

The
Ontario
Model
Soldier
Society

Founded 1962
www.omss.ca



Monthly Newsletter for
February 2016

2016 Executive

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2nd vice-president

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Gail Stone
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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

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Next meeting...

Sunday, 7 February, 2016

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

Letter from the President

The first meeting of the year came off very well. We had an interesting presentation by Keith Ritchie on his journey to the Chicago show, with Keith's word, Ipad and photos the Fraser museum in Louisville Ky. should be on everybody's bucket list.

The 2016 OMSS Calendar is an outstanding example of a hobby related calendar we can all be proud of. It was good to see unanimous support for the 2017 project. A big thank you to Frank MacKay and his team for their efforts. Frank will need more volunteers for the 2017 calendar so please consider giving him a hand. Participation in the calendar project is an opportunity to grow skills and knowledge in many areas of our hobby and contribute to a bigger and more successful calendar.

I hope everyone is working on a display or competition item for our annual show. Member participation is the most important ingredient of our very successful annual show as we expose our activities and accomplishments to an international audience.

I am looking forward to an exciting year of growth and change for all of us. See you at the meeting.

Tom Elliot

This Month in History

February 1991 – 25 years ago this month the official ground war of Operation Desert Storm commenced. Within days the Iraqi forces occupying Kuwait had been decimated by the Coalition Forces led by the United States. Canada contributed a CF-18 Squadron, three surface ships, a field hospital and a security company of RCR personal to the coalition.

Did You Know?

Our Society Logo, the Queen's Ranger, represents a private dressed in a light company uniform, and that the Queen's Rangers were stood down in New Brunswick in 1783 after the American Revolution and then re-established in Chatham, England 1791.



Remembrance Day Ceremonies, Menin Gate, Belgium



This Month's Speaker

This month's guest lecturer is our own Geoff Price. Geoff Price has been interested in model soldiers since he was a child. Like many others he has kept all his soldiers from his childhood. He was delighted to discover about the Ontario Model Soldier Society a few years ago. He studied and taught history because he found out that it was the only subject he could pass. He currently reads a great deal of military history, science fiction and is active in researching his family's history.

February's Meeting Topic – “War Memorials in France and Belgium for World War I”. Geoff will discuss how the decisions came about to bury and commemorate the Commonwealth war dead of the Great War. What are the monuments that were built in France and Belgium to honour the Canadian War dead? How an obscure Canadian Officer almost convinced Belgium to give part of Ypres to Canada, and why the “*Last Post*” Ceremony at the Menin Gate is important for Canadians.

Royal Canadian Navy Beach Commando “W”

In case you weren't at the January meeting, it was announced that Thomas Gunn Miniatures, out of the UK, is working on a Royal Canadian Navy Beach Commando “W”, c.1944. In September 1943, the Canadian War Cabinet Committee authorized the Royal Canadian Navy to form a Beach Commando and a Beach Signals Section, with training in Britain to be completed by the spring of 1944. This unit would perform the same duties as their RN counterparts. There were approximately 85 members to the Unit.



Print: RCN Beach Commando “W” circa 1944. Rating carries a 9mm Lancaster MG with bayonet and wears a Assault Jerkin and Mark III Helmet. Print by Ron Volstad

Thomas Gunn Miniatures will produce approximately 100 of the limited figures at a retail price of approximately \$58.00 Cdn. Both Carefree Hobbies and SCOTT J. DUMMITT PRESENTS carry Thomas Gunn Miniatures.

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

“ON PARADE” 2016 NEWS

A short update to advise you of the progress we have made on this year’s Annual Show and Competition. We are all systems go and have secured the permit for the venue at Old Fort York. This year we will revert back to the actual Fort location using the Blue Barracks and Blockhouse as we have in previous years.

Friday May 13th from about noon on, we could use some helping hands as we set up the rented tables. As in previous years, we will have the competition area in the main Barracks along with the vendors. Displays will be set up in the Blockhouse. Please consider brining ‘something’ from your collection. As I said at our last meeting, we are not going to have a theme this year other than asking you to bring ‘your very best’. Participation from all our members is our goal...Please look at your collection, pick out something you are most proud of and bring it to the show for display.

