

The  
Ontario  
Model  
Soldier  
Society



## Monthly Newsletter for April 2013

*Next meeting:*

**Sunday, April 14, 2013**

Branch 210 Royal Canadian Legion 110 Jutland Rd. Toronto

Meeting starts at 1:00 pm Doors open 11:00 am

**Founded 1962**

### 2013 Executive

Scott Dummitt  
President

Norman White  
1st vice president

Gail Stone  
2nd vice-president

Gary Lenius  
Secretary/Treasurer

Guy Elliott  
Past President

Eric Clarke  
Program Chairman

Frank MacKay  
Journal editor

Norman White  
Annual Show Chairman

### Meeting Dates

- 2013 -

January 20

February 3

March 3

April 14

May 26

June 23

October 27

November 10

December 8

### Annual Show

**Saturday September 7  
2013**

### Featured Speaker:

**Guy Elliott on  
The Indian Army  
in History and Model Soldiers**

Our topic this month is the Soldiers of the Raj, in life and in lead. Guy didn't want to give too much away in the newsletter, but he promises some surprises in what is sure to be an interesting talk.



### Reminder - Print Auction

As detailed in last month's newsletter, we will be conducting the sealed bid auction for the first of the large Canadian Militia prints at this meeting.



*Print #1 (April auction): The Canadian Militia - 1889 by John David Kelly*

### DVP Closure

Note to those coming to the meeting from the east or north - the Don Valley Parkway will be closed for maintenance this Sunday.

The newsletter is edited by Gary Lenius.

News items and notices can be submitted at [omss@bell.net](mailto:omss@bell.net) or 416-261-6494.

OMSS website: [www.omss.ca](http://www.omss.ca)



## President's Column

*From our President Scott Dummitt...*

“SPRING” It’s finally here! Of course with Spring we have getting the yard cleaned up from the Winter fall out, preparing to open the family pool (for those of us lucky enough to have a pool) or getting the family cottage opened (for those of us who can afford the taxes, traveling costs and extra hydro/utility bills). It is also a time when we see an increase in our attendance at the OMSS meetings and I look forward to seeing some of those who couldn’t make it during the winter months.

Spring time also seems to be a time to look back and reflect upon the family members and friends we may have lost over the past few months. I was fortunate enough to chat with Werner Schroth a few times in the weeks prior to his passing away. Werner was an eager collector right up to the end, and had wanted to attend the March meet-

ing, according to his daughter. It was timely that we sent him a card from the members who were at the last meeting and I thank Frank MacKay profusely for taking the card to him at the hospital as Werner passed away a day later.

The April meeting promise to be an interesting one. Our guest speaker is our own Guy Elliot who is going to give a lecture on collecting toy soldiers of the Indian Army. After Napoleonic figures, the Indian Army seems to be one of the most popular topics as it offers a variety of colourful British and Indian uniforms.

In addition to our lecture we will be auctioning off one of the two Canadian Militia prints that were donated from the collection of former member John English. You must be a paid up member to bid and you won’t want to miss out on the opportunity to own one of these wonderful examples of Canadian military history. I look forward to seeing you all on the 14th April.



## Harold's Corner

*Tidbits from Harold Morrison*

[aitchrwm@bell.net](mailto:aitchrwm@bell.net)

The heyday of toy forts made in England, France and Germany, was in the 1960s. These were forts made of plastic and wood and were highly suitable as scene-setters for toy (or model) soldiers. The selection is not so good today. Many forts and castles pick up on fantasy themes and are of little use to serious miniature soldier collectors.

Help is at hand. Society member John Hambly has the carpentry skills to make first class forts to your specifications. His prices are reasonable. but he does require a deposit before he goes ahead with a project. John can be reached at OMSS meetings. His phone number is 613-475-1094, address 496 Smith St., Brighton, ON K0K 1H0. Email: [hamblywooddesign@kos.net](mailto:hamblywooddesign@kos.net)

As well as forts he can make buildings or boats. I have a waterline model of a Nile steamer which is exactly right for my soldiers. He can provide photographs of some of his handiwork.

James Opie, THE world's expert on toy soldiers has his own website. He will answer your questions about toy

soldiers, but before you pose a query, type in the internet site, [james-opie.co.uk](http://james-opie.co.uk). There you will find 18 categories to access. Opie was the source who confirmed for me that Britains did make Black Watch highlanders painted with white tunics, wearing sun helmets. Our Opie who....

