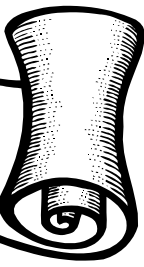


The Journal

of The

Ontario Model Soldier Society



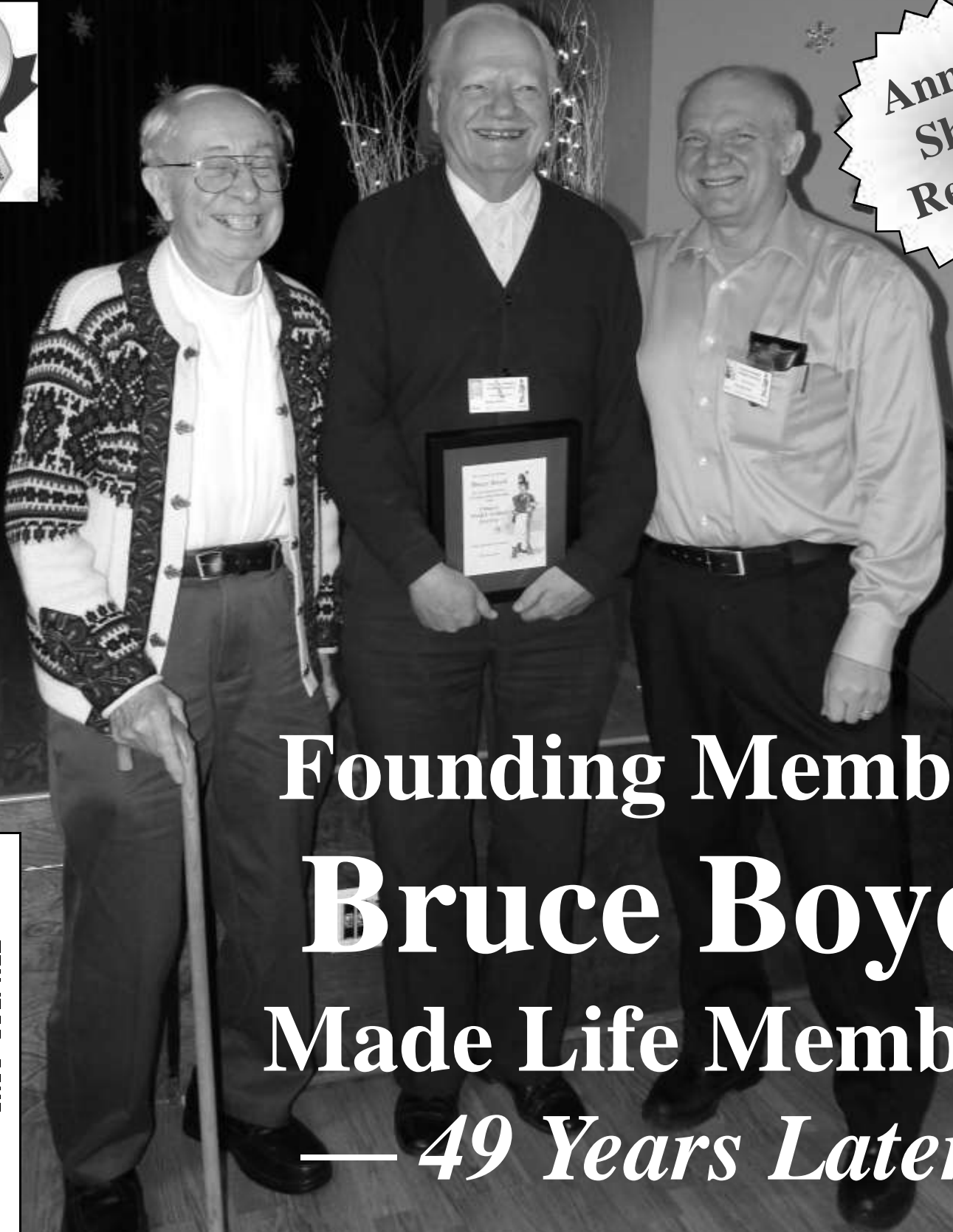
Vol. 49 #1

Winter, 2011

Canada \$5, USA



Annual Show Results!



