

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



Monthly Newsletter for April 2020

Monthly Meeting Dates for 2020

12 January 2020 - 9 February 2020 – 8 March 2020
5 APRIL 2020 CANCELLED - 3 May 2020 (tentative)
 13 September 2020 - 18 October 2020– 22 November 2020 -
 13 December 2020

2020 Executive

Keith Ritchie
 President

Scott Millburn
 1st vice president

Andy Traverse
 2nd vice-president

Gary Lenius
 Secretary/Treasurer

Lorne Farr
 Past President

Vacant
 Program Chairman

Vacant
 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

OMSS Archivist
 Ian Pearson

Our April Meeting Has Been Cancelled Due to the Current Public Health Emergency and we may not be able to meet in May either (stay tuned).

**We have decided that given the situation we must also cancel our Annual Show ON PARADE for this year.
 (see page 2)**

Letter from the President



It is the middle of March right now. We have had three good meetings so far this year.

First, I want to thank – and to congratulate – Andy Traverse on stepping up to be the 2nd Vice-President. Andy is a very dedicated, informed, and engaging member, as demonstrated by his presentations over any discussion all of us have had with him. I know Andy will give his all, and we will support him as he learns the ropes.

I was impressed by the March meeting – how long and how interactive it was. I especially want to thank Jeff for his idea of the “Movie Night”, and for him moderating the session, with a fine introduction, and then getting all of us to step up and talk about our favorite historical/war movies. And with the popcorn, too! Also, thanks to all of the members who stood up and talked. One of the longest but most interactive meetings that I am aware of. I think everyone had a good time. (I came away with the sense that the club members are probably not a Star Wars crowd.)

I also want to thank Gary and Scott D. for the updates on the annual show in June. Gary’s presentation and pictures were quite informative, as was the discussion by Gary and Scott. I also back them in that we know that we have a slightly smaller venue, and hence less room for both vendors and displays. I ask all members to respect the limits that have been set out for displays. We had been forewarned on this since last fall, and we should respect the fact that this is also being asked of others. Being a 1/6 guy myself, I know that the 1/6 guys from Ottawa understand and will respect the limits. Quality, not quantity – and I know that all of the members, even if they have the latter, really shine with the former.

... continued on page 2

... **President's Message continued from page 1**

However, we live in interesting times, as we have seen since January. Things have also changed rapidly, even since the meeting on March 8. This is a matter that is way bigger than the OMSS itself. It is global, but it is now our current societal norm in Canada, Ontario and GTA, and affects all of us personally.

We have no choice but to cancel the meeting scheduled for April 5. The Legion itself is closed until April 6. I have informed the scheduled speaker; she understands, and is willing to come back at another time, when all of this is over. The Executive discussed this via e-mail this week, as we are all also affected in our normal lives. Many of those still working, like myself, are remote working from home until the matter resolves itself.

Even before we got word of the Legion's closure, we were discussing this. In the past we have made decisions to cancel meetings, or to understand why some members cannot make, because of weather around or outside of the GTA. This is more serious, at least at this time. We need to understand and respect the warnings of over medical experts and our governments so that – at some point in the future (of which I am sure) – we can all get back together. We are a community with common bonds, and not just in toy soldiers and history, and we all want to meet again when it is safe.

In the meantime, while you are staying safe and sound, maybe now is the time to watch some of those movies that others mentioned at the March 8 meeting.

We will keep you informed of any further information on the May meeting and the annual show. For now, be safe and be healthy.

Keith Ritchie
OMSS President

ON PARADE 2020 UPDATE

It is unfortunate but necessary that this year's "ON PARADE" be cancelled. While the show committee has done a lot of work and preparation for the show, we came to the conclusion that there was just too many factors against holding it this year. After talking with the two of our show competition judges, the show executive committee, and other OMSS members I had the sad duty to recommend to OMSS President Keith Ritchie and the OMSS executive that we cancel the 2020 show.



