

# The Ontario Model Soldier Society

Founded 1962  
www.omss.ca

## Monthly Newsletter for February 2022

### Monthly Meeting Dates for 2022

Next meeting Sunday, March 13th  
Branch 643 Royal Canadian Legion 110 Jutland Road Toronto  
Meeting starts at 1:00 pm. Doors open 11:00 am

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.



**2022 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

Brendan Hogan  
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 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\\_robert@rogers.com](mailto:thompson_robert@rogers.com).

### Letter from the President



We were able to resume our in-person meetings on February 13th, as Provincial restrictions eased. Vaccination status checking ends March 1, but the Legion, can still set their own parameters. We will keep you informed of the Legion's requirements for attendance.

We had a reasonable turnout for the meeting. It was good to see everyone and there were good financial exchanges between members, vendors, and the Club table.

There is a lot of progress on the planning of the annual On Parade show. Scott D., Jim, and Jeff, and others, have been busy. Although it will a somewhat smaller show, we have both rooms. There is a lot of opportunity for hardware (i.e., awards) to be given out! But with the smaller venue, the emphasis is on "quality, not quantity". All displayers will have no more than 4' x 2.5' for their displays – no exceptions.

There was a lively discussion on how some of the repercussions of the pandemic are affecting the hobby, with respect to price inflation and availability of products, such as paints (related to current supply chain issues and "survival strategies" of bricks-and-mortar hobby stores during the pandemic).

With restrictions easing and the weather improving (?), I hope to see more members return to the in-person meetings. I will emphasize again our need for your thoughts on what you want to hear about, and even your active participation to make presentations. As society reopens, we need the ideas and active participation of all members to reinvigorate the club and keep our hobby going. I hope to see you at the next meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

### 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.

### **Motels available with Discount for people attending ON PARADE 2022**

We currently have two motels in the vicinity of this year’s ON PARADE at the Royal Canadian Legion at 110 Jutland Road, Etobicoke, Ontario. You must mention to the booking agent that you are booking to attend the “OMSS show”. These rates are available to anyone attending our show regardless of whether they are OMSS members or not. Please pass this information on to anyone you might think is interested.

**STAY INN** – 560 Evans Avenue, Etobicoke, ON (Approximately 4 minutes to the Legion) is offering rooms with 1 King size bed at \$129.00 (plus tax) and 2 Queen Size beds at \$139.00 (plus tax). If Covid Restriction are over, there is a complimentary breakfast buffet. If still in effect there is a Grab-and-Go breakfast being offered. Phone: 1-888-445-4473 or visit their web site at: <https://www.stayinnsuites.ca/>. Check in is at 3 pm. Check-out is at 11 am the next day.

**CANADA’S BEST VALUE INN** – 650 Evans Avenue, Etobicoke, ON (Approximately 8 minutes to the Legion) is offering rooms with 1 Queen Size bed at \$120.00 (plus tax) and 2 Queen size beds at \$140.00 (plus tax). A Grab-and-Go Breakfast is offered to patrons. Phone: 1-888-525-8346 or visit their web site at: <https://www.canadabestvalueinntoronto.com/>. The set rate guarantee is in place till 3 days prior to the event June 8th, 2022.

**Ted Deddens** is a manager at W. Britains. He also had his own company and own product line called TedToy Miniatures. Here is a video from the Collector Guys interviewing him.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qiLmtTB-E1M>

### **AIRFIX Models**

Here is a link to a recent release by AIRFIX Models of their launch and preview of kits for 2022. Of note is the Douglas C-47 Sky-train and with it having a version for 1949 Military Air Transport Service of Canada that has skis for the landing gear!

Totally new kits include: Gloster Meteor Jet, Avro Anson, Blackburn Buccaneer S.2. For the 1:35 armour series three new/ re-released products; Sturmpanzer IV Brummbar, Panzer III and the Stug IV. Other reintroduced items include for the 40th Anniversary of the Falklands campaign some 1:600 British Naval ships, WW2 Russian Infantry, Japanese WW2 tanks and Infantry, Italian WW2 aircraft and the Canadian DeHaviland Beaver with flout option.

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

### Navy Political Correctness From Jeff Duncan

It was necessary to keep a good supply of cannon balls near the cannon on old war ships. But how to prevent them from rolling about the deck was the problem. The best storage method devised was to stack them as a square based pyramid, with one ball on top, resting on four, resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon.

There was only one problem -- how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding/rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate with 16 round indentations, called a Monkey. But if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make Brass Monkeys.

Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannon balls would come right off the monkey. Thus, it was quite literally, cold enough to "Freeze the balls off a brass monkey".



The above photo was taken from Tradition Magazine #17. The caption is 'RHA coming into action'

OK. But why are they parking a landrover on top of the field gun? Can any artillery types explain this? Just curious.

