

The
Ontario
Model
Soldier
Society

Founded 1962
www.omss.ca



Monthly Newsletter for April 2016

Next meeting...

Sunday, 10 April, 2016

Branch 210 Royal Canadian Legion 110 Jutland Road Toronto
Meeting starts at 1:00 pm. Doors open 11:00 am

Monthly Newsletter for April 2016

2016 Executive

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Frank MacKay
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Norm White
Annual Show Chairman

Meeting Dates

- 2016 -
January 17
February 7
March 13
April 10
June 12
September 11
October 16
November 13
December 11

Annual Show
Saturday May 14, 2016

Letter from the President



What a great presentation from Ron Dixon at our March meeting, resin casting presents a lot of great opportunities to create.

Thanks to Jeff Duncan for all the work and a great job on the George Simpson estate items.

Show time is rapidly approaching. Norm White our show chairman with assistance from Jim Qualtrough are preparing for another great show. Please give them a heads up for space requirements for your display or competition items.

I am expecting a very interesting show with lots of exciting new products and ideas for our collections. This is the premier toy soldier show in Canada; member participation is the most important ingredient in our very successful show.

See you at the meeting

Tom

MAITLAND'S TOY SOLDIER SHOPPE

Thanks to all those helpful members that contacted me about Maitland's Toy Soldier Shoppe. The rumour was that after over 4 decades of business, Ron and Helen were closing shop. I phoned Ron and found out that this is only a partial truth. The fact is Maitlands is closing down the walk-in business part of the shop. There are many contributing reasons to this, however the one that stood out is the one affecting many of us; a terrible exchange rate. Collectors are finding, whether you buy in Canada or abroad, that the declining Canadian dollar has driven up the price of figure to a breaking point. Shops just can't afford to hold onto all the stock they use to. That said Maitlands is offering some very good prices at this time as they are clearing out old stock. Their web site is located at: www.toysoldiers.com.

Did You Know?



George Lazenby as German Pettigrew in "Gettysburg"

A little movie trivia here for you. George Lazenby, the only 007 actor to appear in one James Bond movie (if you don't count the 1967 tongue in cheek version of "Casino Royale" starring David Niven) appeared in the 1993 movie "Gettysburg". He portrayed Confederate General Johnston Pettigrew. And since most of you probably don't remember Pettigrew in the movie, he was the Confederate General who offered to give General Longstreet his copy of a book he had written; "*Notes on Spain and the Spaniards*", a travel book. While he survived the horrid attack known as Pickett's Charge, Pettigrew was later wounded as Confederate forces were returning over the Potomac River into West Virginia, and subsequently died of his wounds a few days later.

Del Prado Military Miniatures

I recently had a chat with Richard Walker, the new owner of Del Prado figures. Richard has told me that the current stock of figures will not be replaced when they are gone. The company's plan is to introduce new figures sometime this summer. Gone

will be the single figure scenario, instead you will see small groupings of particular units. At this time he still plans to release the figures singularly, but instead of just one figure to represent a unit you will see an Officer, NCO, and a few other figures to round the group out. Richard has mentioned that there will be a price increase, for example foot figures will sell around \$20.00 US (Appx. \$28.00 Cdn) and Mounted figures will go up to \$30.00 US (Appx. \$42.00 Cdn). He hopes to improve on the painting quality control and the blister packaging will be replaced by boxes. While the pricing is going up, it still is a far sight less expensive than most of the major military miniatures being produced at this time.

John Jenkins Designs

Last month we told you about the British 1759 Longboat that John Jenkins Designs was releasing this year. This month I just found out that Jenkins is planning on releasing later this year another WWI Canadian Flying Ace Raymond Collishaw. At this time Jenkins is looking at producing a figure as well as the aircraft that he flew. Collishaw flew a Sopwith Pup, Sopwith Triplane, and a Sopwith Camel, so the manufacturer has a plenty of choices he can make.



Flight Lieutenant Raymond Collishaw

Collishaw went on to become the second greatest Canadian born ace, after William "Billy" Bishop. He shot down 60 enemy aircraft and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Distinguished Service Order and the Distinguished Flying Cross. Collishaw stayed on with the newly formed Royal Air Force and retired from the service, albeit grudgingly, in 1943 with

the rank of Air Vice-Marshal. He died in West Vancouver in 1975 at the age of 82.

SPECIAL FEATURE

One of our youngest members has contributed a story on the Canadian Army and its campaign in both Sicily and Italy during the Second World War. The story of Canada's 1st Division and its endeavours in the soft under belly of Europe, in name only, is an ambitious undertaking by Society Member Brendan Hogan. Brendan has been a collector for many years and I first met him at the tender age of 10 when his mother brought him to my shop. He is currently completing an undergraduate degree at the Royal Military College of Canada. The story of the Canadians in Sicily/Italy will be featured in a part over the next four issues of the OMSS Newsletter.