**Founding Member
Bruce Boyd
Made Life Member
— 49 Years Later!**



The Journal

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Vice President	Scott Dummitt
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Members at Large	Gail Stone
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The Honour Is To Serve

Aims of The Society



The Ontario Model Soldier Society is a provincially chartered, non-profit organisation dedicated to the following purposes:

- Providing a meeting place and a means of exchange of information among those interested in creating, painting, wargaming, collecting and displaying model and toy soldiers and studying the history thereof.
- Publicising the hobby in order to make known the existence of the Society and to attract new members and enthusiasts to it.
- Improving the skills and knowledge of the members through the sharing of information and holding of regular competitions, classes and lectures.

The OMSS Website: WWW.OMSS.CA

Webmaster: Scott J. Dummit

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2012

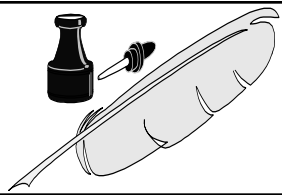
OMSS Meeting Dates

December 11, January 8, February 12, March 11,
April 15, May 6, June 10, Sept. 8 (Annual
Show), October 14, November 18, December 9.

Meetings held at Branch # 210 Royal Canadian
Legion, 110 Jutland Road (off Islington),
Toronto. 12-3pm.



From the Editor...



Well, it's hard to believe, but another year has gone by, marked by another magnificent show at Fort York. My apologies for not having *The Journal* ready for distribution at the registration desk, but it came down to a choice of getting an entry in or having the Journal ready, and you know what? I chose to spend the time finishing off an entry for the show. Since I assumed duties as your editor in 2003, I haven't had the time to do any modelling at all, and I've decided that's got to change. The pleasure of painting a figure once again was very therapeutic and did me a world of good, so pardon the delay, but I'm not sorry I did it. This working for a living has got to stop; it's the cause of all my time constraints, and I know many of you can commiserate. Spare time is wasted on the retired, it's so unfair.

As I took in the wonders of the annual show, I could not help but recall the tireless efforts of my great friend the late Paul Aitcheson to secure this wonderful venue for us. Against all odds, he campaigned, cajoled and schmoozed for years to get us into the very epicentre of military history in Toronto. Thanks to his efforts, the presence of our annual show at Fort York is more or less a permanent arrangement. We should strive to make sure we never lose this venue, as a tribute to his memory. Judging by the show this year, there is little danger of that. Our Show Chairman Norm White and Bren Furlong did a magnificent job. Having been a Show Chairman in years past myself, I was filled with admiration for their flawless planning and hummingbird-like energy. They've secured the Fort for us for years to come.

While pinch hitting as a hash-slinger at the snack bar, I heard many concerns about the low number of competitive entries this year. True, it is cause for concern but as I explained above --it all comes down to *time*. Some of our members simply didn't choose to devote the requisite time to their hobby and as a consequence, they had nothing to enter. Time is no longer something you have to 'kill'. It's something you have to work hard to 'make' so that you can spend that surplus on something you truly want to do. Will you be able to make the time to get at least one entry ready for our show next September? You have a whole year to work on it. I'm going to make that time from now on, believe me.

Frank MacKay

Editor

Cover Photo: One of the original six founding members of the OMSS, Bruce Boyd (centre) is congratulated by fellow lifer Carl McTaggart (L) and 2011 OMSS President Jim Matresky. "None of us had any idea the Society would carry on, and few of us ever thought we would be preparing to celebrate the 50th anniversary!", Bruce said.

Photo: Eunice Matresky

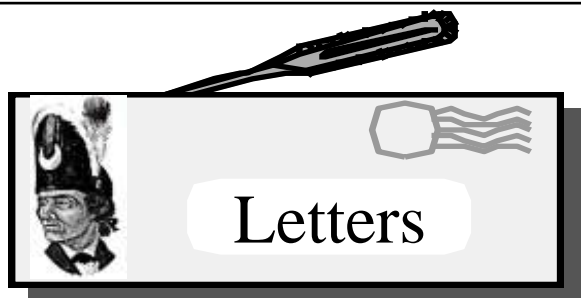


Winter,
2011

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Vol. 49. Issue 1



Dear Sir:

Just a quick note to congratulate you on your efforts producing *The Journal*. You have captured just the right feeling for the members of our Society. It's informative, interesting, has good readability and just a hint of humour which is much appreciated. The general membership has no idea the work that goes into the production, but we do, don't we? All the best,— you done good, kid!

Don Melhuish, OMSS

[Thanks Don, that's high praise indeed. Now...about that article you promised me...] -ed.

