

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



Monthly Newsletter for April 2021

Monthly Meeting Dates for 2021

All meetings are cancelled until further notice.

Annual Show

The show is cancelled for 2021. Stay tuned for 2022.

Monthly Newsletter for April 2021

2021 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

OMSS Ottawa Chapter hosts a zoom meeting on the last Tuesday of the month. from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm or later. This is open to all OMSS members. For an invite and link, please contact Bob Thompson at Thompson_robert@rogers.com.



Letter from the President

Hello again to everyone.

While we have been unable to meet together as a club in person, we still have various means of meeting, either as smaller virtual groups, or one-on-one telephone calls. I have still connected, even being somewhat distracted myself recently – for some obvious reasons.

We still have no idea when (or if) we will be able to meet again at the Legion. The Executive are monitoring the situation. Personally, I hope that we will be able to meet beginning some time in the fall.

I see other positive signs in the hobby. Congratulations to Stuart Hessney on his new role as editor of Toy Soldier Collector & Historical Figures, as the successor to Toy Soldier & Model Figure magazine. The Garfields are planning the Chicago show for late September (whether we can visit, it remains to be seen at this point).

As mentioned last time, 2022 is the OMSS's 60th Anniversary. We need to start planning now, and on the assumption that we will be back to some form of "normalcy". As one idea, I hope that we can have a calendar for next year. The work that Frank and others have done in 2020 and continuing this year will not go to waste. We will also plan for other Club activities. The recent losses of Don, Les and Brownie remind me of the importance of remembering the past members who made the OMSS what it is today. But I also look to us to continue and build upon that legacy. Remember, there is still a Ritchie in the OMSS.

From Adversity to Accomplishment by Frank Barrett (member since 1970)

In these difficult COVID-19 times I have been struck by the combined talents of the executive and members at large who have produced interesting and informative Newsletters and Journal articles. These contributions have shown the wide range and knowledge of members of our club. In fact, this difficult period has revealed the breadth of talents that otherwise might have been hidden in a sunnier time.

I joined the club in October 1970. On Labour Day of that year while driving home from York University I had an accident. While recovering I read in a Scarborough paper about Gord Dumbleton. As many older members know Gord was one of the six original members of the club. I will never forget Gord's invitation to see his collection. As I descended the basement stairs Gord turned on the lights and I felt the hair on the back of my neck stand up. There it was row upon row of shelves of model soldiers that he had cast and painted. It took my breath away. Gord was a great teacher and I learned how to take a manufacturer's figure and create a silicone mold so I could pour several lead figures and paint them. At about the same time Don Ritchie learned the skills from Gord. Don went off to become a master mold maker who produced vast numbers and a variety of figures. As for me I made a real effort but as a young professor, well you know the story "publish or perish". I had to spend my time on research. It is one of the great sadnesses of my life that after publishing many academic papers, I thought I could spend more time on my hobby, but that was not to be. At one of the final shows of the year Gord and I planned to meet at his house once again. However, he had stroke and did not recover. Now approaching my 86th birthday my family are saying, "Dad you can not start to cast lead figures. You are not up to it." However, I have bought many band castings from Bob Prati so hopefully I will be able to glue them together.

To return to the theme of 'From Adversity to Accomplishment' these difficult times have shown the strength of the membership of our club and the prospect of a healthy club into our future.

When **Scott Dummitt** was not frequenting DooDoo's Bakery for her world-famous butter tarts in Baileboro, he had time to update us on what he has been working on: *"Over the past few months, I have been working on a 20 piece Pipes & Drums of the 15th Battalion British Airborne Regt. They are part of the Territorial (Army Reserve) regiments and stationed in Scotland. Thanks to Ian Pearson and Tradition of London I was able to find photos of the regiments tartan (Mackenzie), which is worn by the Pipers. The Drum Major and Drummers wear a standard blue patrol jacket and trousers with red piping. All members wear the Maroon Beret of the Airborne Division. A second project is the Pipes and Drums of the Royal Canadian Navy Apprentice Band, circa 1960. The band wore the standard square rig and round rig of the pre-unifications (the dark days of the service) Navy. It numbered up to 24 members including buglers. I have also been commissioned to produce a 20 piece military band of the Royal Canadian Regiment. Sadly, as another victim of budget cutbacks, the RCR band no longer exists. Today the Regiment relies on the Royal Canadian Artillery band or the Pipes & Drums of the RCR, 2nd Battalion (volunteer band) for musical accompaniment."*



