

The Ontario Model Soldier Society

Founded 1962
www.omss.ca



Brig. Gen. Darrell Dean (Ret'd)
Honorary President

2023 Executive

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2nd Vice-President

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Ottawa Chapter Chairman

Gary Lenius
Secretary/Treasurer

Mark Silverthorn
Social Media and
Program Chairman

Jim Qualtrough
Annual Show Chairman

Keith Ritchie
Past President

Newsletter for October 2023

Next Toronto meeting Sunday, October 15th, 2023
Branch 643 Royal Canadian Legion, 110 Jutland Road, Toronto
Meeting starts at 1:00 pm, Doors open at 11:00 am

OMSS Ottawa in person meeting is scheduled for October in addition to online meetings via Zoom which are open to all OMSS members. Contact Bob Thompson at Thompson_robert@rogers.com for details.

Upcoming Events

CAPCON 2023—hosted by IPMS Ottawa
Saturday Oct 14, 2023
Canadian War Museum, Ottawa Ont

New Jersey Toy Soldier Show
Sunday Oct 15, 9am-3pm
Wayne Police Athletic League, 1 Pal Drive, Wayne, New Jersey, USA.

Peterborough Militaria Show
Saturday Oct 21, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Peterborough Armoury, 220 Murray Street, Peterborough Ont.
OMSS will have a table at this show

OMSS Virtual Meeting via 'Zoom'
Tuesday October 24, 2023 7pm
Email Bob Thompson for an details

October's OMSS Ottawa In Person Meeting
Wednesday November 1, 2023

Toronto's October Speaker

The Traditional Toy Soldier presented by Jeff Duncan

Almost of our members collect toy soldiers in some form or another. New figures, gloss, matt, solid and hollowcast old standards like Britains Ltd. The talk will be a walk through traditional toy soldiers from the early 1900's to the mid 2000's time period covering a whole host of manufacturers from mass produced to cottage type figures from around the world.

Jeff has been an enthusiastic, dedicated member of the OMSS for over 25 years. He is primarily an collector of older toy soldiers and has amassed an extensive collection of figures. He will be showcasing examples from his collection to discuss how we got to today in the evolution of toy soldier figures. Jeff has won over two dozen On Parade awards, attended about 15 Chicago toy soldier shows and has had many articles and notes published in several Toy Soldier magazines as well as the OMSS Journal.



President's Message

Now the kids are back in school and summer vacations come to an end, it is time to dig out our paints and get back to painting soldiers and building dioramas. The fall also brings a time when hobby show's resume. I particularly look forward to hearing from those that have the opportunity attend the Chicago or New Jersey shows.

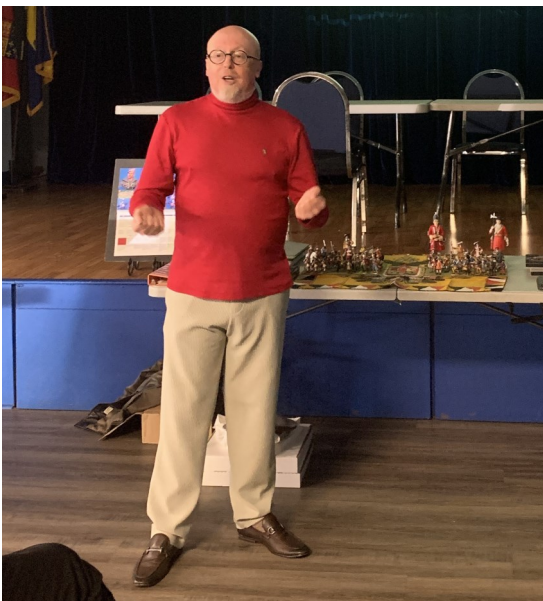
Both the Toronto and Ottawa chapters had well attended meetings in September. In Toronto, Eric Shaw gave a very interesting talk regarding the Development of European armies in the 17th century which generated lots of questions and interesting discussion amongst the attendees. Ottawa's meeting topic was "Operation Market Garden", the famous Allied offensive that took place in September 1944. The virtual meetings via Zoom chaired by Bob Thompson continue to be popular. Bob's meetings always generate a friendly competition between the chapters to see whether 'Toronto' or 'Ottawa' generates the most attendees. In addition to meetings, Ottawa also held another successful "parking lot sale" on September 16, followed afterwards with a lively get-together at their local watering hole.

