, centered on the red Maple Leaf, inscribed "The Royal Canadian Regiment" surmounted by the Royal Crown. In the center of the circle is a Roman numeral which denotes the number of the Battalion. The Colour is bordered with a gold and crimson fringe and is carried on a pike capped with a lion holding a Maple Leaf in its dexter paw and surmounted with the Crown.

**The Regimental Colour** is Royal Blue with a blue and gold fringe. In the center, a crimson circle inscribed "The Royal Canadian Regiment", surmounted with the

crown encompassing the Royal Cypher of the reigning monarch. The circle is embraced by 12 autumnal coloured Maple Leaves. This complete center adornment is encompassed by a wreath of Laurel Leaves on which are emblazoned 26 Battle Honours on 25 scrolls. Note that at time of publication AFGHANISTAN was authorized for emblazonment but had not yet been added to any of the Regimental Colours. In addition, each corner bears a white fleur-de-lis between two gold Maple Leaves. In the upper left canton, a Roman numeral designates the number of the Battalion. The Regimental Colour is carried on a pike capped with a lion holding a Maple Leaf in its dexter paw and surmounted with the Crown.

### **WHEN WERE VICTORIA CROSSES AWARDED TO MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN REGIMENT?**

- **Lt. Milton F. Gregg, VC** (CAMBRAI, 27 September to 1 October 1918).
- **Lt Frederick Campbell, VC** (GIVENCHY, 15 June 1915; while serving with the 1st Cdn Inf Bn, CEF, during the First World War. The 1st Cdn Inf Bn is perpetuated by The RCR.)

### **WHAT IS THE QUEEN'S SCARF OF HONOUR?**

The Queen's Scarves of Honour, which were knit by Queen Victoria and considered to rank with the VC as an individual honour, were awarded to four soldiers of the Colonial Forces who fought in the South African War (four other Scarves were awarded to NCOs of the British Army). The Canadian recipient of the Queen's Scarf was Private Richard Rowland Thompson, 2nd (Special Service) Bn, The RCR. The original scarf is on permanent loan to the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa. A replica is displayed in the Regimental Museum in London, Ontario.

### **WHO WAS THE REGIMENT'S FIRST OPERATIONAL CASUALTY?**

Private Arthur J. Watson was the Regiment's first operational casualty. He was killed at Fish Creek

during the North West Rebellion on the 24th of April, 1885.

**WHICH CANADIAN CITIES HAVE REGULAR OR RESERVE BATTALIONS OF THE RCR GARRISONED?**

- Fredericton, NB
- Toronto, ON
- Quebec City, PQ
- Esquimault, BC
- Brockville, ON
- Petawawa, ON
- Borden, ON
- Woodstock, ON
- St Jean, PQ
- London, ON
- Halifax, NS
- Barriefield, ON
- Ipperwash, ON
- Oromocto, NB
- Stratford, ON

**WHAT IS THE HOME STATION OF THE RCR?**

For historical reasons the Home Station of The RCR is considered to be London, Ontario. This location has historical significance to The RCR as the regiment's first permanent home, is the location of the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion and is the site of The RCR Museum in Wolseley Hall (a designated historical site).

**ON HOW MANY OCCASIONS HAS THE REGIMENT HAD MORE THAN ONE BATTALION?**

Three times!

**First**, in 1900 The Royal Canadian Regiment consisted of three battalions. The Permanent Force Battalion remained in its normal role but supplied officers and men for the Yukon Field Force, the 2nd (Special Service) Battalion in South Africa and the 3rd (Special Service) Battalion garrisoning Halifax.

**Second**. During the Second World War, a 2nd Battalion was created at Barriefield, Ontario, in Aug 1945, in preparation for Canada's planned 6th Division for the Pacific Theatre. When the war ended, the overseas battalion returned from Europe to Canada and was demobilized. The 2nd Battalion, as the only battalion in the regiment at that point, became "The RCR" and moved to quarters in Brockville.

**Third.** Since 1950 the Regiment has been a multi-battalion organization comprised of two to four Battalions. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions served in Korea during the hostilities between 1951 and 1953. In May 1954, the 3rd Battalion became the 1st Battalion, Canadian Guards reducing the regiment to two regular battalions. In October 1954, the Canadian Fusiliers and the Oxford Rifles were amalgamated and re-designated "The London and Oxford Fusiliers (3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment)" thus raising the regiment again to three battalions. The reserve battalion was later renamed 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment (London and Oxford Fusiliers) and then as 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment. In 1970 the 1st and 2nd Battalions, the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada were disbanded, and the soldiers of those units were reorganized as the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment. The 2nd Battalion, Canadian Guards was also disbanded, its soldiers becoming the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment. The reserve battalion was then designated the 4th Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment, thus attaining a regimental organization of three Regular Force battalions and one Reserve Force Battalion. In 1993, 3 RCR was designated a 10/90 Battalion, with rifle companies manned by various Ontario based Primary Reserve regiments. In 1996, 3 RCR was again reorganized as a Regular Force light infantry battalion with one company assigned to the parachute role.