It could well have been that the pipers of the Naval Technical School band at the moment this picture was taken were piping "The Road to the Isles"—meaning Japan. They were down at the jetty to play a rousing farewell to St. Laurent, Ottawa and Segouey on their departure for the Far East early in February. (©2003)



Quartermaster Store

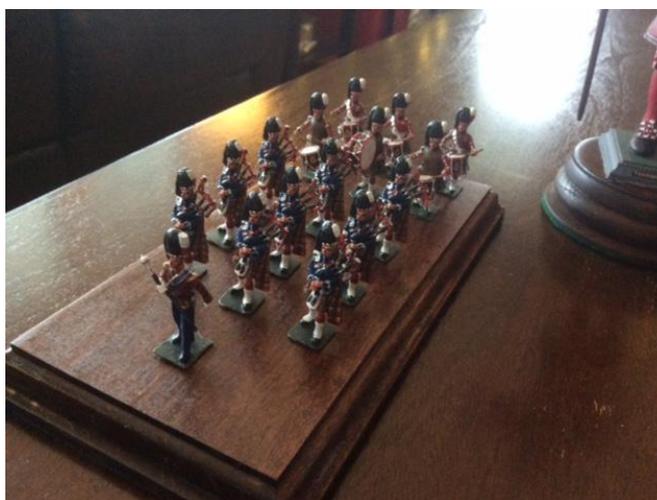
Jim Qualtrough does not sit idle in retirement or the pandemic.

If anyone is interested in adding some nicely finished wood bases to their soldiers, Jim is able to make these in cherry wood. They are prepared on a mini-lathe, varnished with red mahogany, followed by a satin polyurethane coating and come with a glued felt bottom to protect the glass or furniture.

Sizes range from about 1-1/2 inches to 4-1/2 inches with 1/2 to 3/4 inches thicknesses. Prices start at \$7.50 for the smaller ones up to \$15.00 for the larger size. For custom sizes for dioramas, please



Soldiers are for display purposes only.



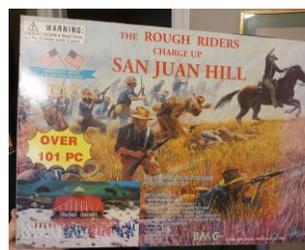
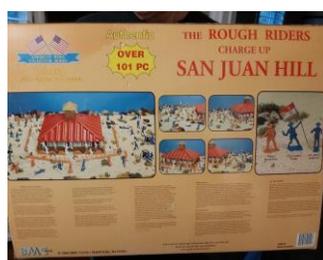
I have a limited number of copies of my father's paperback book, published in the 1970's, entitled *The Gold Cross, One Man's Window on the War*. It covers my father's WW2 experiences in the Canadian army and his serious wounding in Sicily 1943. The cost is \$10 Canadian including postage. Please contact me directly at dkdorward@sympatico.ca or call me. My telephone number is on the address list of the OMSS. Preferred payment is by electronic funds transfer. David Dorward

Quartermaster Store Cont'd

David Doward has some figures for sale all in their boxes. If interested, please contact him directly at dkdorward@sympatico.ca. He will quote you a price with postage.

Britains Zulu War - 20016 British Military Accessories Set No 1 – 11 pcs
 Britains Zulu War – 20007 British 24th Ft Defending Set No 1 – 2 pcs
 Britains Zulu War – 20024 Osprey Series Last Stand
 Britains Zulu War -20010 Zulu Warriors Attacking Set No 1 – 2 pcs
 Britains Zulu War -51002 Mealie Bag Wall Straight Sections – 2 pcs
 Britains US Civil War – 17564 Private 1st Virginia Cavalry Reg't with Fence
 Britains Premier Series Victoria Cross Heroes – Albert Ball 1896-1917

And the following:



Squadron Models of Carrollton, TX has gone out of business. Content and equipment are being auctioned off by Rosen Systems <https://www.rosensystems.com>. Bidding closes April 23rd at 10:00 AM.

Club member Robert Kennedy shares his experience during COVID.

Like most of our members I have been in quarantine since March 2020. Initially my involvement in Scouts Canada became either Zoom or Telephone Meetings. The same was for Army Cadets.

In September 2020, Scouts Canada got back into Face to Face meetings with Masks, not sharing materials (crayons, axes, etc). Army Cadets went to Virtual Meetings by Zoom with video support etc.

