

The
Ontario
Model
Soldier
Society

Founded 1962
www.omss.ca



“ON PARADE” Newsletter for May 2016

ON PARADE 2016 Show Date...

Saturday, 14 May, 2016

Historic Fort York, Toronto
Show starts at 10:00 am until 3:30 pm

Monthly Newsletter for May 2016

2016 Executive

Tom Elliot
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Jim Qualtrough
1st vice president

John Hambly
2nd vice-president

Gary Lenius
Secretary/Treasurer

Gail Stone
Past President

Eric Clarke
Program Chairman

Frank MacKay
Journal editor

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



lots of new products and ideas for our collectors.

Remember this show is the biggest and what I feel is the best of the Toy Soldier and Military Miniature Shows in Canada.

I look forward to seeing you all on the 14th of May at Historic Fort York in Toronto.

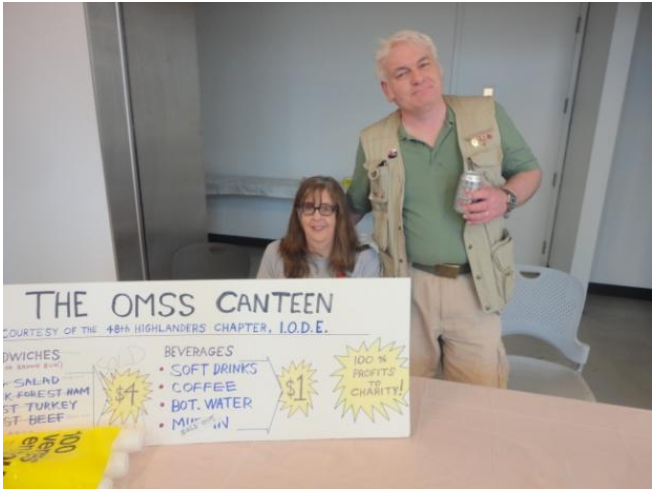
TOM ELLIOT

‘ON PARADE’2016 SHOW UPDATE!

Our show venue has once again been moved from the Blue Barracks to the Fort York Visitor’s Centre. Show set-up is 12 noon, 13th May. Vendors and Displayers cannot set-up until after the tables are arranged, unless given permission by the Show Chairman or OMSS President. The Visitor’s Centre will be open until 5 pm on the Friday and re-open on Saturday at 7 am for vendors and displayers only to finish setting up. Show opening is 9:30 am. Please remember that there is no continuous parking at the Visitor’s Centre. Drop your wares and displays off and move your car to the Fleet Street parking lot located at the west end of the Fort York Armoury. Please be courteous, if we all work together we can make this a great show.

Looking for Show Volunteers

Our Show Chairman, Norm White, is looking for volunteers to help work our annual show. Volunteers are needed to take a shift on Show Security, Set-up, and Clean-up. Set-up will be on Friday, starting at 12 noon and go until 5 pm. We need people to move tables and chairs and put on the table covers. Show Security involves just watching over the displays for a shift so that items don't go missing and to remind people not to touch the displays. Clean-up is pretty simple, just help to clean up the display and vendor areas by picking up empty boxes, cleaning off the tables and possibly giving people a hand to pack up.



All profits will be donated to the IODE's charitable causes related to military families. The support of the OMSS in this project is much appreciated.

OMSS “ON PARADE” 2016 Issue of Toy Soldier & Model Figure Magazine

FOOD AT THE SHOW

The 48th Highlanders Chapter of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire (IODE) has again consented to run a snack bar at the annual show, providing excellent food at very reasonable prices. The snack bar will open at 09:30 with coffee, tea and muffins and will remain open till show closing.