**WHICH UNITS OF THE CANADIAN MILITIA AND THE CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE DOES THE ROYAL CANADIAN REGIMENT PERPETUATE?**

Units of the Canadian Militia:

- The Canadian Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), which started as the "7th Infantry Battalion, 'Prince Arthur's Own'" in 1866,
- The Oxford Rifles, which started as the "22nd Battalion Volunteer Militia Rifles, Canada" in 1863,
- 2nd Machine Gun Battalion, Canadian Machine Gun Corps (1919-1938).

Units of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) for the First World War:

- 1st Canadian Infantry Battalion, CEF,
- 33rd Canadian Infantry Battalion, CEF,
- 71st Canadian Infantry Battalion, CEF,
- 142nd Canadian Infantry Battalion, CEF,
- 168th Canadian Infantry Battalion, CEF,
- 2nd Machine Gun Battalion, CEF

### **WHAT ARE THE ALLIED REGIMENTS?**

- The Rifles (UK).
- The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers (UK).
- The Jamaica Regiment (Jamaica).

### **WHAT IS THE OFFICIAL MARCH PAST OF THE REGIMENT?**

"The RCR March" composed by Band Corporal George Offen during the period 1905 to 1907.

### **WHAT IS THE OFFICIAL REGIMENTAL SLOW MARCH?**

"Pro Patria" composed by Band Sergeant Claude W. Keast in 1956.

### **WHAT DO THE LETTERS VRI ON THE RCR CAP BADGE MEAN?**

"Victoria Regina Imperatrix", which is Latin for "Victoria, Queen, Empress". The right to wear the Imperial Cypher and Crown was granted by Queen Victoria in 1893. When a Royal or Imperial Cypher forms part of the badge of a regiment it is normal for it to change with each succeeding sovereign and badges with the cyphers of King Edward VII and King George V were the officially authorized badges from 1901 to 1919. Throughout this period, "VRI" badges were also in continuous use within the Regiment as authority was sought for an official return to the "VRI" cyphered badges. In 1919, King George V granted The Royal Canadian Regiment permission to wear "VRI" in perpetuity, a unique privilege.

## WHAT ARE THE BADGES WORN ON THE LEFT BREAST OF THE REGIMENTAL BLAZERS?

Prior to 2009, four different blazer crests were worn by members of the Regiment. These may still be seen in use until normal wear and tear requires their replacement.

- Officers & CWOs - VRI surmounted by Crown.
- MWOs, WOs & Sgts - The Cap Badge.
- Rank and File - The Collar Badge.
- The RCR Association - The Regimental Cypher with the word "Association" below.

In 2009, the Regiment decided to adopt a single blazer crest formed of the Regimental Cypher for wear by all ranks, serving and retired.

## WHICH DAYS ARE CELEBRATED AS REGIMENTAL DAYS AND WHAT OCCURS ON THOSE DAYS?

- **Paardeberg Day** - 27 February, celebrated in honour of the key role played by The RCR in the surrender of General Cronje's force to the British on 27 February 1900 during the South African War. This day may be highlighted by a sports competition between representative teams of Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants, and Corporal/Privatees. Formal mixed social functions may be held that night in the various messes, or an all-ranks ball.
- **Pachino Day** - 10 July, celebrated in honour of the Regiment's landing at Pachino Peninsula, Sicily on 10 July 1943. This day is often highlighted by sports, usually a soccer game, either inter-company or between teams grouped by rank followed by an all ranks gathering where spaghetti and red wine are served.
- **Kowang-San Day** - 23 October, in honour of the 1st Battalion's defence of Hill 355, 23 October 1952. This date may be celebrated by sports events and/or Battalion parades (observed by 1 RCR).
- **Mons Day** - 10 November, celebrated in honour of the regiment's entry into the City of Mons immediately prior to the end of the First World War. Battalion parades may be held in commemoration,

however, Mons Day is often commemorated as part of Remembrance Day.

- **Regimental Birthday** - 21 December, celebrated in honour of the founding of the regiment on 21 December 1883. Where possible, all ranks of the regiment gather to commemorate the regimental birthday, often at the Soldiers' Christmas Dinner, which signals the commencement of relaxed duties over the Christmas and New Year holiday period. Mess dinners may also be held by the Officers and by the Warrant Officers and Sergeants to mark the Regimental Birthday. The toast to the regiment, the Ortona Toast, is observed by all.

### **WHAT IS THE ORTONA TOAST?**

On 20 November 1993, the Regimental Executive Committee (REC) approved a motion to toast the regiment on during birthday observances with the same mixture as used at the Ortona Crossroads on 21 December 1943. The toast consists of a rum punch, made from rum, sugar and water, and is taken from plain white china mugs. The Ortona Toast symbolizes the regimental spirit of our predecessors in the face of the enemy and reminds us of their sacrifice. The Ortona Toast is drunk only at regimental birthday events, at other times the regiment's health may be toasted with port or any other available drink.