Armies in Plastic produce a French Foreign Legion set for the Gallipoli campaign, wearing neck cloths. Histoire & Collections, of Paris, has produced a definitive work on French military uniforms of the First World War. Artist André Jouineau shows the 'Gallipoli' FFL uniform with a sun helmet, not a kepi with a neck cloth. The two-volume work, in English is entitled Officers and Soldiers of the French Army, 1914 and Officers and Soldiers of the French Army, 1918. All illustrations, superbly done, are in full colour

*Outsider to OMSS member:* What do you generally collect?

*Response:* Me, I collect all ranks.

Still waiting for your postman to brave hail, sleet and snow to deliver your paper copy of the monthly newsletter? Let us send it to you by email. Avoid postal delays. Read the newsletter online in full colour by email. No more paper cuts! We send it out as an Adobe PDF file, a compressed format that won't swamp your mailbox or take ages to download.

Send an email to [omss@bell.net](mailto:omss@bell.net) to get yourself on the email distribution list.

Your editor ( the guy who has to stuff envelopes every month) will thank you.

## Welcome some new members

Some new recruits have joined us since the first of the year:

**John Bekkers** of Port Moody, BC

**Gary Cottenden** of Scarborough

**Brendan Hogan** of Glenburnie

**Ian McGregor** of Mississauga, a former member returned after many years.

**Keith Ritchie** of Scarborough (Yes, it's Don's younger, better looking brother!)

**Duncan Skinner** of Toronto

Glad to have you all.

## Tradition of London - Down But Not Out

We reported in the February letter that Tradition had closed its London shop. Frank MacKay has been in contact with them and owner Magnus Lindström writes:

“Good to hear from you, yes sad indeed, we tried our best but our landlord would not give in on the high increase of the rent. We are still up and running but via agents and the web.

Our agents in Canada being:

Maitland Toy Soldier Shoppe [www.toysoldiers.com](http://www.toysoldiers.com)

Julius Vez Military Miniatures [www.juliusvesz.ca](http://www.juliusvesz.ca)

Tradition website : [www.traditionoflondonshop.com](http://www.traditionoflondonshop.com)

## Farewell to Two Old Friends

Sad to report, but we have lost two old comrades since the last newsletter.

**Werner Schroth** passed away on March 5, just after our last meeting. He was in palliative care for thyroid cancer. At the meeting we had all signed a card for him and Frank MacKay delivered it the same day. Dan Watson and myself (GL) attended his funeral to represent the OMSS.

**Peter Jackson** passed away quietly at home on April 4.

Notice: [v1.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/Deaths.20130406.93317415/BDAStory/BDA/deaths](http://v1.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/Deaths.20130406.93317415/BDAStory/BDA/deaths)

As it happens both men were born in the same year of 1928, Werner in Stuttgart Germany and Peter in Rochdale England. Both came to Canada in the 1950s and made lives here. (Another coincidence, both men had two daughters.) Werner was a tool and die maker. Peter worked in engineering. Both were long time members of the Society. Peter joined in the early days of the club, took a few years off and then rejoined us a few years ago. Werner joined us in 1976.

Werner was probably best known to most of us as a collector and painter of flats. His figures won numerous awards in our annual competitions. But he also collected some Britains. One of his last pleasures was acquiring the Britains Zulu War artillery vignette titled “Desperate Escape”. He told his daughters it was on his “bucket list” and he had it with him in the hospital at the end.

Peter's love was military books and he turned this into a thriving business for many years. Many of the older members were among his customers and he was able to track down rare titles and out of print treasures for them. Peter also had a special interest in the French Foreign Legion.

We will miss them both.

## Selling Britain's Collection

Bill Wilson of Bolton is looking to sell a large collection of Wm Britain's figures dating from the 40s and 50s. There are several hundred figures including farm figures and zoo animals but only a few boxed sets.

If interested of for further details contact him at

905-857-1384 or email [w\\_m\\_c\\_wilson@yahoo.ca](mailto:w_m_c_wilson@yahoo.ca)

## Need Help With Collection

Janet Stevenson's late husband Hugh was a member of the Society some years ago.

“My husband, Hugh Stevenson, (who died a few years ago) was a member of your organization. He hand painted a large collection from various military groups, mostly soldiers, but also tanks and other militaria. Since I'm now planning to move, I would like to sell the collection which is housed in purpose-built showcases which vary from 8" to 12" wide and about 4' high. There are 6 cases.

