

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



Monthly Newsletter for October 2021

Monthly Meeting Dates for 2021

We are resuming monthly meetings!
 Sunday November 14 Sunday December 12
 See page 2 for details.

Annual Show

It's on! Sunday June 12, 2022. See page 2 for details.

**Monthly
 Newsletter for
 October 2021**

2021 Executive
 Keith Ritchie
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Frank MacKay
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 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



October and Thanksgiving will be by us by the time you read this. I hope that all are well and staying safe. We are re-opening society the economy, but slowly and rules are still evolving. And we are heading into the colder weather, with flu and cold season approaching.

The Chicago Show went ahead in late September. Today I saw news of a toy soldier show scheduled for New Jersey on November 6th (not the Eastcoaster Hackensack Show). With border restrictions still in place, it is not practical for most of us to visit.

On the same day of the Chicago Toy Soldier Show (September 26th), there was a Celebration of Life for former club president, Don Ritchie – who also happens to be my late brother. There was a good representation of provincial OMSS club members present. On behalf of Joanne and the Ritchie family, I want to thank the speakers for their participation. I think the presentations from club members, former Rovers, insights from Chris and Michael, Don's sons, and myself, gave insight into the wide scope of Don's interests and accomplishments.

When we can meet as a club in person again, we plan to commemorate and remember Don and along with others we have lost in the past two years.

The get-together north of Peterborough also allowed for exchanges through the OMSS Underground Railroad. So we are keeping things alive. We are still investigating how and when we can get together in person.

In the meantime, I hope that you and your friends and families stay safe. Keep in touch, and please contribute to the Journal and the Newsletter.

Monthly Meetings Resume

Starting in November we will be resuming monthly meetings at Branch 643 of the Royal Canadian Legion (110 Jutland Rd, Etobicoke,). Dates for the rest of this year are:

Sunday November 14 Sunday December 12 (Dates for 2022 will be announced shortly.)

We will keep these first two meetings simple to start with and forgo our annual auction and Christmas lunch. But we're sure everyone will be glad to see their fellow members in person after so long. Flea market as usual and Show and Tell is encouraged. Usual schedule – doors open 11 am, formal meeting at 1:00 pm.

We will be required to follow the Legion's policies regarding Covid-19 precautions. These follow the current Ontario government regulations for public gatherings. Keith has put these into a separate document that is being sent out with this newsletter and will be available on our website for reference.

ON PARADE 2022 Sunday June 12, 2022

Our annual show "On Parade" will resume in 2022 (pause for hearty cheers). However Humber College have informed our show chairman Scott Dummitt that they are not booking outside events for next year so we have had to find a new venue – we hope for just one year. We will be holding the show at Branch 643 of the Royal Canadian Legion (110 Jutland Rd, Etobicoke), where we hold our monthly meetings.

We have reserved the whole of the Legion for that day- from 7am to 6 pm, both the hall and the club room. The Legion has activities on Saturdays so we have had to shift the show to Sunday for this year. Public open hours will be 10 am to 4 pm and admission will be the usual \$5. (Early bird entry at 9am is an extra \$5.)

As the venue is somewhat smaller we will have to scale back some aspects of the show. Scott will be contacting vendors who had committed for our 2020 show and they will have priority. So don't plan any monster displays.

We will have to abide by the Legion's rules as they reflect the government public health regulations for gatherings. As things stand today that means attendees must be vaccinated and masks worn – see the rules for monthly meetings as referenced above. We may see things loosen up further by next June.

Detailed planning is underway and more information will be shared in the newsletter and on our website as we get closer.

Membership Dues

We waived membership dues for 2021 due to having to suspend most of our activities because of the pandemic. Now that we are able to resume meetings we will revert to regular dues for 2022. The rate remains the same as previously at \$40 per year. Dues for 2022 will be payable in January. Your friendly treasurer Gary Lenius will be happy to take your money at that time. Details will follow in a month or so, including methods of online payment.