Dear Sir:

Thanks so much for the copies of the *OMSS Journal*, which arrived from Ian [Pearson] this week and which I have been devouring. That's a first-class publication, on par with any of the finest club magazines that I have seen from around the world. I'm especially enjoying the Canadian Regiments entries -- anything British or Commonwealth gets my immediate attention. I realized a long time ago that with the sunset of NATO's *raison d'être*, world peace requires an Anglophone Alliance. The US, Canada, the UK, Australia, and NZ share common cultures, we share common language, laws and worldviews, and for more than a century have found ourselves aligned in most world-crisis situations. We ought to formalize it. It occurs to me that former Empire countries like India have similar interests. I think Kipling would approve. My son (the US Naval Officer) spent 8 months in Afghanistan and was around UK and Canadian personnel. He speaks very highly of them. Thanks for your friendship.

Jonathan S. Harbuck, AMFS

Chief Judge and Master Painter,
Atlanta Miniature Figure Society

Dear Sir:

Further to the preceding letter, your philosophy on producing *The Journal* has been proven correct. The membership should realize the wisdom you have in making this *our* Journal and keeping it

**The OMSS Journal welcomes your opinions,
announcements, rants, spleen venting and
especially letters of praise
— Write a Letter To The Editor!**

uniquely and uncompromisingly Canadian, written almost exclusively by our own members. This response from Atlanta proves your point at an international level. Maybe it should be pointed out to everyone at the next meeting. Claim credit where credit is due, why not. When you're right, you're right. In my view, you deserve all the credit for a response like this. Well Done.

Ian Pearson, OMSS

Dear Sir:

I have spoken at the club meetings a couple of times over the past several years so I know how much preparation it takes. Therefore in consideration of the guest speaker and the program chairman, I would suggest that on special meetings when club business has to be conducted that we *not* have a speaker. Our May meeting was such an occasion. With relaying details for our Annual Show, comments about the special Paul Aitcheson estate sale and most importantly the need to have a full discussion regarding plans for our 50th anniversary dinner, a great deal of time was necessary. I know if I had been the speaker, I would have felt the members would have been worn out before I began to talk. A second point is to thank Gary Lenius for his many ongoing contributions to the Club, in this case by remodelling our website. One suggestion I would make is to have the editor of the Journal's email address and a brief mention of *the Journal* also included in the site.

Frank Barrett, OMSS

The OMSS Historical Picture Caption Contest



Send your alternate captions to The OMSS Journal

Long Overdue Honours Presented as OMSS Prepares for 50th Anniversary Year

As 2011 draws to a close, a flurry of long overdue recognition was bestowed on several long term members who have served the Society with devotion and distinction for many years. First, Bruce Boyd, one of the original six founding members of the Society, received a life membership (see cover photo). A few months later, the venerable Don Melhuish was also made a life member in recognition of his long and continuing service not only to the Society but to the hobby in general. All members heartily applauded these honours and agreed that they were richly deserved and long overdue.



In December, Frank Barrett was presented with the Society Print, a smaller version of the Presidential Print by the late Jim Risk. Presentation of the print is exceedingly rare, only preceded by life membership and presentation of the Society Figure, as the OMSS' highest award. One thing our Society will never be accused of is being too lavish with its praise; all of the above recipients have worked long and selflessly for the Society in every imaginable capacity for decades. We are blessed with many members who share their devotion and energy equally, but even in that company, these honours are exceptionally well deserved. Their work has given us the OMSS we have today. □



Photos: Gary Lenius



Past President John Murdock (L) presents the Presidential Kukri to 2012 President Guy Elliott after it was surrendered by 2011 president Jim Matresky (R). The leadership continues.

50th Anniversary Pin Design Approved and In Production



To Commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the OMSS, a limited edition members-only lapel pin has been commissioned by the Executive and approved by the members. Frank MacKay was delegated to design a token which specifically reflects the Society's history and close knit sense of family. It will be struck in gold coloured metal with a clutch back and one will be presented to all members during the Anniversary year.

ALLIED PILOT'S WINGS QUIZ

How many can *you* identify?



Answers on page 22



In Memoriam: An OMSS Giant Passed this Way

The OMSS was dealt a devastating blow last February when Paul Aitchison passed away suddenly at the age of 66. He was one of the Society's hardest workers and always seemed to be cooking up some scheme or other which would improve the club and increase the enjoyment by its members. He did this not just out of duty but because he genuinely believed in the Society and

wished to expand and preserve it for all of its members, both present and future. He served as the Society's president for an unprecedented three terms—basically because no one else was willing to do the job. He served as show chairman for several years; was instrumental in securing our present annual show location at Fort York, and brought the OMSS into the 21st century by being its first webmaster and architect of its website. He would pitch in as auctioneer, porter, janitor; anything that needed to be done, he would eagerly and cheerfully do.