I am pleased to announce that Mark Silverthorn has accepted the position of Social Media Chairman. The purpose of this new role is to coordinate the information the club publishes on Facebook, the OMSS website, YouTube, etc. to ensure we deliver consistent and engaging information to both members and the public.

The executive committee is going to trial moving their monthly meeting to a virtual format that will be held separately from the Toronto chapter's in-person meeting. This will accomplish several things; an Ottawa chapter representative can now participate in the meeting, and it allows the Toronto executive members to fully participate in the club's in-person meetings.

The OMSS will have a display at the Peterborough Militaria Show on Sunday October 15 to spread the word about our club and the hobby. We can always use extra help to 'man' the table throughout the day. If you are interested in lending a hand, please speak to anyone on the club executive. It would be beneficial for the club to participate in area hobby shows like this more frequently, but of course that is up to you, the OMSS members, to make it happen by volunteering to lend a hand.

One final note is to remind everyone the club's Annual General meeting has been rescheduled from October 15 to the November 19 Toronto meeting when the club auction will also be held. Moving the date allows those who wish to attend the New Jersey show can do so without missing our AGM.



Eric Shaw making his presentation Development of European armies in the 17th century at the September meeting.

What's New in the Hobby: October 2022

By Scott J. Dummitt

"God Save the King!", finally the WWII figure I have been waiting many years for. King George VI was an inspirational War Time leader ranking alongside Churchill and Roosevelt. Along with Queen Elizabeth and the two Princesses, he and his family visited war devastated areas, hospitals, troop camps and more. The first batch available should be arriving in late October early November. The new figure should look great beside William Britain Ltd.'s Princess Elizabeth in her ATS uniform.

King & Country has just released some new armour for its Vietnam War series. Both sets represent the USMC Tank Corps which saw quite a bit of action in South East Asia. The one pictured in this article is a M48A3 Patton Main Battle Tank, nicknamed the "Witch Bitch". It comes complete with a full body Marine Tank Commander armed with a CAR15 Carbine as well as a "head 'n' shoulders crewman.

It's Siege of Malta series. These colourful figures depict the Knight Hospitallers and Maltese Militia that battled and held off a huge Ottoman Turk Army in 1565. It proved to Europe that the Turks could be beaten and proved an inspiration to other European kingdoms.

Jenkins has also released several new figures to its Battle of Cowpens series including a 17th Dragoon trooper, British Legion Trooper and a Continental Light Cavalry Trooper. My favourite to the recently released list is the Drummer Boy of the 71st Regiment (Fraser Highlanders) of Foot, with his colourful lace Jacket.



William Britain Ltd's King George VI



King & Country's M48A3 Patton Main Battle Tank, "The Witch Bitch"



Right: 71st Regiment (Fraser Highlander) of Foot, Drummer

Left: The Knights Hospitallers and Maltese Militia, c. 1565



OMSS Ottawa Chapter Report - September 2023

submitted by Tom Wright

Hi folks!

I hope you are ready for the upcoming season. OMSS-Ottawa had a busy September and is looking forward to October. For this report I would like to thank Doug Cope, our minute(s) man, for much of the content in this report. Also I would like to thank Scott Paget for his pictures of our Parking Lot sale.

September 2023

This past September we participated in the OMSS Zoom meeting, held a parking lot sale and held our in person meeting with 13 in attendance.

For our September in person meeting we had 7 presenters for our show-and-tell topic of “Market Garden”. See Section 2 of the newsletter for **September in Detail** for Doug’s comments and my pictures.

Juan L (our 1/6 scale 3D printing guy) coordinated our **parking lot sale** with about 6 vendors. I believe this was a first for OMSS-Ottawa. Also we were fortunate that Scott Paget filmed the event, which you can see at <https://youtube/nBOCjGrLjKk?si=nywwUcXsiNOXFDLV> .

For the Zoom meeting Egor Z gave a very interesting presentation on the development of “the Young Patriot” figure, which was available for sale at the September Zoom meeting.

