

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



Monthly Newsletter for July 2020

Monthly Meeting Dates for 2020

12 January 2020 - 9 February 2020 – 8 March 2020
 5 April 2020 – 3 May 2020 – 13 September 2020, 18 October
 2020– 22 November 2020 - 13 December 2020

Annual Show
12 JUNE 2021

Month Newsletter for July 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

Ian Pearson
 Journal Editor

Scott Dummitt
 Annual Show Chairman

Alex Monsour
 Newsletter Editor

Dave Norman
 Facebook Page Manager

Frank MacKay
 Calendar Co-ordinator

Jeff Duncan
 Club Table & Donations

OMSS Archivist
 Ian Pearson

Next meeting...

Tentatively 13 September 2020

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



Letter from the President

It is mid-year now, and four months since our last meeting. This is taking a long time, even as things are starting to ease up. We continue to monitor the situation, but how soon we be able to get together is outside of our control. And we also will not do anything that puts you, our members, or the public generally, at greater risk.

Restrictions are starting to ease, but we are a long ways away from our regular meetings. In the meantime, use whatever means – email, newsletter, Zoom, Facebook, Smartphone or even POTS (Plain Old Telephone System) – to keep in touch.

I want to thank Scott Dummitt for shepherding the newsletter for many years, and welcome Alec Monsour, who will be taking over the reins.

And with all of the restrictions, both locally and globally, there is not a lot happening in the hobby. We need articles from you on how you are faring these days. I am sure that reconnecting with your toy soldiers is a part of it. I look forward to when we can meet again. Until then, stay safe and stay in touch.

Keith Ritchie
OMSS President

OMSS QUARTERMASTER STORES

Ian Pearson is looking for the following figures from the respective companies:

Ensign

UD27 Sgt 17th Lancers 1909 / UD20 1st Dragoon Guards 1895 / UD01 4th Hussars

Chota Sahib

B1/11 Royal Warwicks Private 1908-14 / B1/12 Royal Scot Private 1903-14 / B1/16 Cameronian Corporal 1903-14 / B1/18 Royal Tank Regiment 1941 / B1/19 Gordon Highlanders 1918

Imperial TB2530

Music in Miniatures – For Valour

Valiant Miniatures

9779 Royal Scots 1914 / 9796 Canadian Infantryman WW2 / 9835 Australian Vickers Machine Gun Team 1942

You can contact Ian at: ianpearson560@gmail.com or phone: 905-434-5205

Richard Moore is looking for the following figures from King & Country:

8th Army, North Africa, Pipe Major Black Watch - EA026(B)

8th Army, North Africa, Piper, Black Watch – EA026(C)

8th Army, North Africa, Scottish Soldier Presenting Arms – EA033

Contact Richard at: rick_moore@rogers.com or phone: 705-426-4463



Black Watch Pipe Major



Scottish Soldier Presenting Arms



Black Watch Piper

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/

The JOURNAL has a new Temporary Editor

Ian Pearson has taken over the JOURNAL until Brendan Hogan returns from his military duties. Ian needs articles submitted to him at: ian.pearson560@gmail.com. Please send your articles in by the end of September as he hopes to have a JOURNAL ready for 15 October this year.

Club Members Speak-up About How they are Keeping Busy with their Hobby

The last two issues we received news from our members on what they have been working on during self isolation. Unfortunately we only heard from Don Ritchie this past month, but Don has come up with an outstanding project for the US Government. Here's his explanation.

USAF Newest Intercontinental Stealth Bomber: By Don Ritchie

An order has been place by Donald Trump for two hundred.

Impossible to detect, this bomber is invisible and silent. Armed with four Lewis Guns, carries a bomb load of four Covid21 canisters that can be set to release at preset altitude. Depending on weather and wind conditions can have devastating coverage. Pilot and Observer utilize old British uniform in case of a malfunction and capture.



The Case of the Missing Highlanders: By Stuart Hessney

A couple of years ago at the Ontario Model Soldier Society Show in Toronto, I bought a pipe band from Ed Tansley that had been specially painted by Trophy Miniatures of Wales Ltd. as the 48th Highlanders of Canada. At the 2019 OMSS show, I purchased a 48th Highlanders drum table beautifully crafted by John Hambly to display the pipe band on.

Then, at last year's Chicago Toy Soldier Show, I acquired some old pop-up tents from dealer Dan Jones. With nowhere else to put them at the moment, the tents line the "Glamour Boys" pipe band's parade route.

Just before the COVID-19 lockdown, our 3-year-old grandson, Gus Edison, came to stay overnight. He enjoys checking out my toy soldiers and always has lots of questions.

Gus noticed the pop-up tents and asked Grandma Sally, "What are those?" Sally told him, "Those are tents. That's where the soldiers sleep at night."

