

# The Ontario Model Soldier Society

Founded 1962  
www.omss.ca



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2nd vice-president

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Scott Dummitt  
Annual Show Chairman

Alex Monsour  
Newsletter Editor

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Frank MacKay  
Calendar Co-ordinator

Jeff Duncan  
Club Table & Donations

OMSS Archivist  
Ian Pearson

## Monthly Newsletter for January 2022

### Monthly Meeting Dates for 2022

Next meeting Sunday, 23 January is **CANCELLED**  
Branch 643 Royal Canadian Legion 110 Jutland Road Toronto  
Meeting starts at 1:00 pm. Doors open 11:00 am

**February 13th - March 13th - April 10th - May 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**September 11th - October 16th - November 13th - December 11th**

### Annual Show

The show will be at the Legion. Sunday, June 12th, 2022.

OMSS Ottawa meetings will be resuming in person gatherings with continued Swap Meets by Zoom meetings every other month. Both are open to all OMSS members. For an invite and link, please contact Bob Thompson at [thompson\\_robort@rogers.com](mailto:thompson_robort@rogers.com).

### Letter from the President



Happy New Year to everyone! I hope that all members and their friends and families had an enjoyable and safe holiday season.

Unfortunately, we are starting off 2022 in much of the same way that we spent most of 2020 and 2021 – with the continuing spread of

a variant of COVID-19. Due to lockdown restrictions that prevent large gatherings for now, the Legion is closed. We canceled the in-person meeting scheduled for January 23.

We will monitor on a month-by-month basis and resume in-person meetings when allowed. In the meantime, we will continue with communication via telephone, emails, Zoom calls, the Newsletter and Journal. There will likely be Zoom meetings hosted by Robert Thompson, as he sees fit.

Frank MacKay informed me that a former OMSS member and Club President, Tommy Thompson, passed away in January, after a lengthy illness. We express our condolences to the family, and I am sure that many members will remember Tommy fondly.

Our work with the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary book will remember the evolution of the OMSS, past members and to be inspired by them.

In the meantime, with the lockdown (and the bitter cold outside as I am writing this), re-connect with your toy soldiers and work on what you want to exhibit at On Parade in June. I am optimistic that the show will go on this year.

### 2022 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

For 2022 we will be going back to collecting annual membership dues. Dues are payable as of January at the same rate as previous years: \$40 for regular members, \$25 for family and junior members.

You can pay treasurer Gary Lenius at the monthly meeting or send a cheque to:

**OMSS 43 Saugeen Cres. Toronto ON M1K 3M8**

If you use online banking, you can pay your dues through an Interac e-transfer. Just send it to the email address: **treasurer@omss.ca**

Or, if you prefer to use Paypal use the address: **omss@bell.net**

### 2022 SHOW NEWS – Sunday June 12<sup>th</sup>

The Executive reminds all display and competition participants that due to the very limited space of the legion hall; the maximum size of table will be 30” x 48” (2-1/2 feet x 4 feet). 2-1/2 feet x 2 feet options will be available for smaller displays. This is per person.