For more on September and what is coming in October see **September in Detail** in Section 2 of the newsletter.



Welcome to the OMSS Parking Lot sale



Lots of goodies were to be found too.

OMSS: North and South meet at Chicagoland 2023

Keith Ritchie (OMSS past-President) and Norm Cuthbert (now living in Charlotte, North Carolina) met up at the Chicagoland Toy Soldier Show. Long-time members would remember Norm, who was active with the OMSS when living in Toronto. Norm welcomes club members to contact him if they are heading down his way. He is very active with a club in his local area. Norm also had the opportunity to catch with OMSS archivist and Journal editor Ian Pearson at the Chicagoland Show too.

It just goes to show, you never know who you will meet by attending events like a Toy Soldier show.



The OMSS YouTube channel is coming soon

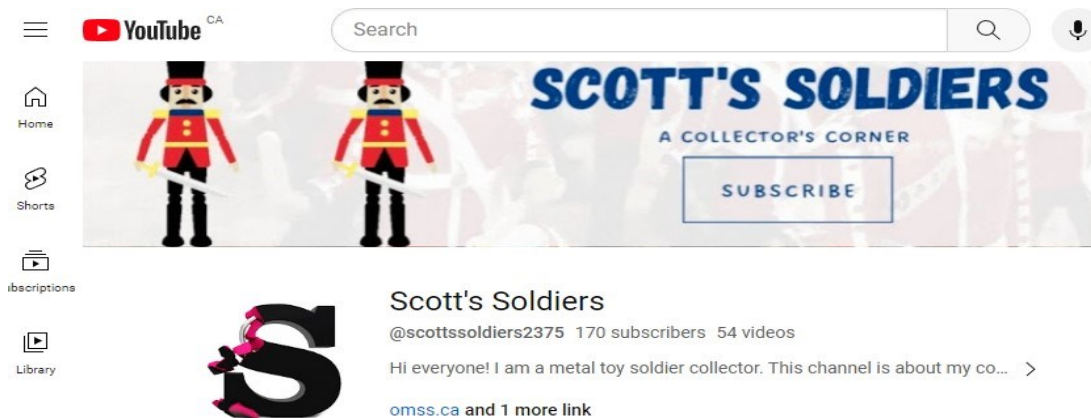
As mentioned in the President's message, Mark Silverthorn has agreed to step up and assume the position of "Social Media Chairman"

Mark has many short movies he plans to make to kick-off the channel and generate interest. For starters, the club's Honourary President, Darrell Dean has graciously agreed to be interviewed about his toy soldier collecting and have it published on YouTube.

Mark also plans to record short segments of Toronto's in person meetings (with the agreement of the individuals involved) to create a historical record and at the same time show everyone what takes place at our meetings.

We will share the link with everyone once the channel is up and running...

And if you like watching videos, don't forget to check out; Scott's Soldiers on YouTube hosted by our very own Scott Paget (OMSS Ottawa)



<https://www.youtube.com/@scottsoldiers2375>



Looking for that missing piece to finish your project?



The OMSS Spare Parts Box will be available at every Toronto meeting. It contains a wealth of spare figure parts and modeling bits and pieces of every kind--and they all belong to YOU!

The rules are simple: if you take something and find it useful, replace it with something of equal value--if not now, then at the next meeting.



Quartermaster Store

Just a reminder that OMSS members are welcome to list items they are looking for or wish to sell in the Quartermaster Store section of the newsletter

I'll bet you didn't know....

Things Invented by Canadians



Twitter: @MeanwhileInCana
Instagram: MeanwhileInCanada1

- Peanut Butter
- IMAX
- Discovered Insulin
- Hodgkin's disease cure
- Maple Syrup
- California Roll
- Superman
- Basketball
- The Walkie-Talkie
- Hockey Goalie Mask
- The Instant Replay
- Plexiglass
- Trivial Pursuit
- The Paint Roller
- Ebola Vaccine
- Electric Wheelchair
- Hydrofoil
- Snowmobile
- Snow Blower
- Sonar
- Ice Hockey
- Table Hockey
- Electron Microscope
- Cardiac Pacemaker
- Caesar Cocktail
- Egg Carton
- Caulking Gun
- The Garbage Bag

MiC



"Knowledge is like underwear. It is useful to have it, but not necessary to show it off."

comedian Bill Murray

The newsletter is edited by Scott Milburn.

