

The
**Ontario
 Model
 Soldier
 Society**
 Founded 1962
 www.omss.ca



Monthly Newsletter for September 2017

Monthly Meeting Dates for 2017

8 January 2017 - 12 February 2017 – 12 March 2017
 9 April 2017 - 7 May 2017 – 10 September 2017
 15 October 2017– 5 November 2017 - 10 December 2017

Annual Show
 Saturday June 9, 2018

Monthly Newsletter for September 2017

2017 Executive

Jim Qualtrough
 President

John Hambly
 1st vice president

Geoff Price
 2nd vice-president

Gary Lenius
 Secretary/Treasurer

Tom Elliot
 Past President

Eric Clarke
 Program Chairman

Brendan Hogan
 Journal Editor

Norm White
 Annual Show Chairman

Scott Dummitt
 Newsletter Editor/ Media
 Officer

Dave Norman
 Facebook Page Manager

Frank MacKay
 Calendar Co-ordinator

Jeff Duncan
 Club Table & Donations

Next meeting...

Sunday, 10 September, 2017

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

Letter from the President



Welcome Back!!! Can you believe we are heading into September already. I hope you had an enjoyable Summer, what a mixed bag of weather we have had in Southern Ontario. Rain, rain and more rain and now ending off with some gorgeous end of summer days.

What an absolute success we enjoyed at our Annual Show and Competition in June. The new venue at Humber College Lakeshore campus was fantastic. The vendor's booths were well stocked and appeared to be doing a brisk business throughout the day. There were plenty of outstanding competition pieces which made it hard for the judges to grade each piece of work. New medallions were handed out to the winning competitors. These new medals looked great and seemed to have gone over quite well. So thank you to Norm White and Scott Dummitt for a super job of organizing and carrying out this inaugural event at the new venue. They will present their show report at our meeting in September. Thank you must also go to all the volunteers who helped set up and break down the venue. Luckily several people stepped up and made the workload much more manageable than previous years. Well Done.

Our guest speaker for the September meeting is Ted Barris. You need to come to this meeting and listen to this outstanding presentation. Ted is an accomplished author and journalist who has written many books including Victory at Vimy. This is the subject he will be presenting on September 10th. BRING A FRIEND!!! What better time to bring someone out to come listen to such an interesting speaker. I really look forward to seeing you for this amazing kick off to the fall session of the OMSS.

We anticipate the fall edition of the journal to be ready by our September meeting as well. Brendan Hogan has pulled off another stellar publication for us to enjoy. Keep on collecting and try your hardest to come out to our next meeting.

Jim Qualtrough



Negotiations Started to make William Britain Limited a Yearly Participant at the OMSS's "ON PARADE" Show & Competition

The OMSS has been fortunate enough to have the best known and continuous producer of toy soldier manufacturers attend our yearly show and competition the past two years. Of course we are talking about William Britain Limited, owned by Ken and Ericka Osen and headquartered in Holland, Ohio. It has been the only major manufacturer to take the time and attend our show and that makes their appearances even more special to us. Well that might be a permanent thing for many years to come.

We are negotiating with Britains to do get them to attend our show every year from now on. With the availability of extra rooms to rent at Humber College, it offers the company a chance to put on Power Point presentations of the company's involvement in the hobby and other topics of interest to the modern collector. We are within a day's drive of the company's headquarters and this is also appealing to Britains as they attend many shows throughout the US and UK each year. We are the only show in Canada that they have attended. Whats this do for the OMSS you say? Well how many of you stopped by the booth the last two years and had a chat with the Osen's about the hobby, the company, what you wanted to see done and so on.

The permanent inclusion of William Britain Limited should also aid in attracting more collectors to our show. Remember the company has been advertising our show on their web site the past couple of years. Your "On Parade" executive will keep you up to date on this interesting piece of club news.

Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Guard Buckingham Palace

By now we have all heard that Captain Megan Couto, 2nd Battalion PPCLI was the first woman to act as Guard Captain at Buckingham Palace this past June when her regiment, along with the Royal Canadian Artillery Band, performed the "Changing of the Guard" ceremony in London. What the average person did not realize was that it was the first time, since the funeral parade of King George V, that the PPCLI wore the ceremonial dress uniform. Ah you say, I have seen them in the uniform before. No you saw the band, and the Pioneers, but not the members of the Regiment. The 1930's uniform was exactly the same, except that the Wolsley helmet had a white Pugaree, not the French Grey (Officer's are still white) pugaree that was recently worn. W. Britain Limited's hollowcast PPCLI figures produced in 1939 display this correctly. The series they produced in the late 1990s (set No. 8856) was incorrect. Since the Government does not cover the cost of Ceremonial uniforms under Public Funds, the PPCLI Officer Association paid for the new threads.

This opens up new possibilities for toy soldier collectors displays.

Captain Megan Couto leads the New Guard through the open gates of Buckingham Palace during the "Changing of the Guard" ceremony



What's New in the Hobby – September 2017

By Brendan Hogan

I hope that all Society members enjoyed their summer in spite of the torrential downpours, blistering heat and scorching blazes that were experienced in different parts of the country this summer. I'm excited to preview a number of new releases that I think are particularly well done and may be of some interest to Society members.



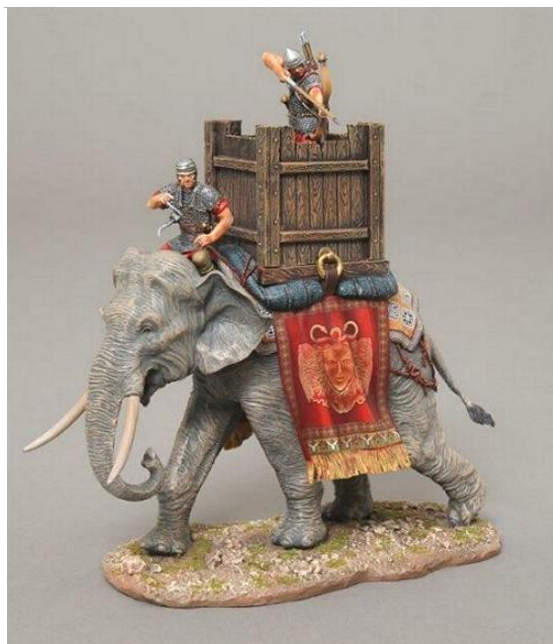
First from John Jenkins Designs is the 78th Fraser Highlanders from the French & Indian War. The regiment was raised in Inverness by Lieutenant-Colonel Simon Fraser of Lovat in 1757. The Fraser Highlanders took part in the Siege of Louisburg in June 1758, the Battle of the Plains of Abraham in September 1759 and the capture of Montreal in August 1760. It was disbanded in Quebec in December 1763. Interestingly, many men in the Fraser Highlanders were former

Jacobites. John Jenkins has produced two sets of grenadiers and line infantry. They are available in either two or four figure packages for \$114.00 and \$212.00 respectively.

Thomas Gunn Miniatures has unveiled its highly anticipated Roman war elephant. In the 2nd



Century B.C the armies of Rome added the war elephant to their arsenal. In the battle of Cynoscephalae and Magnesia, War elephants provided another powerful offensive tool for the already formidable Roman forces. By the time of Julius Caesar, knowledge of effective tactics against war elephants had become widespread and their use in battle became less common. The piece is very well done and strictly limited, so don't wait too long if you're interested in adding it to



your collection. Expect to pay \$550.00 for the elephant set.

Lastly, William Britain has announced a new series titled "Dirty Blue Shirt" in the summer 2017 catalogue. It will focus on the people and events of the American West from the 1860s to the 1890s. The initial release includes a 7th Cavalry officer, Apache scout, US infantryman and buffalo soldier.