**THERE WILL NO EXCEPTIONS** so please plan your layout accordingly. Thanks.

### Steel Structures That Defended Britain During World War Two

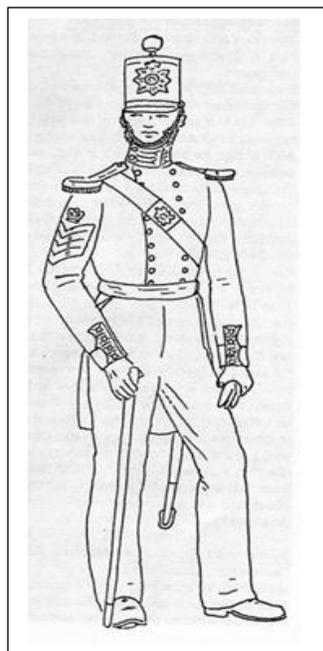
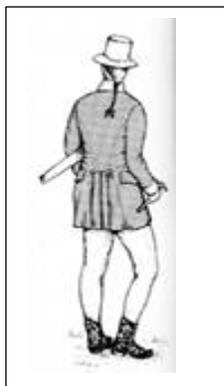
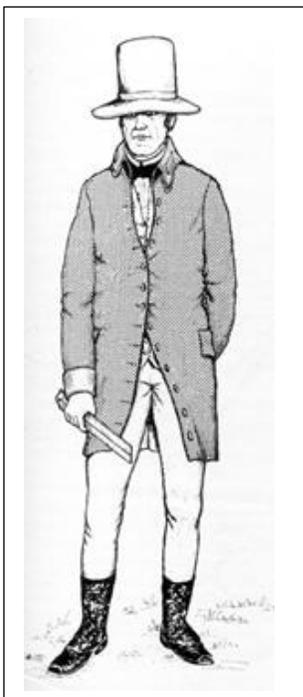
Three massive steel forts protected London from sea surface and aerial attack. During the Second World War, the City of London was a major target for both naval and aerial bombardment. In 1943, numerous towers were built in the Thames Estuary as anti-aircraft defences to protect the capital. Known as the Red Sands Forts, these Star Wars Walker-like constructions were initially built on land and floated out to sea in 1943.

These bizarre steel structures helped defend Britain during World War Two. The soldiers stationed there shot down a total of 22 attacking German aircraft and 30 doodlebugs, protecting densely populated London from even more devastation. Later in the war, the equipment was replaced, and removed soon after. The forts were eventually abandoned in 1958. It wasn't until 1964 that the Forts served a new purpose. Screaming Lord Sutch set up Radio Sutch (a pirate radio station) in one of the old towers.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y60iL-jMyIQ>

Do want to see a good summary about Britains Deetail line or simply a trip down memory lane here is a great video from Collectors Guy:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XuYYGpixIa0>



## The Soldier Artificer Company

Taken from Tradition Magazine  
Number 51 / page 11 / Article AJ Wright  
(Article is a condensed and only one uniform is given.)

After the taking of Gibraltar in 1704 it was decided that the employing civilian artisans and labourers was not working. As a result, men were recruited with building skills to work under the Engineer Department. Later it was decided that a proper organised unit be formed for this purpose.

Working Dress - plain long red jacket with single row of brass buttons down the front, the buttons being identical to those worn on the uniform coat; working jacket had a roll collar and like the cuffs faced in orange yellow with a large pocket each side covered with a broad slash; two of the large brass buttons were worn at the small of the back of the jacket; a white flannel waistcoat (no lacing) worn under the coat; White pantaloons worn with short black gaiters that reached just above the ankle and fastened at the side with five small brass buttons; Neckwear was a personal choice; Stocks of leather, velvet, silk or black handkerchiefs were used indiscriminately; Leather or heavy canvas aprons were worn by those whose work necessitated the use of an extra hard wearing material; White hats about six inches in height with a straight pole and broader than normal with a 1 inch wide yellow band around the bottom of

## Sgt. Major 1<sup>st</sup> Royal Regiment

Taken from Dispatch – The Journal of the Scottish Military Historical Society  
No. 72 Autumn 1974 / ten by JT Thomson

**Shako** – Albert pattern, black beaver bound with black leather. Black leather peak in front and a smaller on behind. Gilt star plate decorated with battle honours etc. Gilt chin chain and side ornaments, white ball turf with red base, gilt holder.

**Coatee** – Scarlet, silver buttons and lace on collar front and cuff flap. Silver lace strap, silver crescent with short silver buttons.