Our reasons to cancel now was that even if the Humber College was to re-open its doors at the start of April, the facilities we needed would be required for the returning student body to complete their academic year. We owed it not only to our members, but to the vendors coming in from all over Ontario and Quebec, William Britain Limited coming from Ohio, and our growing American attendees, to get the word out early. The OMSS will receive a refund from Humber with regards to our down payment for the facilities, and we have been able to put a stop to at least one of our magazine ads. Those who have also booked accommodations will be able to receive a refund from the college as well.

I had intended to step down from being the show Chairman this year. Since I promised you my time for one more show, I will stay on for the 2021 show. We will get through this epidemic.

Scott Dummitt Show Chairman

Despite the Government's efforts to encourage "Social Spacing" in profesional sports, spectators still crowd together



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 copyright law we cannot reproduce any published article without permission of the publication in question

Alex Monsour will be your new Newsletter Editor starting with the September issue

On Facebook?

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

FOR 5th of April, why not start a forum chat on our society FACEBOOK page.



John's military service and nick name "Brownie" are displayed in this photo of a Hummel soldier and Kodak "Brownie" Cameral

IN MEMORY OF:

JOHN "Brownie" Brown

This past week the OMSS lost one of the pillars of our society. John and Evelyn Brown have played such a strong role in our club as far back as 1968. John's friendliness and generosity to others was a standard part of his personality. Both John and Evelyn are recipients of the society's "Lifetime Achievement" award and a staple at many of our meetings up until John's stroke a few years back. Even with his health declining, John still would attend meetings and insist on being one of the first to book a vendor table at "ON PARADE"

each year. John not only sold pieces at the annual show but won several awards for his creations. Generous to a fault he would donate figures to be handed out to the children attending our show as well as to club members throughout the year. Both John and Evelyn looked after the Club Draw tables at our meetings for many years, and made everyone feel that they were old friends. John was particularly proud of his time spent with the Irish Regiment of Canada, and his military past. He was a Canadian Postal worker for many years as well. John was not only a member of the OMSS but one of the original members of the Canadian Society of Military Medals and Insignia. We will all truly miss "Brownie".

Remembering John

Big shoes to fill. Bless him for the work he did for the society. - Ian Pearson

Such a Gentleman and a supporter of all of us in this crazy hobby. I have known him since the mid 1990's and he was always was the first to say hello, ask about how you are doing and give a shit about your answer and give you advice when ever asked. - Jeff Duncan

I am so sorry to learn about John's passing. I'm glad he is at peace, but reading this made me burst into tears. John ranks as one of the nicest people I've ever been lucky enough to know. What a great student of history and toy soldier craftsman he was too.- Stuart Hessney

We have lost one of the pillars of the Society, one of the legends who helped make it what it is. He was one of the nicest guys I've ever met, a kindly, generous and genuinely caring gentleman--and a brother Postie. - Frank MacKay

All of us will miss him. They both were friendly and welcoming people who helped me become a part of the club and the hobby. I am glad of some pieces I bought from him a few years ago. - Keith Ritchie

A beacon of light has gone out at the OMSS. John and Evelyn Brown were amongst the first people to make me feel welcome at the society many years ago. As both veterans and volunteer bandsmen John and I chatted about our military past at the meetings. His cheerfulness, generosity and support were always welcome and I will feel his loss deeply for some time to come. Thank you John for your friendship. Scott Dummitt