I did go to the Fort this past week as people were worried about the construction and access. I am pleased to report that I was able to drive directly to the parking lot on the west side of the Fort and park at no charge. Those Green P parking machines are not there anymore... If that parking lot gets filled up, you can easily park at the Green P lot at the bottom of that driveway just at the west side of Fort York armouries. (Strachan and Fleet Street). There is some construction still going on underneath the Gardiner expressway which is pretty close but the Fort staff report we should not have any access issues in May. Also, on the City of Toronto website you can check for road closures and long term construction projects. There are no planned closures of the Gardiner / QEW on our show weekend. There is one lane that has been closed for construction for quite some time and that will still be closed through the summer.

So please, approach Norm White and advise him of your desire to be a vendor at the show. Also, Let Norm or I know how many tables you require for your displays. We will have a map as to where we will be setting you up. Smaller displays can be doubled up with other displays.

Don’t forget to get your competition projects ready for judging as well. Good Luck..

Jim Qualtrough
1st Vice President

On Facebook?

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

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

Upcoming Shows

Toronto Military Shows
Saturday February 6 at General Sikorski Hall in Oshawa
All shows 8:30 am to 2 pm. Admission \$8.
Quarterly militaria shows
Website torontomilitaryshow.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.

Collectible Shows

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

OMSS Calendars

The Calendar Committee has been authorized to produce a calendar for 2017 and work will begin at a brief meeting to be held after the February meeting. The members will be asked for a general theme (general military history dates, Canadian dates, etc.) Recruits are being sought in all departments: photographers, researchers, fact checkers, advertising salesmen--if you'd like to contribute to this effort, we'll find you a job! Please see editor Frank MacKay after the meeting. At the time of this writing we still have approximately 30 2016 Calendars for sale. They would make a nice gift for any history enthusiast that you know.



Special Correspondent

Tidbits from Harold Morrison
aitchrwm@bell.net

Welcome back to the OMSS e-mail newsletter. For many months, it has been edited and sent on line by Gary Lenius. Gary is also our treasurer,

membership secretary and activist in all our club's activities. It's time for someone else to edit the newsletter, and that person is Scott Dummitt. Gary deserves our heartfelt thanks for his services to and for all club members. O.K., Gary, where should we pin the medal for meritorious service? Seriously!

When you open your OMSS calendar you will see that February 7, is our next meeting date. It is also the day in 1915 when the 1st, 2nd and 3rd brigades of the 1st Canadian Division began departing for England and eventual combat.

The actor/director Paul Gross has done a super effort in promoting a sense of Canadian history. His film *Passchendaele* honoured the memory of Canadians who fought in that WWI battle. More recently, *Hyena Road*, are hard-hitting film about Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan, gave measure of the stress our soldiers endured. I wrote a letter to Gross recently, suggesting he produce a film about fighter ace Buzz Beurling. If you have any suggestions about a Canadian hero, or event, you can write him c/o Whiz Bang Films, 24 Ryerson Ave., Toronto ON M5T 2P3.

Recently, I purchased a hard cover book under the Events theme, entitled *Great Battles & Armies*. The 255-page book is visually and lavishly enhance with maps, uniform details and good editorial support. Start of the book is *The Battle of Kadesh, 1275 B.C.* and ends *The Battle of Xuzhou, 1948*. Parragon is the publisher. Worthy of noting, is that this book cost \$8.90 plus tax. I bought it at the BMV store, 421 Bloor St.,W. There, you will find a wide range of military books, publishers 'and book-sellers' surpluses at bargain prices.

Another rich lode of military books can be found at *Army Outfitters/Military Antiques Toronto*, 1894 Danforth Ave., Toronto.

Everyone knows about the *Canadian War Museum*, in Ottawa but how about the *Canadian Military Heritage Museum* in Brantford? On display are 10,000 artifacts including military uniforms, weapons vehicles and as they say in TV ads, so much more. Location: 347 Greenwich St., Brantford. Telephone: 519-759-1313, website, cmhmq.ca,

Also worth a visit is the *Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum*. Not mentioning names, but a Canadian airline offered the museum \$1 million, if the word 'warplane' was deleted. To the credit of the museum's stewards, they turned down the offer. This museum was

founded in 1971. It is at 9280 Airport Rd., Mount Hope, Ontario. Telephone 1-877-347-3359; web-site warplane.com

That reminds me: Some Canadians seem oh-so-sensitive about our military heritage. A Federal Government publication on Canadian history did not mention the 1759 Battle of the Plains of Abraham at Quebec. Ontario-approved Canadian history books are, to put it politely, light on Canadian military history. I occasionally give toy soldiers to children. Sometimes, the parents decline 'war toys.'

