RCEME Foundation Update – Spring 2026 (#1)

RCEME at 82

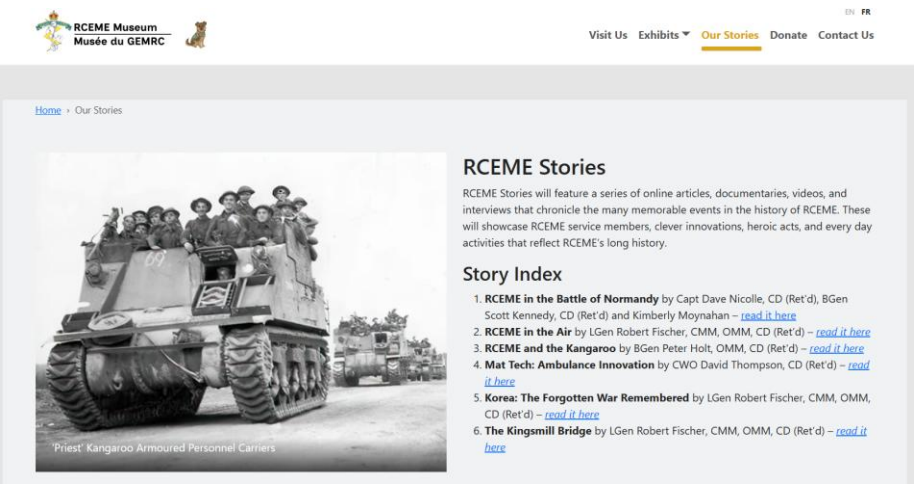
We are fast approaching the 82nd anniversary of the founding of the RCEME Corps on May 15th, 1944. Shortly afterwards, Canadians from all three Services would participate in Operation Overlord, the Allied invasion of Nazi-occupied France. During those first precarious days of early June 1944, newly badged RCEME engineers and technicians would be intimately involved in this crucial campaign.

The following excerpt from "*Fight to the Finish*" by the former Canadian War Museum Historian, Tim Cook, describes the important role that RCEME played in Normandy:

> *"Almost all of the tank regiments had taken grievous losses, although many of the Shermans were reclaimed by the squadron fitters and mechanics who repaired them in the field. The mechanics of the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, known as REME, slipped onto the battlefield at night, using armoured recovery vehicles to pull the broken tanks back to safety. Behind the lines the tanks were rebuilt using parts cannibalized from other tanks, and by late June about 40% of these vehicles were returned to service."* [1]

[1] Tim Cook, *Fight to the Finish*, ed. Penguin Books (Toronto: Penguin Books, 2015), 161-162.

Learn more about RCEME actions throughout the Normandy Campaign by visiting our **RCEME in Normandy** digital story at the RCEME Stories page on the RCEME Museum website.



https://rcememuseum.ca/en-ca/Our-Stories/Normandy

RCEME Leaders and Trailblazers – Class of 2026

On May 14th, 2026, the RCEME Corps will add two new members to the prestigious **Leaders and Trailblazers Wall** at the RCEME Museum in Kingston. **CWO (Ret'd) Art Rest** and **MWO (Ret'd) Earle Eastman** will be recognized during a ceremony at the RCEME Museum and then added to the **Leaders and Trailblazers Wall** in the Museum as well as the **Digital Portal** later this year.

You can meet all the RCEME Leaders and Trailblazers by visiting the **Leaders and Trailblazers Portal** at the RCEME Museum website.

https://leaders.rcememuseum.ca/en-ca/

Donations to the RCEME Foundation

As we approach the 82nd Birthday of the Corps of RCEME, we are again asking for your support to help us to continue with future Digital RCEME Heritage projects, building on our success this year with new Portals for **RCEME in Normandy** and **RCEME Leaders and Trailblazers**.

For many of you, a donation to the RCEME Foundation will have personal meaning – enabling family and friends to share your RCEME story now and into the future. Whether you have previously supported the **RCEME Heritage Program** by donating to the RCEME Foundation, or you wish to make your first time donation in support of our upcoming Heritage projects, please visit our website below. Note that the RCEME Foundation is completely volunteer-operated and 100% of your donation goes directly to RCEME Heritage Programs. If you would like to explore a more personal arrangement such as recurring monthly donations or a formal bequest, please contact us via our website or the mailing address at the end of this Update.

Donate to the RCEME Foundation today and help commemorate more than 80 years of RCEME excellence.

Donations

https://rcemefoundation.org/donations/

Arte et Marte

The RCEME Heritage & Museum Foundation

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