Menu

Coffee, tea, pop, bottled water:

\$1.00

Sandwiches (egg salad, ham, roast beef, pastrami, salami, turkey on a Kaiser)

\$4.00

Scott Dummitt will be taking pre-orders for the show issue of TS&MF magazine at both the show and the June meeting. Copies are \$15.25 (\$13.50 & Tax) each and will be available at the August meeting. We take the pre-orders because Ashdown Publications has to order the extra magazines into their US office. Our good friend and fellow OMSS member Editor Stuart Hessney will be at the show so this is also a chance for you to chat with him about the magazine and excellent work he does. Please remember if you order a magazine you are obligated to pick it up at either the August or October meetings. If you cannot pick it up at one of those meetings, then please make arrangements to have it delivered.

In keeping with the topic, Stuart is always looking for articles written by TS&MF readers. Whether it's reminiscing about a collection, letters to Editor, Book Review, even travelling to military miniature collections and museums, why not take the time to do up an article. Contributors will receive a free copy of TS&MF with their article (except for Letters to the Editor) when it is published. Contact Stuart on what's required for an article for the publication. Remember it will appear around the globe so don't forget to mention you are a member of the Ontario Model Soldier Society.

CONGRATULATIONS

On behalf of the OMSS, we say congratulations to Club Member Officer Cadet Brendan Hogan on his graduation from the Royal Military College of Canada and his subsequent promotion to 2nd Lieutenant in the Regular Force Artillery.

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).

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.

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.

3rd Annual /military Hobby Show in Ottawa - June 12, 2016 - The 3rd Annual Military Hobby Show will be held in Ottawa on June 12, 2016 at the Walkley Road Armoury. The show is a fundraising event to support the Ottawa Service Battalion Association and 2332 Army Cadet Corps. This Show is unique in that free table space is provided for exhibitors and information tables from various organizations. For further information, or to book vendor/exhibitor space, please contact OMSS member Bob Thompson (and show organizer) in Ottawa at (613) 523-3103 or email: thompson_robert@rogers.com. Bob will send out an Information Sheet and a Vendor/Exhibitor Application Form to anyone interested. Bob will be attending the OMSS Fort York Show as a vendor and as a promoter of the Ottawa Show.

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/



The D-Day Dodgers: The Canadians in the Sicilian and Italian Campaign 1943 – 1945

By Brendan Hogan
Part 2/4

Canadian commanders did not always adhere to their firepower-intensive doctrine. It was doctrine, not dogma. Canadian commanders won some of the greatest victories of the war by seizing the initiative and taking great risks. During the night of 20-21 August 1943, Major John Buchan, Lord Tweedsmuir, boldly led the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment down a goat path into a valley and

up a mountain to secure the heights overlooking Assoro. By securing the mountain, the Hasty Ps threatened the German defensive position and forced them to withdraw. Similarly, after patrol reports and Major-General Bert Hoffmeister's own reconnaissance indicated that the Germans were not manning their defences on the Gothic Line, Lieutenant-General E.L.M. Burns, commander of I Canadian Corps, ordered his divisional commanders to "endeavour to effect a lodgement in the [Gothic] line while it was still unmanned." During the attacks on 30-31 August 1944, I Canadian Corps breached the formidable Gothic Line and spearheaded the exploitation. Noted historian Jack Granatstein described the attack on the Gothic Line as "the single greatest Canadian feat of arms of the Second World War." After the initial momentum of the attack stalled, however, the corps had to fight a number of set-piece attacks to continue advancing through the German defensive positions. Set-piece battles may not have been glamorous, but they allowed the Canadians to soften the German defences, eventually overcome them, and continue advancing.