September Meeting's Guest Speaker – Ted Barris

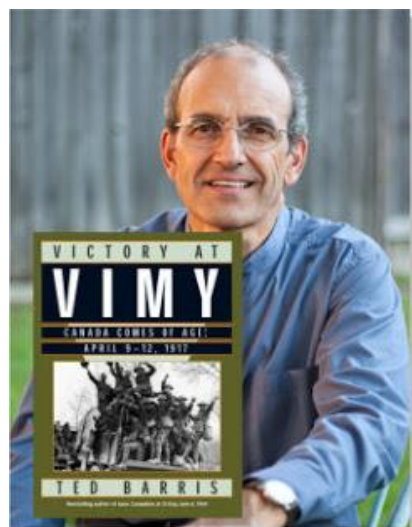
“Victory at Vimy” – Story of the birth of a nation

What the world witnessed that Easter Monday morning – April 9, 1917 – was a near miracle of ingenuity, co-operation and courage among volunteers of the Canadian Corps. That day, 80,000 of them – fighting for the first time as a national army – swarmed up that strategic ridge in north-central France and in a matter of hours accomplished what no Allied army had, in nearly three years of blood-letting in Europe. They seized Vimy from an entrenched German army. Some say those young citizen soldiers also breathed life into a fledgling nation – Canada.

In a talk/visual presentation, based on his book *Victory At Vimy: Canada Comes of Age, April 9 – 12, 1917* Ted Barris reconstructs the blow-by-blow moments of that historic four-day operation, that some say changed the momentum of the war. It put Allied troops in control of the strategic Vimy heights for good. For the first time, it sent the most powerful army in Europe into full retreat. It also firmly established the four Canadian Infantry Divisions as the most effective fighting force on the Western Front.

Ted Barris is an award-winning journalist, author, and broadcaster. For more than 40 years, his writing has regularly appeared in the national press – *Globe and Mail*, *National Post*, as well as magazines as diverse as *Legion*, *Air Force*, *Esprit de Corps*, *Quill and Quire*, and *Zoomer*. He has also worked as host/contributor for most **CBC Radio** network programs and on **TV Ontario**. He is a full-time professor of journalism and broadcasting at Toronto's Centennial College.

Barris is the author of 18 bestselling non-fiction books, including a series on wartime Canada: **Juno: Canadians at D-Day, June 6, 1944 ... Days of Victory: Canadians Remember 1939-1945 ... Behind the Glory: Canada's Role in the Allied Air War ... Deadlock in Korea: Canadians at War, 1950-1953 ... Victory at Vimy: Canada Comes of Age, April 9-12, 1917 ... Breaking the Silence: Veterans' Untold Stories from the Great War to Afghanistan**. In June 2014, **The Great Escape: A Canadian Story** won the 2014 Libris Non-Fiction Book of the Year Award (shared with astronaut Chris Hadfield).



On Facebook?

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

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.
Articles submitted must be original as due to copy write law we cannot reproduce any published article without permission of the publication in question

OMSS OTTAWA – by Bob Thompson

The OMSS now has an Ottawa Chapter!

Formation

For quite a while a bunch of us enthusiasts in Ottawa had been talking about forming a local toy soldier interest group. Last December I approached the OMSS executive about the possibility of forming an Ottawa Chapter of the OMSS. After some time the approval was given and we began to 'recruit' locally.

Inaugural Meeting

We held our first meeting on Tuesday evening, May 16, 2017 with only less than a week notice to potential attendees. (We needed to get the word out about the rapidly approaching OMSS Annual “On Parade” event.)

About 10 of us showed up for the first meeting at a private room at a local eatery/pub. After a few opening announcements we got everybody to introduce themselves and give a short talk about their toy soldier related interests. Following this we had a presentation from Michael Canivet of the Toy Soldier Market about the newest King & Country developments.

We wrapped things up with an informal ‘Show & Tell’ and general mingling. A number of attendees had brought along toy soldiers to show off and/or sell. All during the meeting attendees were partaking of the food and ‘beverages’ the local establishment offered.

We adjourned with the expectation to have our next meeting in late summer/early fall. The meeting was a great success in that it brought together a number of like minded enthusiasts with similar interests. No longer strangers, the number of toy soldier enthusiasts in Ottawa has become a core group. Most attendees were not current members of the OMSS.

Next Steps

Our immediate goals for the Ottawa Chapter are to hold our second meeting, confirm dates and location for regular meetings, and to get everyone to sign up as members of the OMSS.