ALL ABOOOOARD!!

The photo below shows the OMSS Underground Railway parcels loaded up and ready to depart to Ennismore (Peterborough) for the Celebration of life for Don Ritchie.



HEAR ALL ABOUT IT!!

Hello OMSS members! The Society has recently come into possession of a wonderful large donation of toy soldiers and history books from member Dave Kelly's family. His wife Shelia contacted us about the potential donation. Big thanks to Scott Dummitt, Ian Pearson, and Jim Qualtrough for coordinating and helping the family as they were in the process of moving.

The monthly Newsletter will be featuring 3-4 lots each month with a fair and reasonable price. If you wish to purchase a lot, send an email on a first come-first served basis and payment will be arranged. The item can be shipped via Canada Post (at your cost) or free through our internal OMSS Underground Railway (with a wait time of typically 3-5 weeks). However, you need to live somewhere close to our traveled routes. Items not sold via the monthly Newsletter will be featured at the OMSS Ottawa Chapter's bi-monthly Swap Meet sale, a fun low key auction format. Or in person at our meetings (once resumed), the Annual Show or in the monthly Draw Table event.

As a perk of membership, we do not open up the sale of these items to the general public through such avenues of Facebook. Potentially scoring a good deal has always been a fun part of membership. However, the donated sale items will go public if the above methods do not move the product within the membership. They were donated ultimately in good faith to support our Society and we do not want to have a slew of stock on hand. So step up and happy hunting.

To purchase a featured item on Page 3 contact: **Jeff Duncan 1-519-855-6134**
heidihogardens@rogers.com

Disclaimer: The Editor receives no commission for featured items sold through the Newsletter.

QUARTERMASTER STORE

1. **FREE** MILITARY, REFERENCE AND GENERAL HISTORY BOOKS FROM LES ESLARY'S LIBRARY COLLECTION. SEND ME YOUR WANTS AND I SHALL ENDEAVOUR TO FIND THEM FOR YOU. NO SHIPPING COSTS IF COLLECTED OR SENT VIA OMSS UNDERGROUND RAILROAD. CONTACT ANDY TRAVERSE.

2. FOR SALE: COLLECTION OF BRITAINS GLOSSY FIGURES, BOXED SETS ETC. MOSTLY CEREMONIAL. ALL PROCEEDS TO BE DONATED TO CHARITY AND PRICES ARE VERY ATTRACTIVE. CONTACT ANDY TRAVERSE FOR DETAILS.

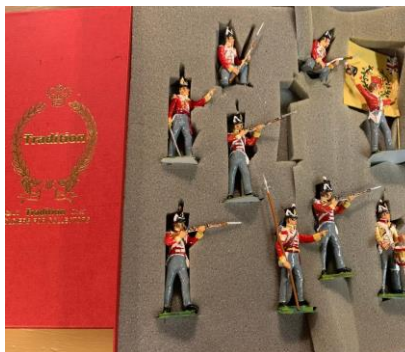
3. FOR SALE: LARGE BRITAINS ZULU WAR COLLECTION, MAINLY RORKE'S DRIFT SET UP INCLUDING BUILDINGS AND ACCESSORIES ETC. FOR DETAILS CONTACT ANDY TRAVERSE.

Andy can be reached at andytraverse123@gmail.com.

As author of "Ernest Ibbetson Military Artist and Adventure Story Illustrator" (2008), I have decided to sell my collection of Ibbetson's original watercolour paintings. These are signed by Ibbetson and in matted frames 14.5" x20". I am offering these watercolours to members of the club on a first refusal basis. The paintings range from Edwardian scarlet tunics to 1947 uniforms of army, navy, and airforce including some women's units. The price is \$100.00 per painting. I can be contacted at fabarrett35@gmail.com and viewed at 122 Allanford Rd Toronto Agincourt M1T 2N5 (416 293 2880).
(Frank has been a member of OMSS since 1970)

LOT 1

Tradition (made in England) boxed set of 9 British Infantry of the Line Battle of Waterloo \$110



LOT 2

Steadfast Ltd Zulu Warriors \$25



LOT 3

Unmarked German Artillery Crew of 4 and Cannon \$35



LOT 4

Boxed Britains Ltd Santa Anna with Certificate \$35



Whats New in the Hobby – October 2021

By S. J. Dummitt

Things seem to have slowed down with the manufacturers that I am used to dealing with, however there are a few new interesting figures out there this month.