There are children in this world who have never seen a 'war toy' but they have seen rifles, sub-machine guns, hand grenades and other weaponry. They have killed people without any encouragement from war toys.

Also, what is this fuzzy-intellectualism in which we hold historical figures to the political correct standards of 2016? Take the Southern states of the Confederacy. Most of the men who fought for the Confederacy were honourable men. Should we 'ghost' them by removing their names from every street, building and monument? I say no. What happened happened! It appears to me that some PC people are on the Soviet-era road of a conformist revised history.

Jim Shakley suggested to me that those of us with knowledge of military anecdotes should set them down. If short send to the e-mail newsletter; if long to the OMSS Journal. One example: Bill Grundon, a collector from whom I bought Britains soldiers, was a WW2 veteran. In the invasion of Sicily, the first wave of infantry was shot at by a sniper. The soldiers didn't quite know what to do, because they didn't know where the shots were coming from. An officer shouted: 'He's in the tree. Shoot the s.o.b.' A fusillade of fire followed. (Now that's what I call alliteration.)

I keep hoping the U.S.-based Britains will re-introduce a heritage line of the French Foreign Legion. Alas, no luck. Guess I'll have to stop using ESP to communicate. I tried that after letters had no effect.

Since no one has asked me about my military service and non-service, here it is: Jesse Ketchum cadet corps of the Canadian Army Cadets, R.C.S. C. Temeraire, three years in the Sea Cadets; Royal Canadian Army Service Corps, Canadian Officers' Training Corps; thought of joining the Canadian army for the Korean War, went to Ryerson instead; as a landed immigrant in the U.S.A., signed up for the draft which would surely have taken me to Viet Nam—found no work, so returned to Canada. A pregnant wife was deeply relieved.

DIORAMA FOR SALE



I am a past member of the OMSS. During my membership I was honoured by winning a few awards for my Napoleonic themed dioramas. I do not have room for them all and would like to sell the

one pictured in this article. It depicts a specific moment during the Battle of Waterloo. The figures are all Historex, customized.

The diorama measures 22" x 28" x 10" (the height of the plexi dome) There are 28 Historex foot and mounted figures. It won a Bronze award at a past OMSS show.

I also have a large collection of flats for sale. Napoleonics and Landsknechts.

I live in Fergus now, but would like to get out to a meeting one of these days.
My contact info is:

John Hoffman

519 787 1020 home number, and jhoffmann00@cogeco.ca email.



The Ontario Model Soldier Society
presents
ON PARADE 2016
Canada's Largest Model Soldier Show

Saturday May 14, 2016
10 am to 3:30 pm
Historic Fort York, Toronto

Massed displays of Toy Soldiers
Bands and Military Parades
Connoisseur Figures
1/6 scale action figures
Vehicles and artillery
Dioramas
Open modelling competition

Flea Market with 25+ vendor tables offering
a wide variety of new and antique model soldiers
and related hobby products

Admission to the show is included
with regular admission to Fort York
(\$9.00 adult; \$5.50 senior or youth,
child \$4.25)

Fort York Historic Site
230 Fort York Blvd., Toronto Ontario
For directions see www.fortyork.ca

Show contacts:
Norm White 416-285-5600
or email omsa@bell.net
Show details at www.omss.ca

Free Toy Soldier
to Kids 12 and under
(while supplies last)

Built by Bob Boothe, Figure by Bruce Sundstrom
Band by John Brown

... More Show News

Vendor bookings for this year show are now open. As space is limited availability will be on a first come, first served basis. Vendor applications can be found on the Society website at www.omss.ca. Tables are \$50.00 each.

Gary Lenius has this year's colourful postcard size flyers available for distribution. If you are a vendor please pick up some to distribute to your customers, if a club member why not drop off a grouping with your local Hobby Shop.

The Society did not go for a theme for this year's show so please bring the best of your collection for display or create something entirely new for the competition