

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



Monthly Newsletter for April 2018

Monthly Meeting Dates for 2018

14 January 2018 - 11 February 2018 – 11 March 2018
8 April 2018 - 6 May 2018 – 9 September 2018
 14 October 2018– 18 November 2018 - 16 December 2018

Annual Show

Saturday June 16, 2018

Monthly Newsletter for April 2018

2018 Executive

John Hambly
 President

Lorne Farr
 1st vice president

Dave Norman
 2nd vice-president

Gary Lenius
 Secretary/Treasurer

Jim Qualtrough
 Past President

Eric Clarke
 Program Chairman

Brendan Hogan
 Journal Editor

Scott Dummitt
 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, 8 April, 2018

Branch 643 Royal Canadian Legion 110 Jutland Road Toronto
 Meeting starts at 1:00 pm. Doors open 11:00 am

Letter from the President

Well O.M.S.S. members it looks like old man winter has given us a break and spring is on its way (but don't put away the snow tires yet). The March meeting was one of new members and a lot of hum in the air about this year's show at Humber College.

We regret to say there was no speaker for the March meeting, but we asked Guy Elliott to kindly extend his talk which he did and it was great. Guy finished off where he left us all on the edge of our seats from last month and once again left us all feeling we are rate there as it unfolds .Guy I wish you had of been my teacher in school it would of made going to history class a joy. GREAT JOB GUY!!

As you all saw I your president have a new segment for the meetings called "THE PRESIDENTS PICK". This is where I your president will give a trivia question each month at the start of the meeting and the member to answer it correctly will receive a free figure from my own collection. So bone up on your history in toy soldiers or general military history.

Last meeting I'm happy to announce the club welcomed 3 new members and to the members who brought them in I say thanks and let's keep the challenge going strong.

We are looking for a new show chairman to help Scott Dummitt as Norm White had to step down from that position. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Norm White for all his hard work as show chairman over the years. Great job Norm!!the show every year takes a lot of work and Scott Dummitt does a great job along with many others so lets all help out and make this 2018 year the best ever show.

Next month's speaker is a returning speaker who was cancelled due to weather and he is speaking on the Toronto Scots. I'm sure we all have a Toronto Scots figure or something we can bring in for show and tell to help support the speaker.

I as your president have said enough now and will leave you with this thought Keep calm and collect toy soldiers!

OMSS President, John Hambly

What's New in the Hobby? – April 2018

by Brendan Hogan

Reviewing my recent “What’s New” columns, I’ve noticed that traditional glossy toy soldiers have been largely ignored. This month I intend to rectify this omission. One of my favourite glossy toy soldier companies is



Tradition of London. Tradition is based in Britain but has two Canadian dealers based in Ontario. Maitland Toy Soldier Shoppe, and the OMSS’s own ‘SCOTT J.

DUMMITT PRESENTS’.

Tradition’s glossy figures cover virtually every conflict and period between the Middle Ages and the present day, with a particularly emphasis on conflicts that British forces fought in. Of all the series in Tradition’s catalogue, my favourite is: “The British



Indian Army, 1890-1910”. Any OMSS members who follow the news certainly know that India has been the focus of much controversy recently. I’d like to stay clear of that and focus instead on the excellent figures that Tradition has produced. All the figures in this series are 54mm (1/32 scale)



and painted in the traditional glossy toy soldier style. In my opinion, the gloss finish really brings out the colours in the various regiments’ uniforms. Prices for the sets and individual figures vary as they are originally priced in Pounds. The Ludhiana Sikhs, Duke of York’s Own Skinner’s Horse, Punjab Frontier Force, and the Governor’s Bodyguard are amongst the

most famous regiments that Tradition has produced in miniature. In 1914, the Indian Army, with 150,000 men, was the largest volunteer army in the world at that time. It comprised 129 infantry battalions, 38 cavalry regiments, a joint infantry-cavalry unit, 3 engineer regiments, and 12 batteries of mountain artillery. Upon independence and partition of India in 1947, the personnel and equipment of the old British-Indian Army were divided between the new countries of India and Pakistan.

ON PARADE 2018 VENDORS

Each month starting in January 2018 we will be publishing the names of vendors who have signed up and paid for their spot at 'ON PARADE' 2018. This gives those attending a chance to approach or contact these vendors prior to the show and make arrangements for picking up certain items. In addition this section will indicate who plans on setting up on 15 June for room trading at Humber College. Room trading will take place between 6 pm & 8:30 pm. Want to be included in the list? Just print off the 2018 vendor's form on the OMSS web site and get your cheque into Gary Lenius as soon as possible.

