

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



Monthly Newsletter for November 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 Milburn
 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, 22 November 2020

Letter from the President



Hello again. I hope that everyone is staying safe and healthy during these times.

We are trying to keep things going with the club in these times and I think that there are some positives. You will have recently received a “treat” on Halloween – the October Journal. For those only receiving the hardcopy, it will be on its way.

Again, my thanks to Ian Pearson for taking the reins on this. And we have one more scheduled for December.

At the end of October, I joined in on a Zoom meeting of the Ottawa Chapter. Bob Thompson has done a good job of organizing and managing it. In addition to those from the Ottawa Chapter, there were club participants from across the province including Chatham. Alex Monsour gave a PowerPoint presentation on how he got into collecting toy soldiers. We will be looking into Zoom meetings as a possibility for the club generally.

It is November. Normally, we are now having our auction. But November has more significance – the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. I think that remembering our veterans takes on even more importance this year. We have seen within Canada how the Armed Forces helped with overwhelmed Long Term Care Facilities. This impacted me more than their work during the 1998 Ice Storm,

President's Message Continued

or digging Toronto out of a snow storm a year later. We need to remember and thank our veterans and our current soldiers – including you, Brendan.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, I have been thinking mostly of those veterans, now all gone, from over 100 years ago. After fighting for four years in the trenches in France and Belgium, victory in war was dampened by a global pandemic, the Spanish Flu. After encountering it in Europe, they returned to live with it two more years in Canada. We have not had to endure all of what they went through but I am inspired by the memories of their perseverance. I hope you are too. Stay safe and keep in touch.



The above photo is King and Country's series of figure that is based on "Irregulars" ... British Home Guard.

They have been styled after the cast from the "Dad's Army" TV program. The editor is told it is a hilarious show.

A CAPITAL REPORT (from the OMSS Ottawa Chapter)

by Bob Thompson

OTTAWA CHAPTER MEETINGS – September and October 2020

Since the last report in the September OMSS Newsletter, we have continued with our virtual interactions. We now routinely have our Zoom Meetings on the last Tuesday of every month, with a Facebook meeting on the Wednesday evening

We have about a dozen participants in the monthly Zoom meetings. The number of Toronto area participants has been steadily rising. October's Zoom meeting had 15 participants, with 7 from the GTA (including first time participants OMSS president, Keith Ritchie, and Jeff Duncan).

We encourage further participation from our Toronto area members.

At our September Zoom Meeting, we had a great “Guided Tour of a Toy Soldier Hobby Collection” by Andy Traverse as he virtually showed us around his home.

At our October Zoom Meeting, Alex Monsour gave an excellent presentation titled “Why I Collect”. This was the first in a monthly series we are calling “My Personal Views on Collecting” where members will give a short presentation (10 minutes?) on their collecting activities. The presentation by Alex set the bar very high!

We continue with a “Show & Tell” theme at each meeting. August was “Navy, Sailors and Marines”, September was “First Nations”, October was “Irregulars (Militia, Rebels, Pirates, Natives, Vigilantes, etc.)” and fittingly November meetings will be “Remembrance”.

The Facebook “OMSS Ottawa” pages have seen greatly increased usage. After the Zoom Meeting, we have held a Facebook ‘meeting’ where we post all sorts of photos, texts, and make comments. All the monthly meeting agendas and minutes are now posted on our Facebook Group pages and remain for others to view at any time. Check out our ‘OMSS Ottawa’ Group! There are also postings of toy soldier related items for sale. We encourage all participants to post pictures of their favourite collection items and anything they would like to sell on OMSS Ottawa Facebook.

ZOOM & FACEBOOK AUCTIONS/SWAP MEETS

A week before our scheduled September meeting we held a Zoom Swap Meet, followed the next evening with a Facebook Swap Meet. These were so successful we are holding another one on Zoom Tuesday evening, November 17th, followed by Facebook on Wednesday November 18th. We encourage everyone to join in the fun by selling and buying on the swap meets. There are no buyer or seller fees involved just direct interactions. Transportation details follow in another article.

Further information on how to participate in the virtual swap will be sent via an email to the OMSS Ottawa distribution list and posted on both the OMSS Ottawa and OMSS Facebook pages.



To the left are Russian Irregulars which are part of Club member Egor Yevsikov's collection. Egor posts summaries of Russian and other historic events on the OMSS Ottawa Facebook page. He is a great resource for aspects about Russia in working with your collections.

What's New in the Hobby – November 2020

By Scott J. Dummitt

Recently I was in touch with Patrick Adam of “The British Toy Soldier Company” and started bringing in his splendidly made figures depicting British and Empire troops. Patrick was kind enough to work with me with the goal to bring out some of his sets as Canadian military. It has been a good fit and I promise there is more to come. Patrick recently put me on to another small British company called “London Gothic Collectibles”. The company is run by a fellow named Anthony Slocombe, and while you may not have heard of him before, he has been making various figures for over 20 years. Starting in late 2017, Anthony started producing various historical figures and has expanded his range to the characters, some real some fiction,



while fighting his downed German tribesman, and another Legionnaire about to deliver a mortal blow to a downed barbarian. In addition, Gunn is introducing three versions of a soldier from the 24th kneeling at the repel position, representing a Corporal, Lance Corporal and Private.

