

Tuesday February 27, 2024

OMSS OTTAWA FEBRUARY MEETING

OIC: Bob T

Minutes: Doug C

Photos: Tom W

List of Attendees at the meeting:

Francois Brisebois, Michael Canivet, Doug Cope, Tom Wright, Steve Hammond, Juan Lopez, Morley Verdier, Bob Thompson, Steve Alexander, Brendon Hogan, Scott Paget, John Shrives, Mark Hilash, Alan MacDonald



INTRODUCTIONS

How are our other 'regulars' doing?

- We are saddened to announce that **Stanley Kershman's** wife had a serious stroke, we wish her a rapid recovery.
- **Michael C** returned to the meetings but has health issues. We hope he is back to full good health 'soonest'.

OMSS GENERAL CLUB BUSINESS & SPECIAL PROJECT UPDATES

OMSS NEWS

Scott P's Report on OMSS News and Developments:

- OMSS TO is going to pay to get a Zoom license which should help to ease conduct of future Zoom meetings.
 - **Juan L's** video about his large, homemade collection of 1/6 figures was aired by **Mark Siverthorn** last week
 - **ON Parade 2024** - all members are advised to inform **Jim Qualtrough** 'soonest' if they want display or vendor tables. Also members should reserve hotels rooms before the reserved block runs out.
- Scattered, tepid applause followed **Scott P's** presentation, more was expected.

OMSS 60th Anniversary Book – Let's just say that it is closer to becoming the 65th anniversary book.

February OMSS Newsletter was released the week before the Toronto meeting - 36 pages E-version.

- it included a feature by **Keith Ritchie** on Judging Toy Soldiers, - **Tom W** wrote a CAPCON report Part 3, - The Ottawa Chapter's November 2023 Minutes and notes, with photos were included in their entirety which, for some mystical reason caused a bit of controversy as being too lengthy for the newsletter. Alas, what is 'too long' in an electronic document one may ask? Regardless, the debate will likely continue. Suggestions for change include sending the Ottawa minutes to all members under a separate email. **BOB T** once again asks Ottawa members to submit articles to the newsletter individually. Scattered, tepid applause also followed this suggestion.

Ottawa Chapter promotion within OMSS

Bob T suggests that the **OMSS Newsletter & web site** plus the **OMSS & OMSS Ottawa Facebook sites** should include a short, generic notice about the nature and activities of the Ottawa Chapter. Our group needs to design a short note on the Ottawa Chapter for insertion in **OMSS information flyers** for use at shows and events. However, to date, no volunteer to design & implement this text has come forward.

OMSS Zoom Meetings

The Ottawa group has decided that the **Ottawa Zoom Meetings** will be on the **3rd Tuesday of every month**, and that the **OMSS Ottawa Physical Meetings** will be on the **last Tuesday of every month**.

OMSS Ottawa Special Projects

There is a need for a new **Special Projects Coordinator**. The coordinator will be in charge of organizing Special Projects such as an indoor Sale/Auction, one or more Parking Lot Sales and a Public Presentation. **Juan L** volunteers to take on this job and he suggests spring and fall Parking Lot Sales. Go get 'em, Juan.

“What I am Looking For” List - **Francois B** is the lead but nothing new to report at this time.

The OMSS Underground Railroad (O.U.R.)

Unfortunately, as is frequently the case for the wretched Ottawa LRT, the O.U.R. seems not to be operating at present - Parcels are ready to travel to Toronto, and there are items to be picked up in Toronto for Ottawa members including the 2024 OMSS calendars. If any members are travelling to and from Kingston, Toronto, or points west any time soon, please contact **Bob T**.

2024 OMSS Memberships

Bob T delayed his trip to the Caribbean - last meeting he collected 2024 membership dues from 7 members but needed more cash and stayed to collect a few more this evening. **Bob T** says [nudge, nudge, wink, wink] that he will send the money he collects to the Toronto OMSS Executive following this meeting. If you miss out on this bulk Ottawa membership submission, you can contact and pay the OMSS Treasurer directly. The 2024 OMSS Calendars should be en route to us via the O.U.R. for distribution to paid up 2023 OMSS members. Question, will the paid up 2023 Ottawa OMSS members receive their 2024 calendars before 2025?

OMSS Ottawa Membership List

Doug C will update the list and forward it to **Bob T** 'soonest'. **Scott P** asks that all members please ensure that the information on this list is correct, particularly that their email addresses.