The drum table sits in my office, which is the gateway between the back door and the rest of our house. I walk by it innumerable times every day — more than ever while working from home at my day job during the COVID-19 crisis. Perhaps 40 to 50 days into quarantine — long after the last time Gus had visited our house — I finally noticed that the pipe band was jumbled.

As I straightened the band back into alignment, I realized, "Oh no! The drum major and a piper are missing!"

Using a flashlight in broad daylight, I frantically crawled around scouring the floor for them. There's a red Persian carpet with a colorful pattern in my office that things "disappear into." I didn't want those toy soldiers to get stepped on. And, I already know what it sounds like when an old Britains toy soldier is sucked up by a vacuum cleaner. Imagine the sound of a can opener combined with rocks rattling in the can.

I searched and searched. The missing men seemingly had vanished into thin air. I started sweating. I sent my 54-mm observation balloon aloft. Even with their binoculars, the balloon crew couldn't spot anything. I started swearing. Could the missing men of the 48th have magically marched away? Panic surged through my veins.

Then I looked inside one of the little tents. Gus had put the drum major and piper to bed for the night!!!



Whats New in the Hobby: by Scott Dummitt

While only recently are collectors able to get out and visit their favourite military miniaturist shops again, the manufacturers have been busy introducing new items. One of my favourite new figures to be released is the Thomas Gunn 2nd Boer War Seaforth Highlander casualty. Created standing in a well known pose for Victorian era propaganda paintings, this is an impressive figure. Two other figures, one standing firing, the other kneeling firing, have also been released. There are others to follow in this series including highlanders with slouch hats, Australian Cavalry and a Royal Canadian Field Artillery field piece with crew.

If you haven't heard, our friends at William Britain Limited have moved to a new warehouse in Chillicothe, Ohio. Their new phone number is 740-702-1803. Ericka has said they are hoping to start getting in production items every 6 – 8 weeks.

John Jenkins Designs has just released several new sets. Of particular interest to many Canadian collectors is the addition of another Butler's Rangers set and two new advancing sets of the 62nd Regiment



Above: 2nd Boer War Seaforth Highlander (VW001)

of Foot at Saratoga. John has also announced that the long awaited Roman and Carthaginian figures for the previously released galley warships will soon go into production. These figures will feature plank style bases to match the decks of the ships they are created for. One of John's newest series that is gathering attention is his Norman Knights series. In 1066 "William the Conqueror" crossed the English channel to meet King Harold at Hastings, where he defeated the Saxon king and his army. JJD's mounted Norman Knights help bring that epic battle to life.

K&C has released several new items from WWII Japanese, medieval Saracens, Roman emperors, Vietnam era US Marines, a Nazi Mercedes Benz W31 Staff Car with Adolf Hitler and his henchmen and my favourite, a wedding piece depicting Queen Victoria and her husband Prince Albert of Saxe Coburg & Gotha.

Below: K&C's Victoria and Albert



Display of John Jenkins Designs Mounted Norman Knights at Battle of Hastings, 1066 AD



John Jenkins 62nd Regiment of Foot at the Battle of Saratoga

Bryan Gibbons Award Finally Presented

With everyone practicing “social distancing” during the Covid-19 Pandemic, we were not able to hold “ON PARADE” 2020 where the OMSS Executive had planned on presenting the 2019 recipient, Bob Thompson, with his medallion and trophy. Bob is a worthy recipient of the award with his constant promoting of the society amongst collectors in the Ottawa area and his organizing of the first Society Chapter outside of the GTA.

Bob and his wife Cynthia decided with the relaxing of numbers eligible to get together, that they would visit Cynthia’s son in Toronto. Bob tries to stop in at: “SCOTT J.DUMMITT PRESENTS” retail store each time they come up to Toronto, so they made arrangements to drop into the store, which is once again open to the public.

Scott contacted several members in the area and when the Thompson’s arrived they were met by a small committee of OMSS Members who presented Bob with his Bryan Gibbon’s Award medallion. The group which gathered for a



Photo consists of (left to right) Dave Norman (Facebook page webmaster) Ian Pearson (Club Archivist) , Bob Thompson, and Don Ritchie (Past President). Once again a well earned congratulation to Bob on his accomplishment.

Message from the Newsletter Editor

This will be my last newsletter as editor. I took the job over from the previous editor Gary Lenius starting in February 2016 and have tried to put my own mark on it after the many great years of work by Gary. With my work running my own business and family obligations taking more and more of my time, I had to make a decision to start cutting back on certain outside commitments. One of these was the OMSS newsletter and the other was Chairman of ON PARADE. I will however continue to do an article each month while I still have my connection to do “Whats Happening in the Hobby”.

Alex Monsour has graciously volunteered to take over the newsletter, a task for which I believe he will be more than proficient at. Please help your new editor out with articles and enquiries as it is important that he receives your support.

The newsletter is edited by Alex Monsour

News items and notices can be submitted to artmons@rogers.com or 519-821-7590

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