**The D-Day
Dodgers:
The
Canadians in
the Sicilian
and Italian
Campaigns,
1943-1945**

By Brendan Hogan

Part 1 of 4

Other than the hopeless defence of Hong Kong in December 1941 and the disastrous raid on Dieppe in August 1942, the Canadian army sat on the sidelines for the first half of the Second World War. While the British and Commonwealth armies fought in the North African desert, Canadian troops trained and performed coastal defence duties in Britain. The Canadian public, government, and troops in England detested the army's idleness. After all, the First Canadian Army was "the dagger pointed at the heart of Berlin," and its soldiers were the sons of the brave Canadian lads who stormed up Vimy Ridge and spearheaded the Allied advance during the Hundred Days offensive. The commitment of the 1st Canadian Division and the 1st Canadian Army Tank Brigade to the invasion of Sicily, in July 1943, marked the beginning of sustained fighting for the Canadian army in the Second World War. By October 1943, the Canadian commitment to the Mediterranean had expanded to include I Canadian Corps headquarters and the 5th Canadian Armoured Division. Despite being dubbed the D-Day Dodgers, Canadian soldiers in Italy accomplished some of

the greatest Canadian feat of arms during the war. The Sicilian and Italian campaigns demonstrated that Canadian tactical doctrine, based off British doctrine, relied on firepower and rigidly controlled set-piece battles; training prepared troops for the rigours of combat, improved unit cohesion, and afforded officers an opportunity to conduct battle procedure; fighting gave Canadian commanders experience in battle and displayed the effectiveness of some commanders as well as the mediocrity, or worse, incompetence of others; and staffs officers, like their commanders, learned the business of war and became increasingly proficient at conducting staff procedures.

Essentially British doctrine, Canadian tactical doctrine relied upon thorough planning, massive concentrations of high explosives, and set-piece battles to overcome German defences. British commanders believed that "shells save lives," and usually they were right. This firepower-intensive doctrine, proven in the North African campaign, and expertly used by General Sir Bernard Law Montgomery, commander of the British Eighth Army, emphasized control and caution over manoeuvre and risk. Furthermore, the geography of Sicily and Italy usually made manoeuvre impractical and afforded many advantages to the German defenders. Major-General Guy Simonds, general officer commanding (GOC) of the 1st Canadians Division, and other Canadian commanders launched numerous successful set-piece attacks, with heavy artillery support, throughout the Sicilian and Italian campaigns. During the attack on the Hitler Line in May 1944, 810 guns supported I Canadian Corps, and they fired 1,000 shells per hour for three days, before the attack began, to soften up the German defences.

However, these tactics did not guarantee minimal casualties and success. British staffs noted, "Our own tactical methods are thorough and methodical but slow and cumbersome. In consequence our troops fight well in defence and our set-piece attacks are usually successful, but it is not unfair to say that through lack of enterprise in exploitation we seldom reap the full benefits of them." During the costly battle for Agira (24-28 July 1943), the artillery did not initially provide effective fire support, and the first attacks that Simonds planned all failed. After a number of costly attacks by two of his brigades, and even more high explosive shells fired at the German defences, the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) finally secured Agira. Although a costly operation, Agira proved that these tactics worked when commanders planned properly, effectively used artillery fire, and led troops who willingly attacked again and again.

More often than not, these set-piece attacks succeeded, and firepower-intensive operations characterized British and Canadian tactical doctrine throughout the war. Many historians and German soldiers later scorned the British for being too predictable and prudent. Major-General Eberhard Rodt, a German divisional commander in Sicily, recollected:

“Our troops noticed that the enemy forces were too systematic in their movements that they only attacked after the most thorough preliminary bombardment, when they believed that all resistance had been broken. This almost always prevented the enemy from exploiting any weaknesses and gave me a chance of rectifying dangerous situations.”

Despite the criticisms of historians and German soldiers, historian David French wrote that Britain and the Commonwealth fielded “a force that could defeat the best that the Wehrmacht could throw against them.”

The British may not have been imaginative and bold, but they soundly defeated the German armies that they fought in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, and Northwest Europe. Clearly, their doctrine worked and suited their strategic situation.

Next Month Part Two.

Report on the George Simpson Estate Sale from Jeff Duncan

On Sunday March 14 at 11:30am we started the George Simpson Estate Donation sale with three full tables of books, castings and kits for our membership to have the opportunity to purchase and add to their own collections. We started off with a mini auction of three books that were desired by several members. As advertised, anyone wishing to purchase the same item could simply make a larger donation to the Society than the asking price. After the mini auction the tables were opened up for general

purchases. Any unsold materials will be on future draw tables and available at the Fort York annual show. Thanks to Jim Q. for the help to me with the sales and the Society made approximately \$1440 dollars from the donation. A big thank you to the family of George Simpson and thinking of us at the OMSS!

LOOKING FOR ARTICLES FOR THE OMSS JOURNAL

The OMMS Journal is always looking for original articles written by our members. The fact that we do not reprint previously published articles in our Society’s publication is one of the reasons it is so unique. As well as articles, photos and so on contributed from our membership, the Journal is also looking for Advertising support.