Thomas Gunn Miniatures have re-introduced their new Boer War highlanders with rank chevrons this month. Included in the trio are a Gordon Highlander advancing with his rifle at the trail, a Gordon Highlander charging and a second Gordon charging wearing a Glengarry instead of the usual pith helmet. All three figures will be available as a Lance Corporal, Corporal or Sergeant and will be limited to only 40 in number of each. They are approximately \$62.00 Cdn each. In the WWII range, Gunn is releasing a unique utility truck, the Japanese Kurogane with a driver. There is also a version without the driver. They are going to sell for approximately \$187.00 Cdn and \$137.00 Cdn each. Gunn has also introduced 4 more US Marines in Korea on patrol to the series he released a few months ago.

William Britain Ltd has received in several new Union Infantry figures from the Irish Brigade and the Iron Brigade this month. Not much more however on their books and the Club Figures are expected in the late Fall.



De Watteville Regimental Colour

Kronprinz Miniatures have added the King's Colours to their two War of 1812 British Regiments. Shown here are the Regimental Colours as they are a little more colourful and unique. Foot figures include Officers, NCO, Privates and a Fifer. Figures sell for approximately \$51.00 Cdn each, with the Colours going at \$57.00. Several members who have purchased this Spanish line of figures were surprisingly pleased. The figures are around 1/30th scale and painted in a matte finish, with textured bases. There is a wide field of choices from the Renaissance period to World War Two. The company has just introduced a series of 28 mm ship's sailing crew. While these figures represent the 18th century Spanish Navy, many can be used to fill out crews on any ship of that time period. This little known company is worth checking out.



104th Regt of Foot (The New Brunswick Regiment) Regimental Colour

Issue 102 of Toy Soldier Collector has just been released for distribution as well.

Of Movie Note:

Operation Mincemeat.

This is a big budget Warner Brothers film about WWII with Hollywood star Colin Firth coming in 2022! Director John Madden and the Producers are from "The Kings Speech" movie. This is based upon the true events of the British deception plan for the invasion of Sicily.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zADD-0rCr-U>.

Another Mark Felton History Video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FEA0dN3aTR0&list=RDCMUCfCKvREB11-fxyotS1ONqww&start_radio=1

Unknown Japanese Attack on Golden Gate Bridge

Golden Gate Torpedo Attack - Japanese Assault on San Francisco 1941

On October 15th, 1522 Emperor Karel I of Spain named Hernan Cortes as governor of Mexico. Time to add a Spanish Conquistador to your model soldier collection.

The Last Word of a Civilian Bureaucrat

After collapsing a month ago, my 96 year old father finally admitted he was no longer 80 and agreed to move into a retirement home where he can have access to 24 hour care and monitoring. He was into model railroading rather than toy soldiers. Unfortunately, the past decade the track sat idle in the basement of my childhood home falling into neglect and dysfunction. Although some aspects of the cars and track were scooped up by the son of our real estate agent, by the time you read this, the rest will have been tossed into a dumpster.

It has me reflecting on what may happen to my toy soldier collection in 40 years. Will there still be an interest in the hobby from the younger generation (or even grandchildren?) that the figures might pass on to? Or will they meet the same fate as the railroad set and end up in a dumpster. Not to send a down message, but rather a reminder that despite their future, I am going to enjoy the hobby to the fullest here and now. And also, to make sure that my collection will not sit idle and neglected as I age. And based on my father's physiology which I seem to follow, that could be a long time into the future.

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.