Please email our Archivist Ian Pearson at [ianpearson560@gmail.com](mailto:ianpearson560@gmail.com) and copy the Editor [artmons@rogers.com](mailto:artmons@rogers.com) for the next Newsletter.

## What's New in the Hobby: February 2022

By Scott Dummitt

This month sees the announcement of several interesting figures and accessories from Thomas Gunn, John Jenkins, William Britains and Tommy's War. First off Thomas Gunn has announced that it plans on releasing some British Matilda tanks. These 1/30<sup>th</sup> scale tanks are made of resin and will fit in with King & Country figures as well. There will be 4 different versions of this tank and from what I understand they will all come with Australian markings. Crew members can be seen wearing black berets, Mk II helmets and the famous Aussie Bush hats. No price given at this time. Another set that Gunn has announced is "Pharaoh's Daughters". These provocatively posed daughters of Egypt will also be joined by a second version of Gunn's Cleopatra.

John Jenkins Designs has announced several new sets of U.S. Civil War figures lately and their newest announced series is both colourful and unusual. This one's for Ron Peraziana, the 39<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Regiment, known as the "Garibaldi Guard". This colourful uniformed regiment wore an Italian style uniform complete with brimmed hat and feather. While the regiment carried the US National colours, it also features



Australian Matilda Tank with crewman in Black Berets produced by Thomas Gunn Miniatures



Australian Matilda Tank with crewman in Bush Caps produced by Thomas Gunn Miniatures

a set of Regimental colours incorporating the Italian flag. Figures that will be introduced include a mounted officer, foot officer, colours, drummer and infantryman in action and at the march. This set is just one of the many U.S. Civil War sets that make up the "Battle of Manassas" (First Bull Run).

Brendan Hogan recently made me aware of an interesting set of figures released by "Tommy's War". It is made up of two WWI British soldiers from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Manchester Regiment and two German soldiers forming a MG08 Maxim machine gun team. The figures and machine gun are 1/32 resin and are sold separately for \$27.50 each.



"Tommy's War" features a variety of WWI figures depicting units from Britain and the Empire, the Central Powers and USA. They also produce a limited number of vehicles, artillery and WWII Americans.

**LEFT: Tommy's War WWI German and British diorama set.**



**John Jenkins Designs soon to be released U.S. Civil War “Garibaldi Guard”**

Our friends at William Britain Limited have just announced information on their planned upcoming releases for this year. While there are several new Civil War related figures, I was most interested in the French & Indian War figures and American Revolution British figures that they are releasing. There is also a wonderful selection of figures based on the Don Troiani paintings and prints that are also available through Britains. The first is an Officer of the 84<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Royal Highland Emigrants. Two Battalions of this regiment were raised to protect British interest in North America during the Revolution and in particular the Canadian colonies. A 42<sup>nd</sup> Highland Grenadier officer, along with other Grenadier and Battalion Company figures, has been added to the French & Indian war version of the Regiment. Another Troiani inspired figure is that of a British Grenadier of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of Foot. The regiment first saw service during the Revolutionary War and one of its uniforms still survives from that era.



**42<sup>nd</sup> Highlander Officer (The Black Watch) 1759**



**Don Troiani inspired 84<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot Officer, Royal Highland Emigrants**



**Don Troiani inspired 52<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of Foot Grenadier Company, 1775**



## **Congratulations to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II on her reign of 70 years.**

I am sure you all recognize the glossy figure as W. Britains.

Frank MacKay has learned through the 48th Highlanders grapevine that former OMSS Past President Tommy Thompson passed away January 8th, after a long illness.

### **History Moment: February 7, 1783.**

It was the conclusion of the three-year, seventh month long siege of Gibraltar by both Spanish and French forces. The British garrison was out manned with only 5000 troops to face upwards of 60,000 Spanish and French forces including 49 ships.

The British constructed amazing tunnels to be able to bring down fire on the Spanish French forces along with the development of a depressing carriage for firing cannons at steep downward angles. A Gibraltar artillery cannon and crew could make a great little set.

The tunnels during WW2 including a Canadian contingent, achieved wonderful feats of engineering, adding some 33 miles (52 km) of tunnels and became an important part of the defense of "The Rock".

Gibraltar remains a part of the Commonwealth!

### **The Last Word of a Civilian Bureaucrat**

A few weeks ago, I was departing work carrying a large empty box. My boss, Terry held the door for me.

T: What's that for?

A: I need another one to store my larger toy soldier boxes. (He rolled his eyes.)

A: You know at this rate when I retire there may be no room for my wife in the house.

T: I am not sure that is going to work out as you expect.

A: One big molten fire?

T: Pretty much.

**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.**