Up Coming Shows & Events

The 48th Virginia Heart of the South Toy Soldier Show will be held at the Annandale, Virginia VFD Community Center on June 4, 2016. Hours are 9 AM to 3 PM. The contact is Ed Greis at 201-342-6475. Future shows will be on September 10 and December 3. Same location

The 15th Annual Toy Soldier Show at the Virginia War Museum will be take place at the museum on May 14, 2016. The address is 9285 Warwick Blvd. Newport News Virginia. Hours are 9 AM to 4 PM. (www.warmuseum.org).

The 9th Annual Gettysburg Toy Soldier Show and Sale will be held on Sunday, April 24 from 10 AM to 3 PM at the Eisenhower Hotel and Conference Center on Emmetsburg Road. www.toysoldiershowpromo.com

Peterborough Militaria Show – 15 October, 2016. The show runs from 9 am to 2:30 pm and is located in the Armoury at 220 Murray Street in downtown Peterborough. Door profits go to the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment RCACC.

TorCan 2016 - Sunday May 1, 2016 in Brampton, Ontario see www.torcanmodelshow.com for details.

Toronto Military Show – Saturday, 4 June, 2016 at the Etobicoke Olympium, 590 Rathburn Road, Toronto. For more information go to www.torontomilitaryshow.com or call (416) 427-8379.

Collectible Shows - Check out www.collectorshows.ca for some other locally hosted toy, train, and nostalgia shows.

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

On Facebook?

Make sure and check out our Facebook group maintained by Dave Norman. Lots of interesting postings. www.facebook.com/groups/577999975631964/



Whats New in the Collector's World

Tradition of London

Tradition of London has introduced a couple of new sets to their growing Napoleonic range. First is a mounted British Officer of the Line. Senior Officers were permitted to ride horses into the 20th Century. Point of fact if you watch the Trooping the Colours held in London each year, you will see senior Guards Officer's mounted. The second series that has been released is that of the Landwehr Prussian Dragoons. There are two sets of these figures, one consisting of an Officer, Sergeant and Trumpeter, the second consisting of three troopers. Both sets are mounted on charging mounts and would present a fierce sight charging down on French troops at Waterloo. The single mounted British Officer sells for approximately \$75.00 Cdn while the Landwehr sets go for around \$200.00 Cdn.

Tradition has recently announced that its prices were increased. I believe the above prices reflect that increase, however they are still lower than other gloss toy soldiers manufactures of the same quality.

This Month in History

April 1917 – 101 years ago this month the Canadian Corps (4 Divisions) took Vimy Ridge during the opening stages of the Battle of Arras. The Canadians accomplished a feat which both the British and French had been unable to accomplish when they took the ridge from 3 Divisions of the German's Sixth Army. Historians attribute the success of the Canadian Corps in capturing the ridge to a mixture of technical and tactical innovation, meticulous planning, powerful artillery support and extensive training, as well as the failure of the German Sixth Army to

properly apply the new German defensive doctrine. The battle was the first occasion when all four divisions of the Canadian Expeditionary Force participated in a battle together and thus became a Canadian nationalistic symbol of achievement and sacrifice.

OMSS Membership Roster

The Membership Roster list is published for the private use of members of the Ontario Model Soldier Society and is not to be used for commercial purposes.

Changes of address should be sent to OMSS, 43 Saugeen Crescent, Scarborough, Ont. M1K 3M8 or contact Gary Lenius at one of the monthly meetings.

Got email? If your email address is not listed or incorrect send an email to omss@bell.net

OMSS Quartermaster Stores

Got some items you want to sell off? "OMSS Quartermaster Stores" is the place to do it. We will publish whatever hobby related items you wish to sell, all within reason. Send us your list with photos (if possible). In addition we will also print your wish list as well. You must be a paid up OMSS member to submit.



Ian Pearson has several William Britain Limited figures for sale. These are from various sets and none are complete, but they would make great add-ons to existing sets. Ian's price is more than reasonable at \$5.00 each. If you are interested you can contact Ian at: (905) 434-5205 or email him at: ivpear@idirect.com.



**Special
Correspondent
Harold Morrison**

1. They say you never step into the same river twice. Similarly, you never step into Military Antiques Toronto twice. Proprietor David Hiorth (pronounced 'yort' is constantly bringing in fresh supplies of books, toy/model soldiers, prints and a wide range of militaria .His store is at 1884 Danforth Ave., between Coxwell and Danforth. As an added bonus, the hobby store Wheels and Wings is just steps away to the west. I haven't visited all the militaria stores in Canada so I can only write David's store is one of the best.

2. Stopping at a Canadian Tire sound, I found a range of self-adhesive metallic tapes which I am sure would be useful to scratch-makers of soldiers or vehicles

3. I feel sorry for the young boys of today. Their inexpensive choice of toy soldiers in ghastly plastics which are knock-offs of Airfix 1:32 detailed figurines. Less detailed and slightly smaller in size. Still, they can buy the 'real' thing, but with the diminishing number of hobby stores in Toronto that product is not readily available. The new Britains connoisseur figurines are out of site for most boys.

4. Putty filler is often expensive, but getting back to Canadian tire, body putty-filler is just as good.

The newsletter is edited by Scott Dummitt.

News items and notices can be submitted to gijoe@kos.net or 705-939-1028

Articles must be submitted no later than 14 days before monthly meetings

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