**Collar and cuffs** – Dark blue

**Trousers** – Lavender shade, worn only during summer. In winter black trousers with a tin red stripe.

**Sash** – Crimson, knot and fringe on left.

**Shoulder sword belt** – White, gilt plate with silver device. Black leather scabbard gilt mounts.

**Cane** – Brown wood, gilt top and tip.

**Footwear** – Black

**Gloves** – White

## What's New in the Hobby, January 2022

By Scott Dummitt

Starting off let's look at King & Country's new Civil War offering, the 83<sup>rd</sup> Pennsylvania in full attack pose. Leading the regiment is Col. John McLain, mounted on his steed, plus there are six other infantrymen in the initial release. More to come. Another interesting K&C set is "Turning the Tables" based on French Resistance Fighters and their German captives. K&C has



**King & Country's 83<sup>rd</sup> Pennsylvania charges to the orders of Colonel McLain**

introduced 5 new figures to this series. Other new items are from the Vietnam era and the Battle of the Little Big Horn. The mounted figures are selling for approximately \$160 Cdn, while the foot figures are going for \$57 to \$83 Cdn.

Team Miniatures plans on releasing a new series of Templar Crusaders sometime in January. The initial series will consist of 5 mounted and 2 foot figures all wonderfully animated in attacking positions and displaying different sets of armoured helmets. The mounted knights will sell for approximately \$141 Cdn while the foot knights are sold as a pair only at \$137 Cdn. You can see more detail of these figures by visiting the Team Miniature web site and clicking on "The Battle of Legnica, 1241".

The British Toy Soldier Company has added a new figure to their "Siege of Gibraltar" series with the introduction of a Fifer to go along with their 1790s British drummer and figures. These detailed gloss figures cover the period between the American Revolution and the early Napoleonic Wars. Single figures sell for approximately \$35.00 Cdn each.

Lastly ISSUE 103 of Toy Soldier Collector & Historical Figures magazine has been released and is available at Chapters, The Hobby Centre (Ottawa) and SCOTT J. DUMMITT PRESENTS (Bailieboro).



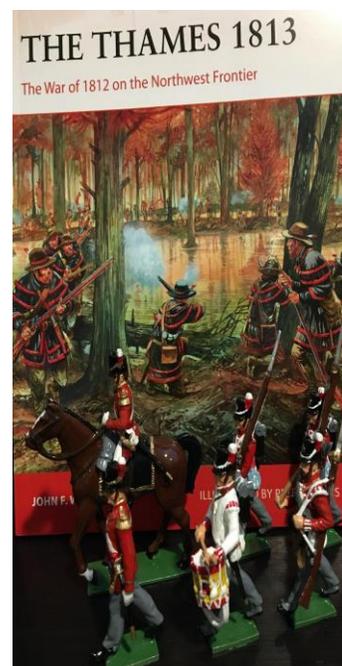
**Team Miniatures' new Templar Crusaders in full flight including two foot figures and 5 mounted.**

## 41<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Foot in the War of 1812

By: Brendan Hogan

As a War of 1812 aficionado, I am always on the lookout for soldiers on both sides of the conflict. While companies like W. Britain and John Jenkins Designs have covered aspects of the war, none have produced figures from the 41<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Foot. During the Napoleonic Wars, the 41<sup>st</sup> embarked for the West Indies in 1793, took part in the capture of Martinique in March 1794, and the attack on Guadeloupe in April 1794. The 41<sup>st</sup> was posted to Canada in 1800. It fought under Major-General Isaac Brock at the siege of Detroit in August 1812 and the Battle of Queenston Heights in October 1812. Following Brock's death, the 41<sup>st</sup> fought under Major-General Henry Procter at the Battle of Frenchtown in January 1813 and participated in the siege of Fort Meigs in April 1813. The 41<sup>st</sup> faced defeat at the Battle of the Thames in October 1813 before participating in the capture of Fort Niagara in December 1813.