Italeri is about to release a new “Battle” set titled “Berlin 1945: Battle for the Reichstag”. This 1/72nd set consists of: laser-cut MDF Reichstag building, 32 Russian figures, 32 German infantrymen, a Flak 88mm AA gun with 7 man crew and a Russian T-34 tank.



of Victorian England, Hollywood silent movies, modern day personalities and so on. The figures range in price of around \$38.00 Cdn. for an individual figure to \$225.00 for a set of 7 figures. Produced in pewter these 54 mm figures are finished in gloss and are anything but ordinary. I suggest you take a look at their site at: <https://londongothiccollectables.com>.

Thomas Gunn Miniatures has just announced the release of several new figures to their Roman/Germanic tribes’ series. With an eye to the battle between the Romans and German tribes in the Teutoburg Forest in 9 AD where Rome lost three Legions to the combined strength of the Germans, Gunn has release a Germans tribesman preparing to throw his spear, a Roman Legionnaire who has received a damaging wound to his arm



Left: Italeri’s new “Battle for the Reichstag” battle set



Left: London Gothic’s “Tsar Blessing the Troops” set

From our OMSS Journal Editor – Ian Pearson

In the October 2020 issue of Fine Scale Modeler on Page 7, Perry November wrote a poem about stashers.

What is a stasher?

I bought a box of plastic that cost \$3.99,

One day I will build it, when I have the time.

But days and months and years go by,

the time I could not find.

Then finally the day has come.

Yes. I made up my mind.

But when I went to look for it,

the kit could not find.

Storage sheds, the crawl space,

Opened every closet door.

No, I did not find it.

But I did find 800 more.

Fine Scale Modeler Editor's response - Perry, I, for one, have no idea what you are talking about... I know exactly where every kit is and ... Wait, what, When did I get that?

OMSS Journal Editor - No idea either what he is talking about. Check my closet. Yep. All 100 kits nicely stacked there. I'm saving those for when the grandkids come over. Show them how to build models. Then I remembered I was single. OK. So, I missed a step.

Does anyone in the OMSS have any idea what Perry is talking about? Please send your responses to the Editor. ianpearson560@gmail.com

Check your closets!

Also, anyone with articles for the Journal please have them in not later than November 20th. It will be sent to Gary on the 21st for release by December 10th. Sale Items may also be included.

Underground Railroad

Unless you have lived under a rock all your life, you are aware the Underground Railroad was the network by which the slaves were transported north to Canada prior to Emancipation obtained with the US Civil War. With no disrespect to the risks and sacrifices made by the players in that historic endeavour, we are looking to set up our own for the OMSS.

At the October Ottawa Chapter Zoom meeting we discussed the concept of establishing an 'Underground Railroad' by setting up volunteer 'Mules' or 'Coyotes' to move our toy soldier goods around Ontario. This is due to ever increasing postal rates, which can diminish the deals negotiated between club members.

Recently, Alex picked up soldiers from Scott in Bailieboro and transported them to Guelph. Jeff from Hillsburgh picked those up in Guelph. Bob brought items from Ottawa to Grant in Burlington (after a stop at Scott's), then to see Andy in Dundas who held items for Alex who drove over from Brantford to get them. On Bob's return, he stopped at Jim's in Brighton to drop off more items from Ottawa and delivered pieces back to Kanata. (not necessarily in that order). The names have not been changed to not protect the not so innocent.

If you are able to participate in such endeavours, please make it known on the OMSS Facebook sites or by contacting the Newsletter Editor or Bob at Thompson_robort@rogers.com .

Frank MacKay shares the following link on casting pewter in wooden molds. He is looking to try it and we may get a report in a future communication.

<https://makezine.com/projects/beskar-ingots-witcher-coins-from-laser-cut-billet-molds/>

The Last Word of a Civilian Bureaucrat

Remembrance Day is going to be limited as far as public attendance this year. But it does not reduce its impact or meaning. I was not raised in a military family, but we did live in Belgium for a year when I was 5. I was very much aware large world wars had been fought there. I still remember seeing the bunkers on the beaches of Normandy. Part of that was from the terror my older brothers inflicted by dragging me into one, telling me there were Nazi soldiers waiting for me. In the 1970's and 80's there seemed to be a malaise developing amongst my peers about its significance. But I watched that end with a greater emphasis in the media about its importance in the 1990's. I will never forget the Bell commercial of the young adult walking Juno Beach and calling his grandfather on a cell phone to say thanks. The principal of my daughter's elementary school was of Dutch heritage. This well-respected gentleman shared about the constant hunger in the winter of 1945. The Canadian troops brought not only liberation, but food. Our young lady told us at the dinner table how important it was to remember the sacrifices of the Canadian soldiers. And I think the appreciation continues in the younger generations thanks to social media.

To those in the Club who currently serve in the Armed Forces or have in the past -
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

The newsletter is edited by Alex Monsour.

News items and notices can be submitted to 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.