Aside from his passion for model soldiers, those of us who knew him would probably name his infectious good cheer and eternal optimism as his most distinguishing feature. He had an irreverent youthfulness which made him seem ageless, and anyone who spoke with him felt strangely refreshed at meeting a genuinely honest, disarmingly friendly and true gentleman. He will be sadly missed by our entire society.

His funeral was well attended by many comrades from the OMSS and a charitable donation to the Canadian Heart & Stroke Foundation was made in his memory by the Society.

Rest well, old friend. We hope to meet again someday. □

Canadian Armour Modelers Rejoice!



Canadian military equipment is suddenly getting more international attention and respect. The prestigious Chinese plastic model company *Trumpeter*, now widely regarded as the leader in the modeling industry, has exhibited prototype kits of two Canadian APC's at this year's Nuremberg Toy Fair. A Cougar light armoured car is shown at left, and there will also be a Grizzly AVGP (Armoured Vehicle General Purpose) kit on the market soon. Long overdue!



Additionally, our own Grant Lawson has access to a supply of excellent LAV III Canadian APC models in 1/35 scale, pre-painted resin on a scenic base. The detail is excel-

lent, and modifications can even be made to order. Other Canadian military items in this series are quite remarkable as well.

Contributed by Brad Wood and Grant Lawson, OMSS

Websites Worth A Look

www.scottishmilitaryresearch.org.uk

A magnificent treasure trove of research on Scottish soldiers of all eras. Bookmark this one!

www.uniformology.com

An excellent publisher of uniform detail pamphlets on 1800's European armies. Pricey, but often the only game in town.

<http://spillwaytoysoldiers.homestead.com>

An excellent ACW toy soldier maker.

www.plasticsoldierreview.com

A very handy review of the many HO military figures on the market today.

www.vimyfoundation.ca

The website of the Vimy Foundation, preserving and expanding knowledge of Canada's sacrifice on Vimy Ridge in 1917 for future generations. Purchasing one of their excellent lapel pins is a great way to donate!

www.treefrogtreasures.com

A particularly well stocked miniatures dealer in Eyota, MN. A look at their stock makes you want to drive over there!

www.ospreypublishing.com

Home page of the indispensable modeller's reference books; always something new, now with a figure forum and many links.

www.soga-miniatures.com

Your gateway to Eastern European companies.

2011 Annual Fort York Show A Great Success!

By S. J. Dummitt, OMSS



Not only did the weather stay kind to us this year, but once again attendance was up at this year's *On Parade*, the annual show and competition of the Ontario Model Soldier Society. Held on the 11th of June at

Fort York in Toronto, the cream of the society's displays and competition pieces were out for both society members and visitors alike to check out. (See centrespread for photos and results)



Thanks to the many volunteers that were at the fort on Friday for the set-up, things went fast and smooth for show chairman Norm White's crew. After the tables were put out for the vendors and displays, we were pleasantly surprised to see that the tables were covered in gray and blue table cloths, in celebration of this year's theme, "The Blue and the Gray" remembering 150 years since the start of the



U.S. Civil War.

As in the past few years, our friends from the Ottawa 1/6th scale club made another visit to this year's show, starting their set up on the Friday. While they did not bring the large scale street scene as they have done in the last two years, they did bring a huge selection of military and civilian vehicles, including a wonderfully scratch built First World War Mk IV (Female) Tank, a couple of street hot rods and an underwater exploration submarine.



On the Saturday, Gerald Collette and Rod Holloway joined us, both Civil War reenactors who happened to play the part of Confederate Surgeons. Gerald had given the May lecture on Canadian participation during the Civil War and he and Rod were kind enough to set up a display of Civil War medicine in the Block House. While our two Confederate friends looked every inch the part,



our own Society President, Jim Matresky, was not to be outdone as he appeared in an 1812 British Officer's uniform, complete with sword and bicorn hat. Jim fit in perfectly with our Fort York setting and from what I hear he was much sought after most of the day for photo ops.

It looks like the return to themes for the show is working out well. Last year we had a lot of displays in celebration of the Canadian Navy's 100th Anniversary and this year we had a good response to the Civil War theme. Newcomer to the Society, Steve Russell, put on a huge display incorporating a Union Artillery battery, supply train and a dockyard with an Iron Clad Monitor. Gary Lenius, Brian MacDonald, and John Hambly all

had figure displays depicting Civil War scenes and Frank Vella (Ottawa 1/6th Scale Club) had a very convincing kit-bashed mounted Union Artilleryman on display. In the vendor area there was a large selection of Civil War themed items for sale as well.