### **WHAT IS REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS (RHQ)?**

RHQ is the section of the regiment responsible for the management of regimental business that is not executed by the battalions or financed by the Crown. Among other matters, RHQ is responsible for regimental publications, finances, supervision of The RCR Museum and support to the Colonel of the Regiment. RHQ is staffed at the direction of the REC and is TACON to 1 RCR for daily administration.

### **WHAT IS THE RCR ASSOCIATION?**

The Association is a brotherhood of serving, former serving and retired members of the regiment with a common purpose to foster and maintain the well being

of the regiment. All serving Royal Canadians are members of The RCR Association by virtue of their membership in the regiment. Members of other Corps and CF branches who were attached to any unit of the regiment at any time, as well as members of any units amalgamated into the regiment or who served with any affiliated unit may also join the Association.

### **WHAT IS THE RCR TRUST?**

The RCR Trust manages regimental investments on behalf of the regiment. Each year, the Trust disperses earned interest in accordance with the conditions of the Trust's Deed for a variety of purposes to assist with the funding of a wide range of regimental activities and programs.

### **WHAT IS THE VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION PROGRAM (VCP)?**

The Voluntary Contribution Program (VCP) provides funding for regimental initiatives benefiting individual members of the regiment as well as major regimental projects and operations. A portion of the contributions received is invested to aid in the financing of long-term projects to ensure that the regiment retains the capability to preserve historical traditions and to define and promote the distinctiveness of the regiment. The VCP is a charitable donation to The RCR Trust, with rates pro-rated by rank, Privates paying the lowest VCP rates and Generals the highest. Benefits include the *Pro Patria* year book, accoutrements, PT jacket, Sergeants' sashes, floral tributes and regimental departure gifts on release. Income tax receipts are issued annually by The RCR Trust.

### **WHAT IS THE REGIMENTAL JOURNAL AND WEBSITE?**

The regimental journal, *Pro Patria*, is published each spring covering the preceding year. Contents include submissions from Battalions and Extra-Regimentally Employed (ERE) Royal Canadians, The RCR Association and its branches, and individual submissions from serving and retired Royal Canadians. The regimental website at <http://www.thercr.ca/> - provides



an online resource for Royal Canadians and anyone else with an interest in the regiment.

### **WHO CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE REGIMENT'S PUBLICATIONS AND WEBSITE?**

Any Royal Canadian, serving or retired, is welcome to contribute captioned photographs and/or text articles on regimental events or historical research for the regimental journal. Items not published at the time of submission will be added to the Regimental Archives for use in future projects and research. Every Royal Canadian has a responsibility to help record our regiment's story. Contributions may be sent directly to the Regimental Adjutant at RHQ.

### **WHAT IS EXPECTED OF YOU AS A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN REGIMENT?**

Courage, Obedience, Physical Fitness, Efficiency and Pride in yourself and in your regiment. You must have courage to face battle and boredom. You must be obedient to all in authority over you so that The Royal Canadian Regiment can depend on this obedience. You must be physically fit to stand the hard conditioning under which you must live and so you can fight in the field. You must be efficient at your job and with your weapons. If you don't know, find out. Your life and your comrades' lives depend on it. You must have pride in yourself and in your regiment. It has been said that it takes "blood and sweat and money to make a regiment", but it takes more than that, it takes SOLDIERS. A regiment is no more or less than the soldiers who are in it; that is why there are both good and bad regiments. Think of the past history of The Royal Canadian Regiment. It is your privilege to make present and future regimental history every bit as glorious, perhaps even more so; it depends on you, for

**YOU ARE "THE ROYAL CANADIAN REGIMENT"**

### **WHAT ARE THE THREE GREAT TRADITIONS OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN REGIMENT?**

Chivalry, Gallantry, and Dash.

- **Chivalry** - is the embodiment in one person of those qualities such as dignity, courtesy, bravery, truth, duty and valour.
- **Gallantry** - is a brave and dashing spirit, splendour of appearance, nobleness and polite attention to others.
- **Dash** - is simply speed of thought and action.

**WHAT ARE THE THREE RULES OF CONDUCT THAT APPLY TO ALL ROYAL CANADIANS UNDER ALL CONDITIONS OF SERVICE?**

- **First** - No leader will order a subordinate to carry out a task that she or he is not prepared to do themselves.
- **Second** - Speed of thought and action is the prime requirement. Speed of action without thought can be both dangerous and valueless.
- **Third** - No wounded member of the regiment will ever be left on the battlefield.

**Always remember A ROYAL CANADIAN  
"NEVER PASSES A FAULT."**

Edited 2017, RHQ The RCR