OMSS Technical Capacities

An OMSS Technology Committee will be forming - **Tom W** is the lead on this working group. The pressing technical issues include: OMSS use of Zoom, formatting, and distribution of OMSS Ottawa Meeting Minutes, archiving of OMSS meetings papers and photos. **Bob T** reports that he has several hundred photos to archive. Archival systems for the OMSS Zoom and Facebook entries are also needed.

OMSS YouTube Channel

Mark Silverthorn is running the OMSS YouTube Channel. There are already lots of posts. **Juan L** reports that he has a presentation almost ready to be posted. To see the videos go on YouTube type in "Ontario Model Soldier Society" you will then come to the OMSS YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xy5u-sdiIMw>)

OMSS Ottawa Participation in the Military Hobby Show (Early June)

Unfortunately, the show is still in jeopardy and in danger of imminent cancellation. As reported last month, volunteers are needed to organize the various aspects of the show. Last meeting a number of OMSS Ottawa members volunteered to fill several key 'Co-ordinator' roles to work on organizing the show between now and show day. However more help is still needed. At this meeting **Alan M** and **John S** volunteered to help. Thursday, 7 March, is decision day as to whether the show will go ahead on either 2 or 9 June. **Bob T** proposed at the last meeting that OMSS Ottawa assume a major role in hosting the annual show along with 33 Service Battalion Association. Too late for this year but perhaps next year Ottawa OMSS and 33 Service Battalion Association could be co-hosts of this event.

WHAT'S NEW – CURRENT NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & SHOWS

Hobby News

Michael C from the former *Toy Soldier Market* – as reported above Michael C was at this meeting but has health issues.

Scott Dummitt – New from John Jenkins – The Queen's Ranger Marching figure is also on the logo of the OMSS; NWMP series Commissionaire French; the Jerry Potts figure is sold out [**see A below**]; a new Viking Ship with crew is coming, the ship is not small at 2 to 3 feet long and 3 feet wide oar tip to oar tip. – *Armies in Plastic* figures are to arrive shortly and members are advised that these figures are packed in bags and not boxed - *Thomas Gunn* just announced 3 new RAF female figures [**see B below**] - Order items now from **Scott Dummitt** and pick them up at On Parade.

Scott Paget's – **Scott's Soldiers YouTube** – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LAsdx69wArQ>

His latest YouTube video # 61 is *Personality Figures* - **Scott P** reports to have had 33,000 views to date – a YouTube star in the making.

Other News

Bob T reports on the passing of **Patrick Adams** – Owner of *British Toy Soldier Company*, and Toy Soldier Show organizer in England. [see C below]

UPCOMING SHOWS and EVENTS:

New Jersey Toy Soldier Show – March 17 – Wayne New Jersey

Ottawa Nostalgia show – March 17 – Nepean Sportsplex – **Doug C** will be a vendor. Possibly **Bob T**.

OMSS Toronto April 14 Meeting – **Stuart Hessney** Guest Speaker – Stuart is the editor of *Toy Soldier Collector & Historical Figures Magazine*. **Bob T** is trying to arrange a Zoom broadcast of the presentation.

Ottawa Military Heritage Show – Saturday April 27, 2024 - \$65 per vendor table – **Bob T** will be a vendor. **Steve A** is a maybe.

Bytown Antiques Show – April 28 – Nepean Sportsplex

Geeked Out - March 23rd-24th at the Nepean Sportsplex from 10am-4pm (both days)

The Great Bob & Morley Warehouse Sale – Might not happen as they have to move warehouse contents. Stay tuned.

GANGAMES Convention – May 17-19 Rideau Curling Club – **Bob T & Morley V** will be vendors. Mainly board and card games.

Military Hobby Show – June 2 or 9? - Walkley Road Armouries – **May be cancelled** – stay tuned for announcement.

OMSS On Parade – Saturday June 15 - Toronto – Jim Qualtrough Show Manager – new location – lots of space but **Jim Q** needs to know NOW if you want a booth. Britains reps will be there. Cost is \$50 per 6 foot table – Ottawa vendors – **Bob T, Dennis D?, Steve A?, Kelly H?** Hotel (Stay Inn - \$240 +tax) - Planned Ottawa Attendees – **Bob T, Morley V, Dennis D, Brendan H, John S, JP Bertrand, Steve A?, Stanley K?, Eduardo Edina** (Montreal) - No OMSS Ottawa Table or event planned and no one volunteered at this meeting.

EVENT REPORTS:

February OMSS Toronto Meeting – **Jim Qualtrough** hosted a painting workshop before the meeting.

February 20 - OMSS Zoom Meeting

Bob T reports that it was a great meeting with the largest attendance to date... 25 participants: 9 Ottawa, 11 Toronto, 1 Montreal, 2 England, 2 unknowns [you know the numbers are big when you do not even know who some of the attendees were.]