News items, notices and upcoming events can be submitted to scottm33@live.ca.

Articles must be submitted no later than 14 days before monthly meetings.
Articles that cannot be accommodated will be forwarded to the Journal Editor.

OMSS-Ottawa Chapter - September in Detail from Doug Cope's minutes

OMSS Ottawa Parking Lot Sale - September 16

Thanks to **Juan L** there was an OMSS Ottawa Parking Lot Sale from 10am to noon on **Saturday 16 September** in the Merivale Barley Mow parking lot. There were 6 vendors working from their vehicle trunks. Several non-members were customers. Items for sale included: accessories for 1/6 scale figures; Wolf Toy Soldiers, Fort Henry artillery; Rose Miniatures; and Sea Bea Canadian Female Militia miniatures. There were 7 for lunch at the Barley Mow following the sale. Another sale is planned – likely in May 2024.



OMSS ZOOM Meeting - September 19

There were 8 participants (4 Ottawa, 4 Toronto) – “My most precious model” or “My favourite soldier item” was the Show & Tell Topic - presentations from **Eric Shaw**, **Brendan H**, **Jeff Duncan** & **Bob T** plus **Egor E** who gave an interesting photo presentation on the development and production of a toy soldier. His recent product ‘the young patriot’ is now available – **Bob T** and **Kelly H** bought copies at this meeting.

- Bob T made several photo presentations including: Humour and WOW photos, Report on August Ottawa Meeting and the parking lot sale, “Scarlet to Khaki” Book review, Bob T’s favourite toy soldier item, and his recent acquisitions.

- Jeff Duncan had club items for sale – 1/35 Model kits, books, & magazines

- Next Month Zoom Show & Tell is “Early Middle Ages” (from the collapse of Rome to the Battle of Hastings)

OMSS-Ottawa Chapter In Person Meeting Presentations - September 27



OMSS-Ottawa Chapter In Person meeting Sept 27 —continued



Tom W screened the **Scott P** video of the recent Ottawa Chapter **Parking Lot Sale**

Show & Tell Presentations “Market Garden” (see below)

Bob T – K and C Christmas trees

Book ‘Scarlet to Khaki’ from Service Publications – Pre WW1 Canadian Militia Boer War Scarlet to Khaki Uniform Reference Book

A set of Canadian Logs in box – different from Lincoln logs - Antique toy Canadian logs construction building
Hardwood Specialties Nova Scotia

Paper kit models – Fort Henry Guard 1854 – made in Ottawa

Krisna wood figures for East Indian band display – purchased at the Sally Ann

Kelly H – displayed 2 x 1/6 WWII figures that he constructed from parts
1/32 scale set of British Airborne Regiment

Mark H – displayed British paratroops in 3 scales 1/76, 1/32 and 1/6 – Airfix (see below) and
Bachmann (no not Randy)

Michael C – displayed K and C Market Garden figures that are for sale
Also a book from the National Gallery on the Great War

Doug C – had the Britians WWII machine gun set for sale – they could have been Market Garden figures since
they are British army both paras and regular infantry

Dennis D – had a Corgi figure of a Canadian paratrooper plus the badge

Steve A – displayed LEGO figures, both rifles and grenadiers, An RCMP ‘Music in Miniature’ band, and JG Min-
iatures church and tents.

Till next time,
Tom Wright
OMSS Ottawa Chapter

Operation Market Garden (from Wikipedia)

In the summer of 1944, the Allies came up with an ambitious scheme to cross the River Rhine and advance deep into northern Germany and shorten the war. Codenamed 'Market Garden', this plan involved the seizure of key bridges in the Netherlands by the 101st and 82nd US Airborne Divisions, and 1st British Airborne Division who would land by parachute and glider.

It took place in the German-occupied Netherlands from 17 to 27 September 1944. Its objective was to create a 64 mile salient into German territory with a bridgehead over the Rhine, creating an Allied invasion route into northern Germany.