Perhaps someone from the society might catalogue the collection and put it on the web for sale. I would appreciate any help you can give me in disposing of my husband's collection.”

She is in London and can be contacted at [pcejhs@uwo.ca](mailto:pcejhs@uwo.ca)





### Newly Unearthed Treasures

**Frank Barrett** has re-discovered a toy chest he has not looked at in years. At the next meeting 95% of the items for sale have never before been offered.

Included will be: Assyrians, Romans, Landknecht, English Civil War, Knights. In addition there are early Gord Drumbleton up-graded Britain's British and Napoleonic Lancers, as well as Britain's Danish Hussars, Johillco U.S. Marines, Mignot, and World War II German mobile units including a few Afrika Corps.

### Fort York Book for sale

Small book, autographed by the author, Carl Benn entitled: The Battle of York and booklet on Fort York, \$15 plus postage or pick up at meeting.

Contact David Dorward, 905-584-5838  
or email [dkdorward@sympatico.ca](mailto:dkdorward@sympatico.ca)

### Seeking Composition Figures

Hans Doring is looking for composition figures from such makers as Elastolin, Lineol and Hausser. You can contact Hans at 416-421-9951 in the evenings. Hans is also looking for someone who can do some repairs to composition figures for him.

### Looking for Painted Figures

Stanley Kershman is interested in buying painted connoisseur figures and flats. You can contact him at [stanley3211@hotmail.com](mailto:stanley3211@hotmail.com) or 613-726-2999.

### Print Wanted

**James Hamilton** is looking for the person who bought at the November 2012 Meeting Auction the package of Colour Canadian Military Prints and Canadian History Prints. He is looking to obtain from them the large 16 by 20 Colour Military Print by Tom McNeely of 3 Scottish Soldiers by a fort in Upper Canada circa 1812. It was published in 1966 by Rolph, Clark, Stone Limited.

Please bring the print to the meeting in January or contact James at 416 621 8977.



*If you know of an upcoming show that might interest our members, drop Gary a line.*

### Bicentennial of the Battle of York Saturday April 27

A number of events are planned to mark the 200th anniversary of the battle. See [www.toronto.ca/1812/events.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/1812/events.htm) for all the event details.

### 6th Annual Gettysburg Toy Soldier Show and Sale Sunday 28 April, 2013

10 am to 3 pm, Gettysburg Hotel, Gettysburg PA. Admission \$6.00. Contact: Carl Hoegermeyer - Phone: (215) 794-5606. Great time to see this historic town before the summer crowd. This is the 150th Anniversary year of the Battle of Gettysburg. Gettysburg is a pleasant day's drive from Toronto.

### Toronto East Military Show Sat. May 11, 2013

Wide variety of militaria. 8:30 am to 2:30 pm \$8 admission. At the General Sikorski Hall, 1551 Stevenson Rd. North, Oshawa  
Details [www.torontomilitaryshow.com](http://www.torontomilitaryshow.com)

### Spring Collectors Flea Market & Open House at Michigan Toy Soldier - Saturday May 18, 2013

10:00am-3:00pm at the Michigan Toy Soldier Company 1400 E. 11 Mile Rd. Royal Oak, Michigan. [www.michtoy.com](http://www.michtoy.com)

### OMSS "On Parade 2013" Saturday, Sept. 7, 2013

Our own show. Stay tuned.

### Hastings & Prince Edward Regiment Militaria 2013: Show and Sale - Saturday, September 21, 2013

9:00 am to 2:30 pm. 220 Murray Street, Peterborough Ontario  
Admission: \$3.00 Per person, Children under 12 free when accompanied by an adult. Maximum family charge \$7.00. Additional information available at (705) 749-3149.

### Looking out for each other

Know of a member who's been ill or in hospital? Let Gail Stone know so that we can send them the Society's best wishes. Contact Gail at 905-332-0653 or by email at [gstone4@cogeco.ca](mailto:gstone4@cogeco.ca)

Just heard that **Colin Mattock** is in hospital. Get well soon, Colin, we're all pulling for you.

Moving? Send your change of address to: Gary Lenius 43 Saugeen Cres. Scarborough, Ont. M1K 3M8  
or email: [omss@bell.net](mailto:omss@bell.net) Phone: 416 261-6494