Special Guest Speaker – 'The' **James Opie** – He gave an excellent presentation for over an hour and a quarter on his 50 favourite toy soldier items – great stories and over 80 photos – In 1980 his collection was over 65,000 figures but it was downsized to 15,000 by the mid 1980's – **Stanley K** gave a great introduction to James Opie, as well as a wrap up to the meeting. After the presentation **James Opie** announced that the BMSS had passed a motion to allow all members of 'like minded' toy soldier Associations to freely attend BMSS Zoom and physical meetings. Subsequently **Bob T** received an email from James Opie with an invitation for:

'OMSS members to participate in the British Model Soldier Society Zoom meeting, this coming Friday, (2pm Toronto/Ottawa time) James Opie is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Topic: BMSS National Zoom Meeting pre-auction Friday 1st March 2024 Time: Mar 1, 2024 07:00 PM London Join Zoom Meeting <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83049751685?pwd=0Mt94QRrSkw9wsGMjkDJHbsqoydFqn.1> - Meeting ID: 830 4975 1685 Pass code: 119498' **Bob T** forwarded this invitation to OMSS members via email on 28 February.

The 20 February **Zoom Meeting** show & tell topic was: 'Box Cover Art & Packaging' – **Bob T** showed a mini presentation as a teaser for a full presentation during the March Zoom Meeting. **Jeff Duncan** auctioned off a collection of 37 vintage Toy Soldier magazines that sold for \$100. Due to the compacted format of the February Zoom meeting, it was decided to continue with same Show & Tell topic 'Box Cover Art & Packaging' at the March Zoom meeting. The Zoom Meeting ended after 10pm – both participants from England, **James Opie** and **Andrew Stevenson**. stayed on until the conclusion which was 0300 in England. For the first time the Zoom meeting was recorded from the start of the James Opie presentation to the end of the meeting. **Mark Silverthorn** is hoping to release a YouTube video of the James Opie presentation in the coming days in 15-to-20-minute segments.

Show & Tell Presentations: – topic this month was “SIGNALS”

Mark H – displayed a globe that he bought at Dollorama that could be used for displaying figures. He also had a wheel mounted. naval canon that he made in 1980. The wheels of the canon were made from large diameter metal pipes. He also had 1/30 and 1/32 scale signals figures – also a sailor signalman with flags, WWII British 8th Army figures with a backpack and radio set 18 [see D below], plus 2 AirFix figures with radios, radio set 510 [see D below] and 1 German WWII with radio from Britains.



Steve H - a 1/6 scale Sd.Kfz.2 Kettenrad by DID (Dragon in Dreams) [see E below] – Also A DID com set with field telephone.
- He brought out 3 vehicles that he made long ago: Rommel’s car with frame antenna plus 2 others.



Alan M – displayed 30 WWII 70mm figures with communication devices including radios, motorcycles, pigeons, and semaphore flags. His army pigeon handlers brought up a question, re: military pigeons’ units. Research shows that the US army had the United States Army Pigeon Service until 1957. Read about the pigeon named G.I. Joe [see F below]



Doug C – He had a 3 figure British Bulldog flag signal set that sold. He also brought out his toy train track display that featured tracks from Standard gauge to Z gauge. He suggested that a similar display should be created for soldiers from 1/6 to the smallest. He also brought out the RCN flag signal book that was issued to him in 1962. It included signal flags, semaphore, and Morse Code. He told a story of how in the late 1950's he and several buddies bought 19 surplus sets [see D below] in Toronto and without ham licences sent illicit messages to each other – the messages were short for fear of HF/DF detection trucks were roaming the streets. [see D below] Of interest is that the no. 19 type radio sets they purchased had front designations in the Cyrillic alphabet, since the sets were originally destined for Russia, but the war ended and they were sold as surplus.



Juan L – had his WWII winter communication displays from 6 different countries using the 1/6 figures that he made and mounted on rigid foam insulation. He reports that it took him 3 months to make these displays.



1] 2 Germans sheltering in a poncho with a radio



2] 3 Russians setting up a radio – one is motorcycle trooper with a sidecar



3] 2 British reconnaissance troops with a radio



4] 2 Japanese troops with a hand cranked radio – they have snowshoes but he only found one reference to their use – I guess they would not have been of much use in the south Pacific. Juan L made the snowshoes with his 3D printer.