Map of the south-east Netherlands, 1944



C-47 transport aircraft dropping parachutists, Arnhem, 17 Sept 1944

Then the British 30 Corps could advance over the bridges and cross the Rhine and its tributaries. The bridges were at Eindhoven, around 20 kilometres (13 miles) from the start line, Nijmegen, 85 kilometres (53 miles), and Arnhem, 100 kilometres (62 miles) away, as well as two smaller bridges at Veghel and Grave that lay between Eindhoven and Nijmegen.

If successful, the plan would liberate the Netherlands, outflank Germany's formidable frontier defences, the Siegfried Line, and make possible an armoured drive into the Ruhr, Germany's industrial heartland.

Landings

On 17 September the airborne divisions landed. It was one of the largest airborne operations in history. The plan failed largely because of 30 Corps' inability to reach the furthest bridge at Arnhem before German forces overwhelmed the British defenders. Allied intelligence had failed to detect the presence of German tanks, including elements of two SS Panzer divisions.

Arnhem

Around 10,000 men from Major-General Roy Urquhart's 1st British Airborne Division and the 1st Polish Independent Parachute Brigade landed at Arnhem. But their landing zones were 11 kilometres (seven miles) from the bridge at Arnhem. Only one battalion reached the objective while the remaining soldiers were squeezed into a pocket at Oosterbeek to the west.

Apart from a few anti-tank guns and howitzers, modified to fit inside gliders, the lightly armed airborne troops had few heavy weapons with which to resist tanks.

Operation Market Garden (from Wikipedia), continued

30 Corps

Although units of 30 Corps captured Nijmegen bridge in conjunction with the US 82nd Airborne Division, they could not reach the furthest bridge at Arnhem. Much of its advance was along a single narrow causeway, which was vulnerable to traffic jams and German counter-attacks. In some places the advance was hindered by marshes that prevented off-road movement. Throughout the battle the Germans also showed a remarkable ability to put together scratch battle groups that fought to delay the armoured columns.



Men of the 1st Battalion, 17 Sept 1944.

British Parachute Regiment (United Kingdom)

The Parachute Regiment, colloquially known as the Paras, is an airborne infantry regiment of the British Army. The first battalion is part of the Special Forces Support Group under the operational command of the Director Special Forces. The other battalions are the parachute infantry component of the British Army's rapid response formation, 16 Air Assault Brigade. The Paras, along with the Guards, are the only line infantry regiment of the British Army that has not been amalgamated with another unit since the end of the Second World War.

The Parachute Regiment was formed on 22 June 1940 during the Second World War and eventually raised 17 battalions. In Europe, these battalions formed part of the 1st Airborne Division, the 6th Airborne Division and the 2nd Independent Parachute Brigade Group. Another three battalions served with the British Indian Army in India and Burma. The regiment took part in six major parachute assault operations in North Africa, Italy, Greece, France, the Netherlands and Germany, often landing ahead of all other troops.

The 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions (1st Parachute Brigade) and the 10th, 11th and 156th Battalions (4th Parachute Brigade) were next in action in Operation Market Garden in the Netherlands with the 1st Airborne Division. The resulting Battle of Arnhem has since become a byword for the fighting spirit of British paratroops and set a standard for the Parachute Regiment. The division's mission was to capture intact the road, rail and pontoon bridges over the Lower Rhine at Arnhem and hold them until relieved, which was expected to occur two or three days later.

Operation Market Garden (from Wikipedia), continued

A shortage of transport aircraft hindered operations, and it would take two days for all three of the division's brigades to arrive. It was decided that the 1st Parachute and the air-landing brigade would land on the first day. The DZs and LZs would be secured by the air-landing brigade, whilst the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Parachute battalions would head into Arnhem and capture the bridges. On the second day, the 4th Parachute Brigade would arrive. These battalions would dig in north and north-west of Arnhem.

On day one 17 September 1944, the 1st Parachute Brigade landed and headed towards Arnhem, but only the 2nd Battalion, largely unopposed, made it to the bridges. The railway bridge was blown up as they approached and the pontoon bridge was missing a section. By dusk, most of the 2nd Battalion and some supporting units, including the Brigade Headquarters, numbering about 740 men, had taken the northern end of the Arnhem road bridge.