It has been announced for 2021 there was or will not be any face to face sleep over camps for both Scouts and Cadets. Cadets may be having local/regional one day or week long training activities but no sleeping at camp.

The Cadets hinted last week that Unit Exercises may be allowed starting in September 2021 but they will sleep in a tent by themselves.

Personally, I have only been leaving the house for groceries, liquids from a certain Ontario Government store and Shoppers Drug Mart for medications.

I hope all the other members are staying well. I am aware that some of the older members have been through similar sort of rough times.

Keep Calm, Carry On, Stay Safe!



What's New in the Hobby – April 2021

By Scott Dummitt

What a variety this month, something for everyone. First off Team Miniatures has just introduced a new series on Christopher Columbus's discovery of the New World. Every school child, when I was in public school, was taught the old phrase "In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue". The first offerings for these colourful figures include Columbus, a Priest, some foot soldiers and a 4 piece set depicting crew members erecting a cross. Prices vary from \$54.00 to \$175.00 Cdn. Other figures to be released in the series include members of the Taino tribe and various accessories.

Brendan Hogan pointed out to me something for the connoisseur painters, two new Canadian WWI Lewis Gun crew from Tommy's War in the UK. The two figures represent Privates of the 28th Battalion, the Canadian Expeditionary Force, 1918 and sell unpainted for appx \$32.00 Cdn each. The figures come as a 1/32nd scale kit.



Those of you who get subscriptions to military miniature magazines will be interested to see that there is a now new & improved version of Toy Soldier Collector. Guideline Publications has combined their Toy Soldier Collector Magazine, along with Ashdown Publication's Toy Soldier & Model Figure magazine to now become **Toy Soldier Collector & Historical Figures**. Guideline Publication bought up Ashdown and will now produce a 100 page magazine 6 to 7 times a year. Stuart Hessney, former Editor of TS&MF, is the new magazine's editor so we can expect that there will be a bit of a change from TSC's former format. In Canada you will still be able to purchase the new magazine from **SCOTT J. DUMMIT PRESENTS**, and there is also an online publication that you can subscribe to.

Thomas Gunn Miniatures has introduced a rather spectacular set of

the Japanese surrender to General McArthur onboard the USS Missouri to end the Second World War. The first three figures in this series include McArthur at the signature table, US General Wainwright, and British General Percival. Other figures in this historical setting will included the Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mamoru Shigemitsu, his aide and several Japanese senior army officers. Prices vary from \$58.00 to \$84.00 Cdn.



Boxer Rebellion in the Club

Excerpts from a member email exchange in March from Jeff Duncan to David Dorward.

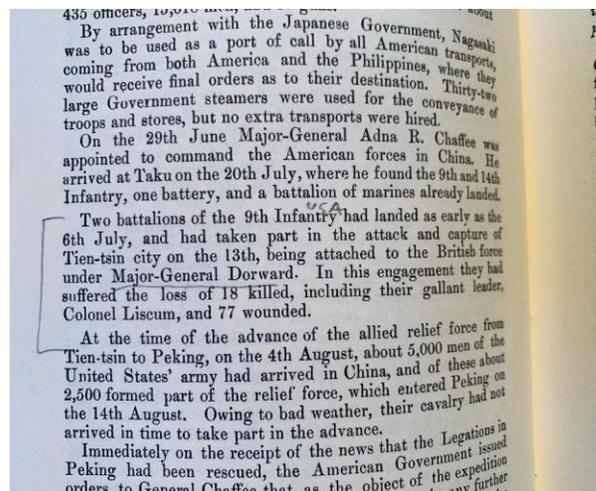
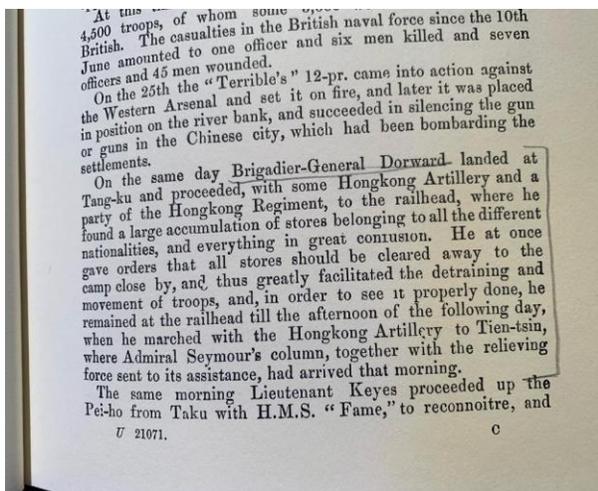
These are the old Trophy Miniatures of Wales Japanese Infantry from the Boxer Rebellion. I purchased these in about 1992. They are worth a small fortune now on ebay and at the auctions as with all Trophys figures. One of the only newer manufactures to have their figures worth more than what you bought them for! These I have always thought they look like one of the most bad ass firing squads of standing riflemen ever made! Neat about your relative! I am a big boxer rebellion guy and have a large collection of figures for this time period.