5] 6 American troops in great coats from a Battle of the Bulge scenario (he had some extra Yanks lying about)



6] 2 Italians with a radio



Morley V – 2 KENU plastic truck kits



Steve A – had an American Civil War set with sharp shooters. A ‘making hay’ couple that was censored.
A John Gittens Roman Gate signal set – [see G Below] – also 21 different LEGO Napoleonic figures for sale.
Russian artillery unit with ammo box, rammer, etc. and a jeep by New Ray toys.



Bob T – a set of WWII officers and signalmen plus a functioning tape recorder carried by 2 green plastic figures.

- a strange block of paper, tiny tear off figures
- a box with Gale Force wall sections 25 to 35 mm



- a book from 1978 on the construction of Napoleonic dioramas
- a set of Fort Henry guards made in the UK, and
- a set of Coldstream Guards in brown uniforms with busby hats – a tonight purchase

MEETING ADJOURNMENT FINAL POST

Upcoming OMSS Meeting Dates:

March 19 - Next OMSS Zoom Meeting - The Show & Tell topic is: “Box Cover Art & Packaging.”
March 26 - OMSS Ottawa Monthly Meeting – The Show and Tell topic is – “Anything you want to bring”
[What can I say, it was a long meeting]

Official Meeting Adjourned

NOTES

A] Jerry Potts

The following is taken from Wikipedia which has an extensive biography of Potts. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerry_Potts
Jeremiah Potts (c. 1840 – July 14, 1896), (also known as Ky-yo-kosi, meaning "Bear Child"), was an American-Canadian plainsman, buffalo hunter, horse trader, interpreter, and scout of Kainai (Blood) and Scots heritage. In September 1874, Potts was trading horses in Fort Benton, Montana. He was hired as a guide, interpreter and scout by the North-West Mounted Police. His contract as a guide for the North-West Mounted Police was to last twenty-two years. He was paid \$90 per month, which was quite a bit higher than a regular guide, and three times a police constable's salary. He ceased working for the force at age fifty-eight, because the pain of throat cancer made it so that he could no longer ride, and died a year later, on 14 July, 1896, at Fort Macleod. The Macleod Gazette and Alberta Livestock Record paid tribute to the man who "made it possible for a small and utterly insufficient force to occupy and gradually dominate what might so easily, under other circumstances, have been a hostile and difficult country. . . . Had he been other than he was . . . it is not too much to say that the history of the Northwest would have been vastly different to what it is." Jerry Potts is buried at Fort McLeod with the rank of Special Constable in the North-West Mounted Police.

B] Thomas GUNN RAF female figures

<https://www.jumpthegunn.co.uk/product/raf006a-joy-lofthouse/>



The masters for these WAAF girls were all painted by a national champion award winning model painter, and we hope you can see the quality shining through on these figures. Limited to 100 in number.

RAF006A Joy Lofthouse (born 14 February 1923 – died 15 November 2017)

Joy was a British pilot, having joined the ATA pilot in December 1943. Together with her sister, Yvonne, after seeing a magazine advert asking seeking women to learn how to fly. They were 2 of only 17 out of 2,000 applicants accepted, including Joy, who had never even driven a car. She flew 18 types of aircraft and Lofthouse was based at White Waltham, in Berkshire. Her first solo flight was in a Miles Magister, her initial work focused on delivering Magisters and Tiger Moth biplanes to flying schools. She later went on to fly Spitfires and bombers. In 2015, she returned to the skies, taking control of a dual control tandem Spitfire, 70 years after last flying in one in 1945. She died in November 2017, at the age of 94. Before she died, Lofthouse was one of the two surviving WW II "Spitfire Girls".

C] British Toy Soldier Company <https://www.britishtoycompany.co.uk/>

"Welcome to our online store where you will be able to view & purchase our figures and sets. Our shop is always being updated with new sets, so please check back regularly! To navigate the shop either keep scrolling down to see everything or click on the category links to the left to narrow down your search. US orders - please contact us to gain a shipping quotation.

Official Agent for Canada - We are delighted to announce **SCOTT J. DUMMITT PRESENTS** as an official agent for The British Toy Soldier Company in Canada. Scott has a wealth of knowledge and experience in the industry and so is well placed to advise the Canadian market on our range. To get in touch directly and view the wider range held, please visit <https://www.gjoecanada.com/>"

D] WWII Wireless Set No. 18 - From Wikipedia

The Wireless Set No. 18 was a High frequency (HF) portable man-pack radio transceiver used by the British Army during World War II. Frequency coverage was 6 to 9 MHz with an RF output of 0.25W. Range was up to 10 miles.[1]



Wireless Set No. 19 From Wikipedia



The Wireless Set No. 19 was a Second World War mobile radio transceiver designed for use by armoured troops of the British Army. First introduced in 1940, the No. 19 began to replace the pre-war Wireless Set No. 11. Two modified versions were introduced, Mk. II in 1941 and Mk. III in 1942. An improved version from Canada was introduced in 1942 for use primarily with other forces. In British service, the No. 19 was replaced in the post-war era by the Larkspur radio system. Canadian-built No. 19s saw continued service for many years with a variety of users.