Janet MacKay had coffee ready for us early at the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire (IODE) snack bar and we were ready to go. The 48th Highlanders Chapter IODE made enough profit this year that they will be donating \$183.00 towards the Support Our Troops overseas campaign, where it has been used to purchase Tim Hortons gift cards for our soldiers in Afghanistan.

With regards to our vendor area, we once again had the Thèberge brothers of *The Toy Soldiers Club* from Quebec City make it to our show, as well as many of our regular retailers and club vendors. Even with the economy still staggering a bit, sales were fairly steady for



most of the vendors.

Of course, there were more than just Civil War items for sale, and while some society members were selling off old collections, there were new items available from such leading manufacturers as *William Britain Limited*, *John*

Jenkins, *Armies in Plastic*, *King & Country*, and many more. Both Henry Chow and myself were fortunate enough to have the latest limited edition set from William Brit-





ains, the Mounted Guidon Party of the Royal Scots Dragoons. These sets had arrived just a few days before the show and so our Society members were amongst the first in the country to see them.

Richard Walker of William Britain Limited was kind enough to send two cases of mounted knights and mounted Civil War cavalry to the OMSS for distribution amongst children in attendance. It was a pleasure to see the children's eyes light up and the expressions on their faces when they found that they could have one of the colourful plastic figures for free. A big thanks is extended from the OMSS to William Britain Limited for their legendary generosity.

We had three new judges doing our competition this year. Ian Pearson, Phil Andrews and Will Murray performed this thankless task. Both Ian and Phil had made two trips to shows in the U.S. to hone up on their judging and they are to be commended for their dedication and meticulous fairness.



With the competition awards handed out, our show and competition came to an end for another year. We have over a year before our big celebration show in 2012. Due to complications with scheduling at the fort, our 50th Anniversary

show and competition will not be held until 8 September, 2012. Remember, the show theme is "The Bicentennial of the Start of the War of 1812", Lets



make the upcoming show something that people will remember and with over a year to go, that's lots of time to come up with some pretty impressive competition and display pieces. We have al-

ready confirmed the return of both *Borgfeldt Canada Limited* and *William Britain Limited* to next years event — let's see you there as well! □



Visiting the Jackman Toy Soldier Collection at the ROM

By Peter L. Jackson, OMSS

I recently visited the Royal Ontario Museum with intentions to see the collection of toy soldiers donated by Henry N. R. Jackman. The collection consists of almost 5000 figures, mostly Britains but also other makers such as *Mignot*, *Heyde*, *Johillco*, *Crescent*, *Stadden*, etc. The figures on view are in a glass cabinet built into the wall in a stairwell between the second and third floors.

The cabinet contained about 200 figures which are only a fraction of the collection, which is changed periodically. The soldiers on display during my visit were dressed in khaki of WW1 and WW2, with guns and vehicles of the period.

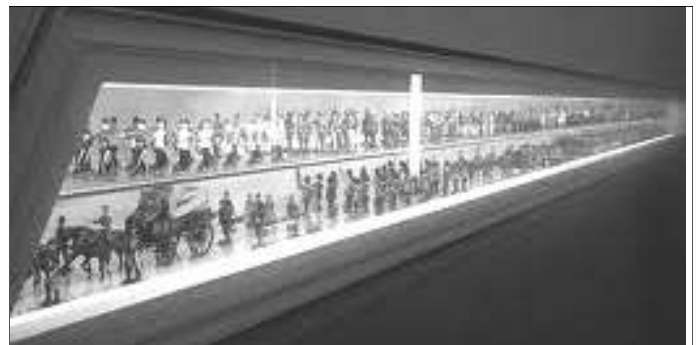
I should mention at this point, that with the enlargement of the museum, it is not an easy place to get around, but there are a number of guides to assist you. Before leaving, I dropped in at the gift shop located on the main floor. This has a number of items on sale, many at a surprisingly reasonable price.