Vendors

John Brown – Vintage Toy Soldiers, home castings and Militaria – (905) 275-2446 – Email: johnev@sympatico.ca.

SCOTT J. DUMMITT PRESENTS – W. Britain Ltd, John Jenkins Designs, Thomas Gunn Miniatures, Del Prado, Armies in Plastic, Pride of the Nation and More. www.gjoecanada.com – (705) 939-1028 – Email: gijoe@kos.net - Room Trader

Tommy & Kirk Thompson – Vintage hollow cast William Britain Figures – (705) 252-0990 or Kirk (647) 500-7795.

Ed Tansley – Ducal Toy Soldiers – (416) 695-0609 – Email: edtansley@hotmail.com.

Les Eslary - A variety of Metal Toy Soldiers & Publications – (905) 627-5893 – Email: leslary@cogeco.ca

Andy Traverse – Variety of Toy Soldiers – (905) 627-0213 – Email: andytraverse123@gmail.com

John Drown – High Quality imported Connoisseur figures from Russia – (705) 725-9177 – Email: jdrown@rogers.com

Dan Sneyd – 1/72 Plastics, Die Cast, Artillery, W. Britain Ltd. – (519) 371-7487 – Email: dsneyd57@gmail.com

Al Wright – Stock and Custom made 1/6th action figures and equipment sets – (416) 406-4369 – Email: heshman@rogers.com

Gary Schofield - New & vintage toy soldiers, vehicles & tanks, models and books – (416) 357-7097, Email: GPSCOFIELD@YAHOO.COM

'The Unsportsman Collectibles' (Bob Thompson) – New (post 1967) sold out Britain's toy soldiers, Plastic figures, Military Collectible Cards and Vintage metal & plastic figure sets - (613) 523-3103 – Email: thompson_robert@rogers.com - Room Trader.

Vintage Video – Toy Soldiers, Die Cast Planes and Tanks, Militaria DVDs (Feature Films & Documentaries) – John Barthel owner - www.vintagevideocanada.com – (416) 538-9927 or 1-866-538-9927

Frank Barrett – A great variety of vintage metal and plastic toy soldiers – (416) 293-2880 Email: fbarrett@yorku.ca

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Henry Chow – Toy Soldiers, Die Cast Aeroplanes, Tanks and Model Kits – (416) 250-6631 Email: toysoldier.chow@gmail.com

Table Prices go up to \$60.00 each on 1st of May so don't Procrastinate get you cheques in. We have 25 Tables already paid for, don't miss out get your registration and payment in NOW!



“ON PARADE” Meet & Greet BBQ Buffet

Saturday, 16 June, 2018: 6 pm to 10 pm

Don't forget to purchase your tickets for the post show “Meet & Greet” on the 16th of June. William Britain Limited is supplying 4 door prizes for the event (you don't need a meal ticket for the draw, but you do need to be present as we will not be delivering prizes). Prizes will start to be drawn after the meal up until 9 pm. There is a cash bar featuring wines and liquor at \$7.00 each and a variety of beers at \$6.50 each. The menu features: Chicken Breast on the bun or Beef Burger on the bun, corn on the cob, salads, Rolls, Ice Tea and desert (Brownie or Melon slices). Cost is \$20.00 per person if you purchase before the end of May (Payment must be in the treasure's possession), or \$22.50 at the door. This is a great chance to sit down and unwind at the end of our show without rushing home and if you're staying over at Humber College you don't have to worry about finding a restaurant. See Gary Lenius at the April or May meeting to make your reservations. We will have tickets for the meal included in the Vendor packages for those that have indicated so on their vendor forms and for Club Members you can pick your ticket(s) up at the Admission Table on the Saturday at “ON PARADE”.

WHATS YOUR OPINION?

While we try and hold a democratic meeting where everyone gets their chance to have their say, this is not always possible due to time. In this new section we would like to encourage member to write in to the *OMSS NEWSLETTER* with questions for the President, the Executive or enquiries about something they are trying to find out about the hobby but don't know where to turn to. This is your chance to get the answers to your questions even if you can't make the meetings.

Q: As a Connoisseur Figure collector I am beginning to feel that our meeting are just about toy soldier figures.

A: With many of our members getting older, the Connoisseur painters seem to have dropped off. Some are going to the “Sword & Brush” Collector group that is located in Toronto so that they can find more things in common. I believe there is a place for our Connoisseur collectors as well as member who enjoy painting and collecting Flats, 1/72nd figures, 1/6th Action Figures and War Gaming figures, as well as toy soldiers. We all have a common interest in Military History

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portrayed in miniature. That being said, I would like to encourage our Connoisseur collectors to offer to do the occasional member talk about painting, collecting, and converting their figures. I would also encourage those vendors that have sets that might interest our Connoisseur collectors to bring a few along each meeting.