Wireless Set A510 - MILITARY U.K. From Wikipedia



Model: Wireless Set A510 - MILITARY U.K. by different makers, Portable set > 8 inch (also usable without mains) British Army Portable Transceiver. Transmitter and receiver separated into two units, but only works when connected together. The power is supplied by 2 batteries. The L.T. battery (1.5 volts) is carried in the bottom of the receiver and is used by both units. The H.T. battery (90 volts) also incorporates a 7.5-volt bias battery and is mounted in the bottom of the transmitter.

HF/DF or Huff Duff - High Frequency Direction Finding – from Wikipedia

The basic concept of the huff-duff system is to send the signal from two aerials into the X and Y channels of an oscilloscope. Normally the Y channel would represent north/south for ground stations, or in the case of the ship, be aligned with the ship's heading fore/aft. In the 1960s every RCN ship had HF/DF antennas.



British Post Office RDF lorry from 1927 for finding unlicensed amateur radio transmitters. It was also used to find regenerative receivers which radiated interfering signals due to feedback, a big problem at the time. In World War II considerable effort was expended on identifying secret transmitters in the United Kingdom (UK) by direction finding. The work was undertaken by the Radio Security Service (RSS also MI8). Initially three U Adcock HF DF stations were set up in 1939 by the General Post Office.

E] Sd.Kfz.2 Kettenrad From Wikipedia



The Sd.Kfz.2 is a half-track motorcycle with a single front wheel, better known as the Kleines Kettenkrafttrad HK 101, shortened to Kettenrad. It was used by the military of Nazi Germany during the Second World War. Crew: 1 driver
Designed: 1939 Engine: Opel water-cooled four-cylinder inline engine; 36 bhp (26 kW) Height: 1.2 m (3 ft 11 in) In service: 1941–1945 Manufacturer: NSU Motorenwerke Mass: 1,560 kg (3,440 lb)

F] United States Army Pigeon Service - from Wikipedia



FIGURE 76.—Examination and treatment of Army pigeons at the Signal Pigeon Center, Tidworth, England. This was a part of the European theater's veterinary program to obtain and maintain an efficient Army Pigeon Service in the armies and divisions in continental Europe.

Photo shows the examination and treatment of a war pigeon at Signal Pigeon Center Tidworth (UK), United States Army Pigeon Service.

The United States Army Pigeon Service (a.k.a. Signal Pigeon Corps) was a unit of the United States Army during World War I and World War II. Their assignment was the training and usage of homing pigeons for communication and reconnaissance purposes. During World War II, the force consisted of 3,150 soldiers and 54,000 war pigeons, which were considered an undetectable method of communication. Over 90% of US Army messages sent by pigeons were received. From 1917 to 1943 and 1946 to 1957, the US Army Pigeon Breeding and Training Centre was based at Fort Monmouth, N.J. From October 1943 until June 1946, the Centre was based at Camp Crowder. The US Army discontinued using pigeons as message carriers in 1957. Fifteen "hero pigeons" were donated to zoos, and about a thousand other pigeons were sold to the public.

G.I. Joe – The Pidgeon

During the Italian Campaign of World War II, G.I. Joe was a pigeon 'who' saved the lives of the inhabitants of the village of Calvi Vecchia, Italy, and of the British troops of 56th (London) Infantry Division occupying it. Air support had been requested against German positions at Calvi Vecchia on 18 October 1943, but the message that the 169th (London) Infantry Brigade had captured the village was delivered by G.I. Joe and arrived just in time to avoid the bombing. G.I. Joe flew this 20-mile distance in an impressive 20 minutes, just as the planes were preparing to take off for the target. He saved the lives of at least 100 men.

G] John Gittins, Sculptor and Miniaturist, JG Miniatures.com <https://www.jgminiatures.com/>

The copyright and production rights to all 1/32nd scale Architectural and Scenic models produced by JG Miniatures have now been sold to Mr Lee Smithson of Sheffield miniatures and will be available to order through his web site from the 2nd of February 2024. (www.sheffieldminiatures.co.uk) Visit Sheffield miniatures online. I will be spending the first 3 months of 2024 fulfilling as many of the back orders I have until mid-March 2024. Any orders still outstanding will be forwarded to Sheffield Miniatures with the customers permission, who must contact Lee to organize shipping and payment.