I was delighted to find a copy of the book *The Henry N. R. Jackman Collection of Toy Soldiers in the Royal Ontario Museum*. The preface to the book is by K. Corey Keeble, a curator who is also a toy soldier collector and who was once a featured speaker at an OMSS meeting. This is



a very impressive work, illustrated with some 2000 full colour photos. It is very large and heavy at 12x3 1/2x1; weighs about 6 pounds, 300 pages. The price was only \$39.00 plus tax. Mr. Jackman must have subsidized the book, for at this price it's a steal. □



A Hero In The Family Tree: Sgt Heaton of the Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment



By Ian Pearson, OMSS

While doing some research into the family history, I found a relative that had joined the British Army in 1829 and later served in the Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment based in Amhestburg, Ontario near Windsor. Sergeant Heaton died as one of the oldest and most respected of the

residents of the Township of Essex, Ontario, and pensioner of the British Government. He was born in Bradford, Yorkshire, England on November 5th, 1804 and first enlisted in the Third Light Dragoons in Bradford but being underaged, was sent home. On October 15th, 1829 at age 20 he joined the 30th Regiment of Foot at Leeds and was granted Regimental number 745. After serving four years in England the regiment was ordered to Ireland and while based at Inniskillen, he was married to Elizabeth Brady on March 9th 1834. After two years in Ireland the regiment moved again, this time to Bermuda for eight years. In 1840 the regiment was ordered to Halifax, Nova Scotia and a year later he exchanged to the Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment. Now with a new regiment, he went on to serve in Halifax, Montreal, Niagara, Drummondville and Amherstburg. A detachment of the regiment was stationed there until 1851. He later obtained the rank of Sergeant with five Good Conduct Stripes and retired in 1851 at Colchester where he resided until his death in 1892. The family connection comes through his daughter Elizabeth Victoria.



commissioned members were veterans of fixed periods of service in other regiments of the British Army; secondly it was a rifle regiment rather than a normal infantry regiment.

The main reason the regiment was recruited from veterans were the perennial problem of desertion. Since deserters would not be returned from the United States, it was an easy run to the border and many British soldiers took the chance. They left behind the underpaid and overworked British military life and enjoyed the high wages and a constant demand for labour in the U.S. The problem was solved with the raising of a veterans' regiment. Recruited from soldiers with at least fifteen years service, the theory was that these soldiers were unlikely to desert and more likely to get married and settle down. The regiment offered the attractions of service such as bounties, a higher rate of pay and wives could live in garrison and receive regular rations. The regimental HQ was initially located at Toronto but moved to Kingston in 1855. Individual companies were detached to garrisons throughout Canada West (Ontario) and Canada East (Quebec). One company was stationed at Fort Wellington throughout the 1840s and 1850s. Other garrisons included Montreal, Brockville, Kingston, Toronto, Niagara, Amherstburg and Winnipeg. With the relative peace in Canada between 1838 and 1867 it deployed only once for active service during the 1866 Fenian Raids. The Regiment was disbanded at Kingston on 30 September 1870 as one of the final acts before the British Army withdrew from Canada after Confederation.



1846 Uniform


The frock coat (adopted 1845) was buttoned with black horn buttons of Regimental style. The hat was an Albert pattern shako. The large pouch worn on the right hip carried supply of rolled paper cartridges. On the waist belt was the sword bayonet for the Brunswick Rifle and a small pouch for percussion caps on the front just right of the serpentine buckle. The front of the shako was decorated with a bronze hunting horn emblem that was the common symbol of light infantry and rifle regiments.

The Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment

The Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment (RCRR) was formed as a result of a suggestion from the Duke of Wellington. He recalled the great success of his dedicated light infantry regiments and rifle regiments during the Napoleonic Wars and suggested that only rifle and light infantry regiments should be employed in the "wilds" of Canada. Wellington's recommendation was accepted by the Ministry of War, and the RCRR was created as a rifle regiment. In practical terms, this meant that it was issued green wool uniforms rather than the customary red; black leather accoutrements rather than white, and rifles rather than muskets. Tactically, the Regiment was employed in a skirmishing mode firing relatively few but highly accurate shots rather than frequent volleys of inaccurate short range fire. During it's service, it served exclusively in Canada and had two unusual features. Firstly it was a veterans' battalion in that all non-

The initial rifle used was the well-regarded Baker Rifle first issued during the Napoleonic Wars. It had a flintlock mechanism, was accurate to approximately 300 meters range, and in the hands of a trained rifleman was a very deadly firearm. Later in the early 1840s the British Army adopted the Brunswick Rifle which proved to be unpopular due to its percussion mechanism, a different rifling system, much heavier weight with a nasty recoil. □