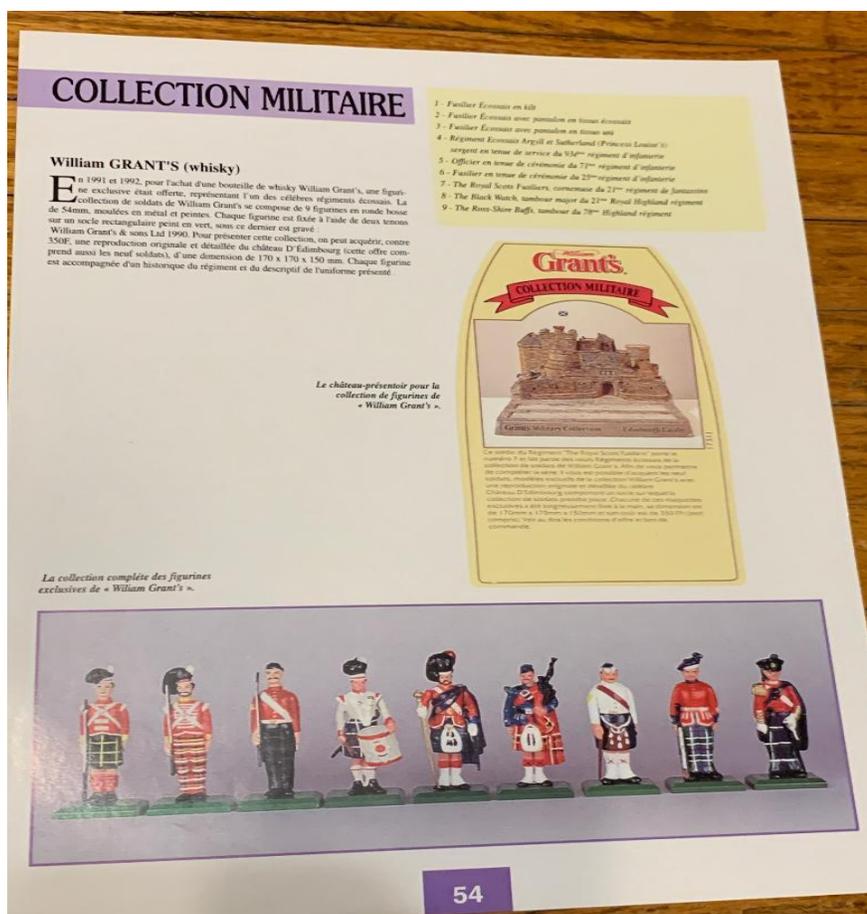
To represent the 41<sup>st</sup>, I bought castings of the British Guards infantry from the Napoleonic Wars by Tradition of London from Scott J. Dummitt Presents and asked Scott to paint them up as the 41<sup>st</sup>. Since the castings have the Belgic shako, Scott recommended painting them as the 41<sup>st</sup> would have appeared during the 1814 Niagara campaign. The mounted officer, marching officer, drummer, pioneer, and two infantrymen are painted in the traditional toy soldier style. If you are looking for more information on the 41<sup>st</sup>, I highly recommend reading the memoirs of Private Shadrack Byfield, who served with the regiment throughout the War of 1812 before losing his arm at the Battle of Conjocta Creek in August 1814.



Naval interests in the Kriegsmarine? Captain Otto Kretschmer of U-99 sunk 44 ships Sept 1939-March 1941. He was as one of the intended escapees in addition to the Adjutant of Karl Dornitz that were held in Bowmanville Ontario. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vpWBVxN2F0E>

## From Jeff Duncan

At our last Ottawa Swap Meet a discussion came up about the Grants' Britains give-away/promotional figures. I came across this write up and photo of them and the Castle in a French hardcover book on advertising miniatures.



**History Moment: January 1, 1801** - Ireland was added to Great Britain by an Act of Union thus creating the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

## The Last Word of a Civilian Bureaucrat

I am just back from Saskatoon for a post Christmas celebration with our kids and their new puppy (more like a black bear cub with teeth). A highlight of the trip was a visit to a hobby shop in the downtown where I picked up some birch bark style trees for my colonial war theme as well as some palm trees. While in the store, I noticed an advertisement for the Saskatoon Farm Toy and Collectible Show which was the day we departed. The store owner said he had never been but that he thought it was all agriculture models. Had time allowed I may have checked it out despite thoroughly being a city boy.

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.