

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



## Monthly Newsletter for October 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 Saturday June 12, 2021

**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...

**CANCELLED - Sunday, 18 October 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



We are now in the fall of 2020, and just prior to Thanksgiving. It has now been six months since the state of emergency was declared with the COVID-19 pandemic. We have adapted to the circumstances. Although there has been progress with the economy, there are still sectors struggling. Schools have reopened and restrictions on travel remain. And now we are observing the second wave as we enter this fall with continuing government warnings and restrictions.

Although a tough decision, the Executive have decided to cancel the October 18th meeting as well as the meetings for November and December. The ongoing crisis makes it too difficult to plan for and too risky for the members to meet in-person as a club.

It makes you wonder what to be thankful for this Thanksgiving. Well, first and foremost, I am thankful that all of us, and hopefully our families and friends, are safe and healthy. I am thankful for this hobby. I am working from home and have limited my external bubble. The hobby gives me something to help maintain my mental health when I shut down the work computer at the end of the day.

The hobby and its historical understanding and appreciation is another factor. My family is not one with a big military background, that I am aware of. An uncle on my father's side and two of my mother's cousins were in the Canadian forces in WWII. However, I recall fondly talking with my grandparents who lived through WWI and the Spanish Flu of 1918-20 and my parents who started their working lives and marriage during WWII. They taught my brother and I skills for adapting and surviving, a message which I am sure resonates with you.

Although it may be different this year, I want to wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving!

## Club News From the Executive

The Executive has been reviewing the restrictions and guidelines from Public Health and the Government in order to plan how to keep the OMSS going in these uncertain and unprecedented times. After a lot of discussion, the Executive has made the following decisions and announcements.

**In-Person Meetings for the remainder of 2020 are cancelled.** We had hoped to meet on October 18th but would have to do so in accordance with all government regulations and the Legion's rules (which is deemed equivalent to a restaurant or banquet hall). Face masks, social distancing, recording of attendees and contact information would be required. With the second wave, increased cases, fluid government responses, colder weather and flu season approaching, the situation is expected to become even more complicated. It is hard to plan with that uncertainty. We also recognize the demographics of the club membership and the potential impact of contracting COVID-19 on many of our members. For the ultimate health and safety of the members and due to the uncertainty of rapidly changing conditions, we are cancelling the October, November, and December meetings. We would not be able to safely conduct the auction at the November meeting or have the usual Christmas luncheon.

**The Executive has volunteered to remain on for 2021.** General elections are held annually in October. Despite three good meetings in January, February and March and planning for the June On Parade show, we were unable to carry out further regular events. Plans for 2020 can now be carried into 2021 and with hopefully resumed in-person activities. To complete our mandates, groom our successors and complete our mandate, we are volunteering to remain in place as the Executive for next year.

**We will be making plans to resume in-person meetings in 2021 when it is safe and when government restrictions allow us to do so.** We will continue to monitor the situation and will move forward with plans when we are confident, we can meet again. The only date currently being planned for is Saturday, June 12, 2021, for the annual On Parade Show at Humber College. Confirmation of the event will be determined next year.

**Annual Dues for 2021 are waived.** The membership did not receive full benefit for their dues in 2020. We have continued with the Newsletters and the Journal and have stepped up efforts to keep everyone informed and provide benefits even when we can't meet in-person as a club. We avoided room rental fees at the Legion, reduced printing and mailing Journal costs and cancelled the calendar for 2021 (see below). The OMSS is a not-for-profit organization but we can continue to operate in a financially responsible manner in 2021 without membership fees.

Cont'd...

**The Calendar for 2021 is cancelled.** Frank and his team have been busy preparing what is a useful and appreciated Club benefit. Several advertisers have dropped out and one of the calendar's roles, besides great photos to enjoy, is to highlight meeting dates. There are no scheduled meetings currently in 2021 due to the uncertainty. Combining this with the printing and mailing costs, we decided it will be postponed until 2022. We thank Frank and the team for their valuable efforts. The content will be suitable for the following year.