~~The Cheap Modeller~~
Frugal
Members' Tips & Tricks




By Jeff Duncan, OMSS

Sometimes things happen in a marriage that make you both think (in a good way) "wow, we have been together too long!" I had one of those moments

over the Christmas holidays with my wife, Heidi. We were hosting her family this year at our house and in the course of the festivities we had exchanged gifts with her family. In the evening, we were cleaning up all the Christmas collateral damage (wrapping paper and packaging) and Heidi came across the packaging from a microwave oven and she remarked to me, "hey Jeff, this looks like a desert fort!" I checked the packaging out and yes, it did look exactly like a desert fort! It was a textured semi-soft cardboard in a perfect tan/sand colour with all the nooks and crannies of a Arabian-style adobe fort. The textured look of the cardboard resembles a fort weathered by a hundred



years of sandstorms. We looked at each other and laughed and both exclaimed, "we have been together too long!"

So, lesson one on the "frugal" front is always be looking out for ideas and uses of "stuff" for our hobby, you never know where or from whom a good item may pop up.



The second tip related to the "frugal fort", I had the perfect ground cover for it. (bringing in 50 pounds of sand might not go over well at home). Your neighborhood fabric store always has remnant sections of material on clearance sale. The fabric materials can be everything from thick drape-like material to tartan prints. In this case, I got some textured tan/sand coloured, lightweight fabric that I used for the ground cover of my "Somewhere in Arabia" diorama. We took a couple of photos to show the "frugal fort" in all its glory with palm trees and the soldiers from a firm called *Potsdam Toy Soldiers* to bring it all to life. □

Have you got a neat tip for cutting costs? From now on, you will be writing this column, so when the editor buttonholes you at a meeting, you'd better be ready to cough up your 'cheap trick' to share with our readers!



OMSS CrossWord
Contributed By Ian Pearson, OMSS

Across

- 1. One of Marlborough's battles won in 1708
- 5. The chief sergeant of a regiment
- 7. Wheeled ammunition box
- 9. German light cavalryman
- 11 See 17 down
- 12 Bridge made of boats
- 14 Call this if you don't know the time
- 16 self
- 18 Recruits quake when sergeants make this noise!
- 19 Nickname for British Military Police
- 21 A woman sailor
- 22 Important requirement for battle (abbreviation)
- 23 A small hand-thrown shell

Down

- 2. Medal awarded for bravery in the field (Initials)
- 3. Town near which four battles were fought in WWI
- 4. American soldier of the First World War
- 6. General who made his name in India
- 7. Former German reserve force
- 8. A busy insect
- 10. Former Co-operative Canteen Society (Initials)
- 11. The Military overseas GPO
- 13. Stumble
- 15. Half sailor, half soldier
- 17 With 11 across, famous British musket
- 20. Murky



Book Reviews From the Age of Sword and Pistol



Wellington Against Massena: The Third Invasion of Portugal, 1810 – 1811

By David Buttery
224 pages,
Pen and Sword company,
£19.99

By Harold R. W. Morrison, OMSS

David Buttery's history book is a fresh look at one year in the peninsular war in Portugal. He brings fresh new research to this time and challenges some of the set opinions proposed in past histories.

At the heart of the book is the struggle between two brilliant generals, Arthur Wellesley, the Duke of Wellington, and Marshal André Massena. They were military chessmasters but in the end Massena was ruined and the Duke of Wellington was on his way to future glory. If there was a consolation prize for Massena, it was that a little town in upstate New York took his name.

Buttery offers a penetrating insight into the personalities of these generals. He reassesses their struggles at Ciudad Rodrigo, Almeida, Busaco, the lines of Torres Vedras and the final hard-fought battle at Fuentes de Oñoro. After the Peninsular War, Wellington was named British Ambassador to the Court of Tuileries. He met Massena in Paris and the former enemies dined together and talked with good humour about their past battles.

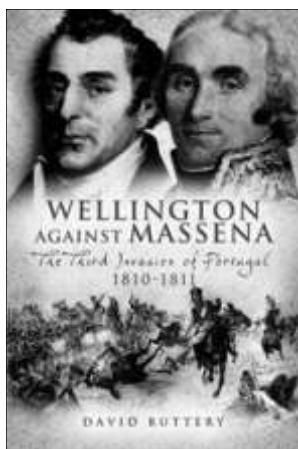
The author does not write from a high level of abstraction. He gets down to personal details such as the British soldier being attacked by a French cavalryman. The soldier had no ammunition in his weapon, but manages to make a fatal wound with his bayoneted musket. As the enemy soldier falls, he cuts the musket butt of his attacker in half. Anecdotes from both the English and the French convey a sense of "you are there." Buttery also challenges traditional views of the battles and the responses of the English and French generals. He reconsiders the scorched earth policy that was used against the French. As well, he notes the conflicting reports of contemporaries which still confuse our understanding of the major events.