Managing the OMSS Chapter

The operational concept behind and of the Ottawa Chapter will be quite simple. All members of the Ottawa Chapter will join and pay dues to the OMSS. The members of the Ottawa chapter would not pay any additional local dues, we will not set up any local financial arrangements, and we would not have any local executive or governing body. Members of the Ottawa Chapter will not have a President, Vice President, etc. ... we will deal directly with the OMSS executive the same as any other OMSS member.

What the local Ottawa Chapter will do is hold it’s own (monthly?) meetings on dates that will not conflict with the Toronto meetings.

I believe that the Ottawa Chapter will benefit the OMSS in a number of ways such as:

- Increasing the overall number of members in the OMSS
- Encourage group ‘field trips’ to the monthly Toronto meetings
- Stimulate interest in submitting articles to the OMSS Newsletter and Journal
- Increase participation from Ottawa members (and dealers) in the Annual OMSS Show.
- Sharing the workload and increasing participation in any special OMSS projects
- Generally increase interest in the various aspects of the hobby.

The Ottawa Chapter will not develop a parallel governing body, and the only organizational change for the OMSS may be the eventual inclusion of an Ottawa Chapter representative on the OMSS executive, or space in the monthly newsletter for inclusion of the Ottawa Chapter activities.

**For further information on the Ottawa Chapter of the OMSS contact:
Bob Thompson by phone at: 613-523-3103 or by Email at: thompson_robort@rogers.com**

Quarter Master Stores

Ian Pearson has an assortment of Publications and Prints, plus “Odds & Ends” that he plans on giving away for free at the September meeting. He should have everything out around 10:30 am if you are interested.

Vendors are reminded that “Quarter Master Stores” is not a free advertising section. It is presented so that regular members can advertise items they are looking for or would like to sell. Advertising space is available in the OMSS “JOURNAL” at very reasonable prices.

Upcoming Shows and Events

Sword & Brush Annual Figure Show – September 9, 2017 – Toronto Fire and EMS Training Centre, 895 Eastern Avenue, Toronto, Ontario – www.sordandbrush.ca

37th Annual Chicago Toy Solder Show – 24 September, 2017 – 10 am to 3:30 pm – Hyatt Regency Woodfield, Schaumburg, Illinois, USA. Contact Roger Garfield at (847) 567-5355 or email: Roger@ChicagoToySoldierShow.com . More info at: www.CHICAGOTOYSOLDIERSHOW.com

ReaperCon – 19-22 October, 2017 – Premiere Event Center, Lewisville, TX, USA. For more info visit their web site at: www.reapercon.com

Peterborough Militaria Show – Sat. Oct. 14, 2017 – Peterborough Armoury, Peterborough, Ontario. Looking for OMSS members to exhibit. Contact Scott Dummitt (705) 939-1028 or gijoe@kos.net for more info.

34th Annual East Coast Toy Soldier Show & Sale – Sun. October 29 2017 – Rothman Centre, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Hackensack NJ – www.eastcoasttoysoldiershow.com.

Long Island Miniature Model Show 2017 – 17 – 18 November 2017 – Freeport Recreation Center, 130 E. Merrick Rd. Freeport, NY 11520 – contact: lihmc@optonline.net or call John Jefferies (516) 662-5281

Atlanta Military Figure Society 2018 Show – 16 – 18 February 2018 – Atlanta Marriott Century Center, 2000 Century Blvd N.E. Atlanta, GA USA. – www.AtlantaFigures.org

“ON PARADE” 2017 Photos

For the last several years Neil McGavock has provided extensive coverage of our show through his camera lens. With Neil’s accident before the show, and his continuing convalescence we were left without a photographer. Club Member, and past President, Dave Deacon came forward to our aid and covered our show from many angles. In fact many of Dave’s photos appear in Toy Soldier & Model Figure magazine Issue 227, which covered our show. If you would like to see Dave’s photos, visit his web site at: <http://www.deacon.ca/Events/OMSS2017Humber/>. Thank you Dave for your efforts to support the Society.