Training prepared troops for the rigours of combat, improved unit cohesion, and afforded officers an opportunity to conduct battle procedure. Basic combat training (Battle Drill) inculcated responses in troops that enabled them to function under fire. To prepare the inexperienced Canadian troops for the Sicilian campaign, the War Office ordered the Canadians to

begin training for "(a) an opposed landing, [and] (b) subsequent land operations including mountainous country" in the rugged Scottish Highlands. General Sir Alan F. Brooke, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, noted that the Canadian formations, although inexperienced, selected to participate in the invasion were "in a more advanced state of combined training than 3 [British] Division." Montgomery sent a handful of experienced officers from the Eighth Army to help train the Canadians. Brigadier G.W. Richards, commander of the 23rd Tank Brigade, and Major E.S. Franklin, an expert in Sherman tanks, worked with the 1st Canadian Army Tank Brigade and helped them train on their newly-issued Sherman tanks. Brigadier M.E. Dennis, brigadier Royal Artillery of the Eighth Army, assisted with the training of the Canadian gunners, which greatly improved their effectiveness in operations in Sicily and Italy.

Commanders and staffs developed and implemented solutions to resolve the problems that training exposed. For instance, the brigade major of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade, Major G.F.C. Pangman, discovered during training for the invasion of Italy that in designating the assault beaches "the Naval staff were considering 'Right' and 'Left' in the reverse order that we were considering the terms." Fortunately for the troops that would storm the beaches, staff officers corrected many of the problems that training revealed. Training staffs from the Canadian and other Allied armies studied the street fighting techniques used by the Canadian during the Battle of Ortona in December 1943 and incorporated them into their training syllabi. Deficiencies in infantry-tank cooperation characterized earlier engagements of the campaign and needed to be addressed. Generally, familiarity between infantry and armoured units improved their effectiveness on the battlefield. To foster familiarity, staffs attempted to have infantry units train with the same armoured units that they would fight alongside in battle.

In theatre, training permitted lessons learned from previous campaigns to be rehearsed and perfected. Troops underwent training to inculcate the lessons learned from the Liri Valley operations before assaulting the Gothic Line. Forward observation officers (FOO) taught infantry officers and senior non-commissioned officers how to call in a fire mission and adjust fire in case the attached FOO was killed or incapacitated. This was a minor exercise amongst many others, but an important one nonetheless, since many of these operations depended upon firepower to suppress and neutralize the enemy. Training also built cohesion in units, with a mix of veterans and inexperienced reinforcements in the ranks, and helped restore the confidence of the troops after a defeat or difficult fight.

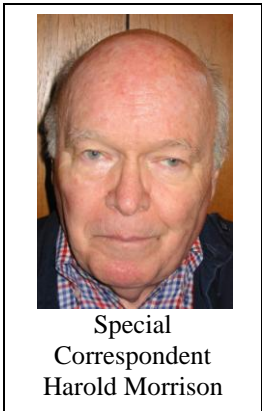
Simonds declared that Canadian soldiers were "the best in the world *bar none* – if they had good leadership." He made sure that they had good leaders. Simonds, recently appointed GOC of the 5th Canadian Armoured Division in the

Autumn of 1943 ran tactical exercises without troops (TEWT) for his officers. TEWTs afforded Simonds the opportunity to assess the competence of his subordinate commanders at battle procedure. He fired officers that he deemed incompetent or who disagreed with him. In one notable incident, Simonds fired Brigadier G.R. Bradbrooke, commander of the 5th Canadian Armoured Brigade, for disagreeing with him about the effectiveness of using tanks as mobile artillery.

Fighting in Sicily and Italy gave Canadian commanders experience and displayed the effectiveness of some commanders, as well as the mediocrity, or worse, incompetence of others. The tough-talking GOC of the 1st Canadian Infantry Division, Major-General Chris Vokes, described Simonds as “the finest Canadian general we ever had,” but as a leader Simonds “wasn’t worth a pinch of coonshit.” Simonds was a technically-competent gunner and a methodical staff officer. However, he was not an inspirational leader. Shy, icy, and abrupt, Simonds had no tolerance for his subordinates’ failures, and he had an unfortunate propensity to sack them instead of mentoring them. Similarly, Lieutenant-General H.D.G. Crerar, commander of I Canadian Corps, proved to be uninspiring yet technically competent. Crerar criticized Vokes for his “half-baked” attacks across the Moro River and the seizure of Ortona that merely exhausted the division and produced “nothing because of the lack of co-ordination.” Crerar was cautious and insecure, but he had an astute political mind. Despite their long-time acquaintance, Simonds and Crerar clashed. Simonds detested Crerar’s fussy mannerisms, while Crerar disliked Simonds’ arrogance and vanity. Still, in spite of all that, in January 1944, Crerar reassigned Simonds to command II Canadian Corps in Britain, before he too returned to Britain to take command of the First Canadian Army.