**The monthly Newsletter and the Journal will continue to be primary forms of Communications.** The newsletter continued including a mid-summer one, thanks to Scott Dummitt, and followed by Alex Monsour. Ian Pearson is busy with the Journal, and we expect to have four editions out this year. We extend our gratitude to these gentlemen for their efforts. We encourage members to contribute your interesting stories, immense historical and hobby-related knowledge to these publications. They educate, inspire, and allow for the opportunity to share a part of yourselves with us which helps keep us connected.

#### **Updated Membership List**

To encourage all members to keep in touch, we will be issuing an updated Membership List before the end of the year. Stay connected via email, telephone and safe in-person visits for the sake of the club and our collective need for social contact.

#### **Social Platforms are an opportunity to stay connected.**

The Ottawa Chapter has monthly on-line meetings via Zoom with typically 10 to 15 attendees. In September they had held an online interactive and humorous sale and auction event. Expansion to the larger membership or even smaller local groups remain an option with Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Webex or other platforms. Participants need the right computer equipment, reliable broadband internet service, etc. And these sessions work best when they are properly structured, moderated, etc. Although there may be some costs for these services, depending on length of meeting, number of attendees etc., the Executive is open to your interest for the idea of Zoom meetings.

And you can join the Facebook groups of the OMSS and OMSS Ottawa chapter. Once an account is set up, accept no friend requests, and your involvement with Facebook can be limited to only correspondence from these groups.

#### **Ideas**

We have been discussing options and monitoring the broader social environment, between the Executive and with some other members – many of whom have served on the Executive in the past. We are trying to consider what is best for the OMSS and, especially important, for the membership, as we navigate through this crisis. But we also want – and need – your ideas as well. Please feel free to reach out to us.

## What's New in the Hobby: October 2020

By Scott Dummitt

Let's start by looking at our old friends at William Britain Limited. Britains has been upping its game lately by getting new stock in at regular intervals. The latest figures to be released include five new 24<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot figures. The figures are in the regular poses except for the set "Here they Come" (20189) which depicts a Private at the mealie bag line giving the alarm. The four figures (20185 through 20188) sell for appx. \$53.50 Cdn while 20189 will cost around \$59.00 Cdn. Britains has also released four new 42<sup>nd</sup> Highlanders from the Bushy Run campaign, 16054 & 16055 are Battalion Company Privates while 16056 & 16057 are from the Grenadier Company. While Bushy Run occurred during the Pontiac Rebellion, these



figures can also be used to depict the regiment during the late stages of the Seven Years (French & Indian) War as the regiment had been granted the title "Royal" in 1758. The four Highlanders will sell for approximately \$56.50 each.

A surprise release from Team Miniatures is their new Teutonic Knight series. These German Knights must have been a horrifying spectacle to their enemies as they rode down upon them with their massive steeds and winged helmets. There are six new figures to this series, all mounted and with some wonderfully animated poses.



Otto Von Bismarck. The figures range from \$53.50 to \$134.00 Cdn.

Keeping with its 2<sup>nd</sup> Boer War series, Thomas Gunn has introduced two set pieces depicting the Seaforth Highlanders in South Africa. The first is a heart tugging called "The Last Request" featuring a Highland Laddie's dying

All six figures are in a combat action pose, with one standard bearer and one whose horse is collapsing under him. The figures sell for between \$150.00 to \$158.00 Cdn each. Another new and unusual series that the Chinese company has introduced are French and German troops from the Franco-Prussian War of 1870. There are four distinct units in this series, so far. They are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Prussian Foot Guards, Bavarian Infantry, Regular French Infantry and French Zouaves. In addition, there are two mounted personality figures, Napoleon III and



request to a fellow soldier. The second set depicts a dedicated Seaforth officer trying to tend to one of his men's wounds while holding off the Boers with his pistol. Both sets are wonderfully painted and to be quite truthful, it is nice to see another regiment besides the Black Watch being depicted. The sets sell for approximately \$130.00 each.



## Quarter Masters Store

**John Hoffmann** is selling from his personal collection Napoleonic Model Kits at discounted prices.



Choose from a large selection of Historex or Airfix Napoleonic kits, 30 mm Napoleonic flats or 90 mm Poste Militaire kits. Send me an email for the complete list and prices. Pictures available upon request.