By the second day, the 9th SS Panzer Division arrived in Arnhem, deploying to the west of the city and cutting off access to the bridge. On day two attempts by the 1st and 3rd Battalions to fight through to the bridge were unsuccessful and, by 10:00, they had been halted. At the bridge, the 2nd Battalion continued to hold out against German armoured and infantry attacks. Several hours later than expected, at 15:00, the 4th Parachute Brigade landed under fire from the Germans. The 11th Battalion was sent towards Arnhem to assist in the attempt to break through to the bridge, linking up with the 1st and 3rd Battalions after dark. The 10th and 156th Battalions moved to take up their planned positions north-west of Arnhem. En route, in the dark, the 156th Battalion came under fire and halted for the night.

In the morning of the third day, the 1st, 3rd, and 11th Battalions and the 2nd Battalion, South Staffords (1st Air-landing Brigade) tried to fight through to the bridge. Crossing open ground, the 1st Battalion was engaged by heavy fire from three sides. Trapped in the open, the 1st Battalion was decimated, and the 3rd had to withdraw. The 11th, which until then had not been heavily involved, were now exposed by the withdrawal and overwhelmed. Unable to break through the German line, the remaining men retreated towards the main force, now at Oosterbeek.

In the north, the 10th and 156th Battalions were spotted as they attempted to seize the high ground in the woods north of Oosterbeek. Both battalions came under German fire and were unable to advance any further. Ordered to fall back on Wolfheze and Oosterbeek, they had to fight all the way, with the Germans in close pursuit.

At the bridge, the 2nd Battalion still held out, but short of supplies, their position was becoming untenable. The Germans, had started destroying the buildings the battalion occupied with tank, artillery and mortar fire.

By day four, the battered division was too weak to make any attempt to reach the bridge. Of the nine infantry battalions, only the 1st Battalion, Border Regiment, still existed as a unit; the others were just remnants and battalions in name only. The division, unable to do anything for the 2nd Battalion at the bridge, dug in, forming a defensive perimeter around Oosterbeek with its base on the river. The remnants of the 10th and 156th battalions at Wolfheze began to fall back, but several elements were surrounded and captured. Some 150 men of 156th Battalion were pinned down just west of the Oosterbeek. These men broke out in the late afternoon, with 90 of them making it into the perimeter.

Operation Market Garden (from Wikipedia), conclusion

At the bridge, Lieutenant Colonel Frost finally made radio contact with the division and was told that reinforcement was doubtful. Shortly afterwards, Frost was injured by a mortar bomb, and command passed to Major Frederick Gough. Gough arranged a two-hour truce to evacuate his wounded (including Frost), who were taken into captivity. That night, some units managed to hold out for a while and several tried to break out towards Oosterbeek, but by 05:00 on day five, all resistance at the bridge had ceased.

The division managed to hold on for nine days, until it was decided to withdraw back across the Rhine by rafts and boats. At 10:00 on the last day, the Germans launched an assault with infantry and tanks on the south-east portion of the perimeter. The assault penetrated the perimeter and threatened to cut off the division from the river. British counter-attacks, supported by artillery fire from south of the river, stopped the German assault. To prevent the Germans learning about the evacuation, the plan was kept secret until the afternoon, and some men (mainly wounded) remained behind to give covering fire through the night. By 05:00, 2,163 men had been rescued and the evacuation was ended.

The two parachute brigades had contained 3,082 men of the Parachute Regiment. Of these, 2,656 were killed or reported missing and only 426 made it to safety. The only awards of the Victoria Cross to the Parachute Regiment in the war were for the Battle of Arnhem. The two recipients were Captain John Hollington Grayburn of the 2nd Battalion, and Captain Lionel Ernest Queripel of the 10th Battalion; both awards were posthumous.

Aftermath

A costly failure, Operation Market Garden remains a remarkable feat of arms. This is not because of its strategic ambition, but because of the determination and courage shown by Allied airborne troops and the units that tried to reach them. It also led to the liberation of a large part of the Netherlands at a time when many Dutch people were close to starvation.



To discover more about "Operation Market Garden", check out the movie
A Bridge Too Far