ROAD CLOSURES ON SHOW DAY

Friday 2016- May-13 to Monday 2016- May-16	23:00 to 05:00 Weekends	Gardiner Expy From Carlaw Ave To Hwy 427 Details: The Gardiner Expressway between Carlaw Avenue and Highway 427 will be closed for Spring Maintenance activities. (Rain date: May 20 to 23, opening for Victoria Day on May 23.) ID:R32371
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1. Canada Post has issued a ‘P’ stamp and first day cover honouring the men of the No.2 Construction Battalion. This was an all-Black unit. Up until 1916, Blacks were not welcomed as recruits. In July of this year the Battalion was formed. These soldiers harvested, milled and shipped timber to the Western Front. They faced harsh accommodation, segregated accommodations and back-breaking Labour. A few found ways to join other units and fought at Vimy Ridge and other battles.
2. Two new Airfix 1:32 WW2 releases. The first one is a Crusader tank. The second is a 17-pounder anti-tank gun with crew. The old range of 1:32 infantry figures has been sustained. If you can’t find these items in Toronto hobby shops, check the web-site for Hobby House, Ottawa. This Ottawa shop has been in the mail-order business for 62 years. Roger Desmarais is the store manager.
3. As someone bearing the name Harold, should I celebrate the worst beating a Harold ever took? That was the Battle of Hastings, October 14, 1066. This year, the UK will celebrate the 950th anniversary of this world-changing battle. In 1905 a group of French re-enactors carried out a ceremonial battle of 1066. They unveiled a French-language plaque, commemorating the victory. I circled the statue and found no English translation. Typically French. Typically English to leave it that way. The name Harold enjoyed a revival in the Victorian age.
4. Osprey Men-at-Arms books should be given credit for rare uniform detail. The latest example is ‘Armies of the War of the Pacific 1870 – 83. Uniforms of Chile, Peru and Bolivia are illustrated. (MAA504) A book of Chinese uniforms of the 19th century is to be released in April. Osprey gives three months notice on the books it will be publishing.

This Month in History

May 1, 1707 - Great Britain was formed from a union between England and Scotland. The union included Wales which had already been part of England since the 1500's. The United Kingdom today consists of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

ALSO THIS MONTH

May, 1670 – The Hudson Bay Company received its Charter.

King Charles II of England granted a permanent charter to the Hudson’s Bay Company, made up of the group of French explorers who opened the lucrative North American fur trade to London merchants. The charter conferred on them not only a trading monopoly but also effective control over the vast region surrounding North America’s Hudson Bay.

DID YOU KNOW?

Here’s a little known fact, did you know Canada declared war against Japan a full day before the United States in 1941? The reason being a mutual defense treaty between the two countries. Since Canada was already at war with Nazis Germany it was quickly put through the cabinet.

In the late evening of December 7, 1941, the Canadian Prime Minister, W. L. Mackenzie King, announced the Cabinet's decision to declare war on the Empire of Japan. The King (King George VI) approved Canada's declaration of war in the following proclamation issued on December 8, 1941.



Whereas by and with the advice of our Privy Council for Canada we have signified our approval of the issue of a proclamation in the Canada Gazette declaring that a state of war with Japan exists and has existed in Canada as and from the 7th day of December, 1941.

Now, therefore, we do hereby declare and proclaim that a state of war with Japan exists and has existed as and from the seventh day of December, 1941.

Of all which our loving subjects and all others whom these presents may concern are hereby required to take notice and to govern themselves accordingly.

**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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