519 787-1020

[jhoffmann00@cogeco.ca](mailto:jhoffmann00@cogeco.ca)

**Stanley Kershman** of our Ottawa Chapter is looking for a bust either painted or unpainted of the Napoleonic and/or Crimean era. If you have one for sale, please contact him directly at

[Stanley3211@hotmail.com](mailto:Stanley3211@hotmail.com).

**Jeff Hood** located in Orillia began collecting in 1955. He has quite a few older sets available for sale with a partial list below. You can reach him at his cell phone 647-309-8478 or his email of

[jeffhood25@hotmail.com](mailto:jeffhood25@hotmail.com).

Britains Soldiers mid 1950's in original boxes:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| No. 169 Bersaglieri Italian Infantry w/ officer 8 figures | No. 432 German Army Infantry 8 figures        |
| No. 1284 Royal Marines with Officers 16 figures           | No. 1318 Machine Gunners set of 6             |
| No. 1435 Italian Infantry Khaki w/officer 8 figures       | No. 2010 Airborne Infantry 2 boxes            |
| No. 2017 Ski Troops 4 figures                             | No. 2027 Red Army Guards Infantry Parade      |
| No. 2032 Red Army Infantry (Steel Helmets) March Past     | No. 2072 King's Royal Rifle Corps Trail March |
| No. 2092 Parachute Regiment No. 1 Dress                   | No. 2142 Union Infantry lead soldiers         |
| No. 2143 Confederate Infantry                             |   |

Crescent Toys mid 1950's original box Scottish regiment Green and yellow tartan 5 figures.

Barclays Podfoot 8 figures inc. flag bearer, machine gunner, sailor, Marine, airman.

Barclays Manoil steel helmet horn player with puttees.

Plastic Soldiers:

8 piece WW1 US Doughboys w/ officer dark green

22 piece Tim-Mee toys green WW2

9 piece Crescent Commandos

13 piece British Army WW1

13 piece Crescent toys British Army WW2

30 piece MPC

## Obituary Notice

Major (Ret'd) Richard (Dick) Malott passed away January 31, 2020. He was an avid collector of Britains Toy Soldiers, a leader of several Philatelic societies and involved at the Canadian War Museum. A link to his obituary is:

<https://ottawacitizen.remembering.ca/obituary/richard-malott-1079993371>

## Chicago Toy Soldier Virtual Show a Success!

If you were unable to view the two Showcase Live Sessions on September 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, you may view them now on Youtube. The links are attached:

<https://youtu.be/ieyIC9YFu2w>

<https://youtu.be/qXv-LNDEEKo>

Frank MacKay, Club "Ambassador" for the 48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders of Canada has provided Youtube links from the Memorial Project of the 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion (48<sup>th</sup>) from WWI of the battle for the Drocourt-Queant Line, in particular the assault on The Crow's Nest at Hendecourt-les-Cagnicourt.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rqVEjx58FiE&feature=youtu.be>

and the capture of Puits 14 and Bois Hugo as part of the Canadian Corps assault on Hill 70 near Lens, France. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ZdLT5V53wY>.

## The Last Word of a Civilian Bureaucrat

What does one do to celebrate 30 years of marriage and the cancellation of an anticipated trip to Prague for the occasion? One opts to select another foreign exotic destination, the city of Peterborough. Instead of castles and centuries old architecture, we got to enjoy the Canadian Canoe Museum. The history of the Fur Trade provided some inspiration for my Seven Years Colonial War collection although there was no small scale birchbark canoe to purchase in the gift shop. This was followed by a boat cruise through the famous lift locks. And of course a visit to the destination hamlet of Bailieboro to visit a certain Toy Soldier shop (owned by the previous editor and co-ordinator of the next ON Parade Show but denied the opportunity of shameless advertising in this article) and Doodoo's Bakery for world famous butter tarts. It was still a great trip and with more toy soldiers added to my collection, a successful one.

The newsletter is edited by Alex Monsour.

News items and notices can be submitted to [artmons@rogers.com](mailto:artmons@rogers.com).

**Articles must be submitted no later than 14 days before monthly meetings. Note due to postal costs the Newsletter is limited to 6 pages maximum. Articles that cannot be accommodated will be forwarded to the Journal Editor.**

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