OMSS friends, Ed Tansley and John Brown at ON PARADE



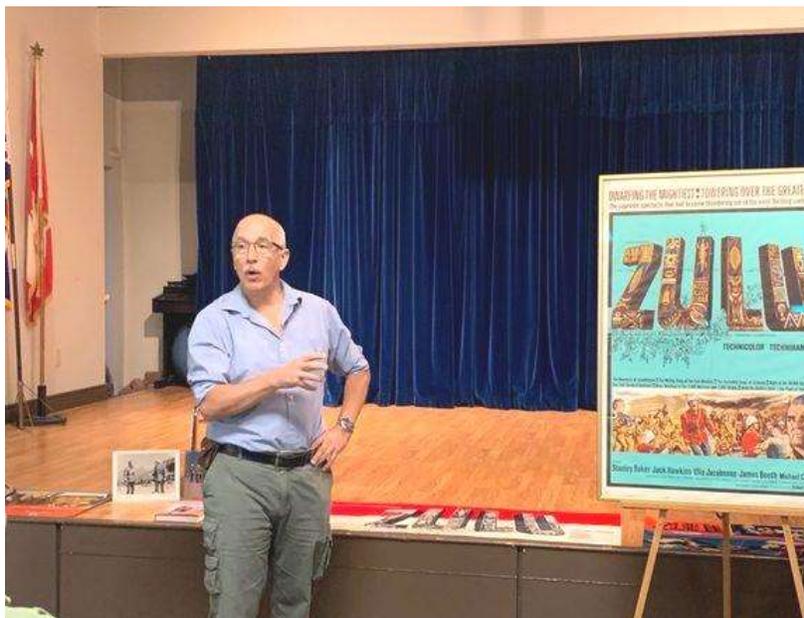
**John & Evelyn
taking a
moment at “ON
PARADE” 2012**

Due to the current COVID-19 health crisis, the Brown family has decided to have a family only ceremony for John. I know that John’s many friends bid him a fond farewell. The family has requested that if you wish you can make a donation to the:

HEART AND STROKE FOUNDATION OF CANADA
www.heartandstroke.ca

MOVIE DAYS AT THE OMSS

Over the past few months we have had a bit of a theme going with cinema productions of a historical nature. While the movies may not always give us an accurate portrayal of what really happened, they do seem to inspire us when it comes to our collections. Andy Traverse gave a great



chat on the making of the 1964 epic cinema production of “Zulu”, which centres around a company of the 24th Regiment of Foot which was stationed at the Missionary location of Rorke’s Drift. After the disaster for the regiment at Isandwana, a force of approximately 5000 Zulu warriors attacked at Rorke’s Drift. The story of their epic defence is covered in the movie that Stanley Baker and a young Michael Caine starred in. Although I wasn’t able ... continued on page 6

Movie Days ... continued from page 5

to attend the meeting, I understand Andy's talk was a great success.

At the March meeting, President Ritchie encouraged the attendees to give a brief talk on their favourite movie. The presentation was monitored by Jeff Duncan and almost everyone present had a movie to talk about. Some such as Duncan Johnson (see bottom photo) even went so far as to bring props and figures. The idea was to show how the cinema had effected their collections and interest in history. Jeff also came up with some facts regarding historical and military themed movies.

Highlight today's format for the presentation

-explain History movies and why so enduring as a topic of the film genre, takes a huge topic and portrays it with a series of characters to make a place or event in time relatable and come to life for us in the present time.

-first history movie made was at the very birth of the film industry was done in New York and was "Tearing Down the Spanish Flag"...in 1898!

-total number of history movies is really indefinable but it is estimated about 140 WW1, and an incredible 1400 WW2 movies

-by comparison only about 200 baseball movies...7x WW2 movies

-to put it in context if you wanted to watch all 1400 WW2 movies I estimated that watching 2 a day at about 2.5hrs each it would take about 700 days or about 2 years. You would achieve a laudable goal in seeing them all but you probably would end up divorced so this is not a recommendation of the OMSS!!

-I picked two of Roger Ebert's quotes on history/war movies: "If the British Monarchy is good for nothing else, it's superb at producing the subjects of films" ...and a favorite of mine: "No **good** movie id too long and no **bad** movie is too short"

OMSS MEMBER'S CHOICES

Breaker Morant
 The Hurt Locker
 The War Lord
 Gettysburg
 Casablanca
 Full Metal Jacket
 Waterloo
 Billy Bud
 Longest Day
 Major Dundee
 Adventures of Robin Hood (1938 ver.)
 Cromwell
 We Were Soldiers
 Gift Horse
 Red Badge of Courage (Audie Murphy version)
 Eto bylo y Razvedke (Russian 1969)
 Battle of Britain
 Dam Busters
 Sharp Series
 Sink the Bismarck
 PT 109
 Day of the Jackal
 Beau Geste (1939 ver. Gary Cooper)
 Bridge Over the River Kwai
 Dunkirk (1958 ver.)