Q: Why is the OMSS pushing vendors to pay for their table space at “ON PARADE” so early?

A: With the move to Humber College last year, there has been a substantial increase in operating costs for the Annual Show & Competition. We are not only in a new venue, but we have a new Table Rental business to deal with as well as the responsibility of covering liability insurance for the show. From experience our show Chairman knows that other trade shows encourage their vendors to get payment in early so that they know how many tables for spaces they will need and to help cover the costs. It also helps the show executive get an idea of how to set up the room for the show and not have to keep changing the set-up. In 2017 we sold 37 spaces for the show. We ended up turning away 5 last minute vendors. We always want to accommodate long time vendors; however they need to accommodate the OMSS by paying for their tables in a timely fashion. The vendor spaces have not been raised in price for over 10 years, so really there is not much to complain about. Remember table prices go up for the 2018 show to \$60.00 each on the 1st of May, 2018 regardless of how long you have participated.

ROOM ACCOMMODATION BOOKINGS FOR “ON PARADE”2018

The Portal linking the OMSS web site to the Humber College Accommodation web site is now up and working. Rooms are \$80.00 (plus HST) a night and can be booked for Friday and Saturday nights. The portal is open only until April 15, 2018. You can also use the following link to connect to the site:

2018 Group Accommodations - Group Name: Ontario Model Soldier Society 2018
 Available Dates: June 15 - 17, 2018 - Double Suite: \$80 + HST per night (Max occupancy: 4)
 Group link to book: <http://bit.ly/2EH7L75>

Please note that the residence is a smoke free facility and that glass beer bottles are not permitted. Quiet hours are observed from 11 PM - 7 AM. Visit: <http://humber.ca/conference/humber-residence-house-rules-overnight-accommodation-guests> for more information

This Month in Canadian History

9 – 12 April, 1917 – The Battle for Vimy Ridge – During Easter of 1917, the four Canadian Divisions of the CEF, attacked the heavily fortified 7 kilometer Vimy Ridge. The ridge had been attacked previously by both British and French units, but with no success. Under the leadership of Corps Commander General Julian Byng, the Canadians studied, planned and rehearsed behind the lines how they would take the German stronghold. The Germans knew there was an imminent attack planned but did not know when it was coming. The preparations for the attack paid off, however it did not come without a high price as the Canadian lost 10,000 men, killed or wounded. For more information on this Canadian battle go online and visit the Canadian War Museum’s web site at: www.warmuseum.ca/the-battle-of-vimy-ridge.

April 3, 1756 – The Marquis de Montcalm sails from France for *Canada*; he will succumb to his wounds received at the battle of the Plains of Abraham on September 13 1759.



OMSS's Exclusive Sir Arthur Currie Figure

Keeping in mind that April is the 101st Anniversary of the Canadian victory at Vimy, we have an update on our Arthur Currie figure. Ken Osen from William Britain Limited has explained that due to problems with the factory in China he cannot guarantee the figure will be ready for sale at the show in June. He has promised to have prototypes of the figure at the show for the attendees to view.

From the most recent photo we have of the master figure he has captured the precise image of the General to a tee. Currie may not have been the classic image of a General, but he was the best that Canada had and considered amongst the best of the Allied Generals (although our Allies seem to miss that point in their history books regarding WWI).

The Currie figure will be available to OMSS members who have paid their current club dues at a reduced price, compared to the usual Britians single figure cost, and to non club members at the current price of a single W. Britain Limited price. Members are limited to 2 figures only. We will post a price for the figures when we have the final total cost for production.

On Facebook?

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

Whats Happening

The Toronto Military Show - Saturday April 7th at the Etobicoke Olympium – Show Hours are 8:30 am until 2:00 pm - www.torontomilitaryshow.com - Phone: (416) 427-8379

Manitoba Model Soldier Society - Our next meeting is on Thursday, April 5 at 8:00 pm at the St. James Legion, 1755 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg. Contact: Doug Bedford at jorgbed@mymts.net for further information.

The 11th Annual Gettysburg Toy Soldier Show and Sale will take place on Sunday, April 29th from 10 AM to 3 PM at the Eisenhower Hotel and Conference Center (2634 Emmitsburg Road, Gettysburg).. Admission \$7 US.

The next three Heart of the South Toy Soldier Show and Sale will be on June 2, September 8 and December 1. All Saturdays. The venue for all three is the Annandale VFD Community Center, 7128 Columbia Pike, Annandale, Virginia. Admission is usually 5\$ US.

OMSS Golf Shirts – The club shirts are now available for pick-up at the April meeting.

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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