I have a "few" reference materials and books on the Boxer Rebellion. I picked up a reprint that was done in 1995 of the Official British War Office titled "Military Operations In China 1900-1901". It is over 500 pages long and has every unit and everything done for the British war effort in China. I mean everything from how much coal was used to the number of animals and the amount of hay and oats from Canada used in the Campaign.

I thought to see if your relative was listed in the Index book and he was! Over 6 times. Only the more senior commanders are usually listed in the Index of the Official accounts. He was a Colonel and was appointed to command the troops in North China and was promoted to Brigadier-General.

He commanded Allied troops as well including the Hong Kong Artillery, Japanese and American troops. On the 19th of August 1900 he was mentioned being in command of over 1000 troops from Britain, Japan, America and Austria leaving Tien-tsin heading to Peking.





Donald Carr Ritchie June 11, 1946 - March 23, 2021

I am saddened to announce that Don Ritchie passed away on the evening of March 23 after a long battle with cancer. Don was twice the President of the OMSS and a long time stalwart of the club. We will recall his presentations, discussions, auctioneering at the annual November Club Auction, his displays, his vendor table and his involvement with the On Parade show. We remember his contributions to the OMSS, the toy soldier hobby, trips to Chicago, Livonia, Valley Forge, Hackensack and Jim Hillstead's Toy Soldier Museum in the Poconos.

In addition to all of the club members who knew him, Don had many friends and contacts in the hobby, including the Osens, Ted Deddens, John Jenkins, Barzos, Andy Neilson, the Garfields, Jim Hillstead, Stuart Hessney, Joseph Saine and many others.

In addition to his own contributions to the club, he also acted often as a bridge between older members, many of whom are no longer with us, and the younger members. He helped the Club become what it is today We will continue into our 60th Anniversary and beyond, guided and inspired by the legacy of him and others.

I am sure that I speak on behalf of the OMSS members in offering condolences to the family – Joanne, sons Christopher (and Jen) and Michael, grandsons Johnnie, Connor and Lucas. As his brother, I will also miss him, but will also carry on his legacy in the OMSS.

Donnie has now joined other past members, where they can have a Wednesday meeting all of the time, and he has joined his and my parents.

Keith C. Ritchie
OMSS Club President

LAST MINUTE INSERTION:

HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh - 10 June 1921 – 9 April 2021 – Thank you for your service!

The Last Word of a Civilian Bureaucrat

For Christmas I received numerous plaster rock formations from my daughter. They will make nice accents to my Anglo-Zulu and War on the Nile collections. But upon placing them on the glass shelves I found the edges easily chipped. So, I decided I would glue them to sandstone coloured felt fabric that I had. It worked great. Nice sharp edging. But I ran out just as the lock downs were in full swing. A check on Michaels site and discovered they were out of stock of the felt across all of Ontario even with most of the colours. The Sarnia store had two pieces in sandstone, but I was not driving that far for a 59 cent piece of fabric. Was felt supply also a victim of the need for PPE?

We did check out a fabric store in Guelph which somehow remained open, perhaps due to other items including safety clothing. No sandstone there either. To the internet I went. Aliexpress, a division of Alibaba, identified Chinese sellers who did have sandstone felt fabric. For \$2 and free shipping, I ordered some. It arrived in early March. Just when Michaels suddenly restocked all of its felt fabric including sandstone. I opened the package to discover sandstone colour in China is a coral peach! Off to Michaels, and now all of my plaster rocks are now felted and in the cabinets.

I had also ordered some white felt 2 weeks later. It just arrived. It was actually white!

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.

Joel Wagman

Some members may recall Joel Wagman who was a member from 2000-2012. He was an active member for most of that time and was a regular at the monthly meetings. However we lost contact with him. We have just learned that he passed away recently on February 2nd.

Thanks to Ed Tansley for the tip.