Buttery has made a study of 19th century warfare. He has specialized in the Peninsular War, to which this book is a testimonial. His writing is crisp and to the point. Highly readable.

Two small quibbles:

It would be better if there were full page maps.

Also needed: an Order of Battle, but Buttery does mention all the regiments in the Index. □



The Fort

By Bernard Cornwell
311 pp.
Harper Collins, 2010
\$9.99

By Frank Ellis, OMSS

This story is not to be confused with Sharpe's Fortress, another work by this author which took place in Gawilighur, central India in 1803. The Fort is situated

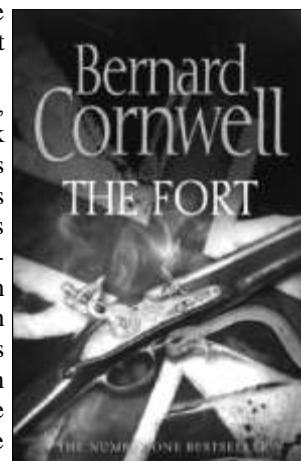
half a world away in Penobscot, Massachusetts (now Maine) in 1799. Richard Sharpe would have been about two or three years old at the time.

As in many of Cornwell's stories, the historical events actually took place but he embellishes the gaps with exciting fillers. The locations also exist, some with names changed. Some of the main characters are based on real people. On the British side, we meet Lt. John Moore, who some 30 years later, as Sir John Moore, died at Corunna in the Peninsular War. He was the driving force in the formation of the Light Division.

On the rebel side, we are introduced to Paul Revere—who is not the hero most Americans believe him to be. His ride was cut short when the British confiscated his horse. The gist of the story is that the British military established an outpost in order to provide protection to American Loyalists living there. There are attacks and counterattacks by land and sea and the navies of both sides played major roles. The Royal Navy with its three sloops of war (not to be confused with the sloop of today), mounted 18 or 20 light canon, was able to battle the rebel fleet of some 40 vessels of varying sizes to a standoff, preventing capture of the fort.

When a small British fleet arrived, what happened next has been described as the worst naval disaster in American history prior to Pearl Harbour! The remainder of the book is concerned with how the fort was completed, strengthened and fortified to such an extent that the besieging army, which included Continental Marines, was unable to capture it.

I highly recommend this book as an excellent read but it begs the question, "Where is MacDonald?" □



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Their Ad in The OMSS Journal —
Or Ask them Why You **Didn't!**

OMSS Member Profile: *It's Chow Time!*



By Jim & Eunice Matresky, OMSS

Henry Chow has been a member of OMSS for eighteen years. He lives with his wife in Willowdale and has one daughter, who is married, and one son. Henry has worked for Dorset Tools for sixteen years and sells to companies such as Canadian Tire and Home Depot.

Of course, most of our members know Henry as a vendor at our monthly meetings who specializes in the sale of *Britains* toy soldiers.

How and when did you get started in the hobby?

When I was five or six years old I was already playing with toy soldiers. My soldiers were all from my uncle and were all made prior to the war. The first one that I remember



was a sixteen inch gun. Of course, at that age I did not know how to take care of the toys and many of them broke. Shortly after that three or four department stores in Hong Kong started to import *Britains* sets. I remember they had Scots Guards and Scots Greys. I had a few sets but most of the heads broke off so I just threw them away. Then I remember plastic model kits came out around 1967, and I played with them. *Britains* had stopped production of metal figures and produced plastic figures. At the time the price was 50 Hong Kong cents which today would be about 4 Canadian cents. I saved my money and bought lots of figures but when we moved houses they were all thrown away. In 1967, I moved from England back to Hong Kong and stopped at a toy shop in New York city.



The shop was named Schwartz and I bought this set of

Grenadier Guards - Britains #9321 - for \$17.54 U.S. [*Henry showed me this very same set as he was interviewed.*] This was the first set that I bought, and I kept it, and have kept the figures in the box and have not brought it out again until now. This first set reminded me of my uncle and his family who bought so many toy soldiers in those early days.

Is there a special person who had influenced you or taught you regarding the hobby?

My uncle didn't really teach me about toy soldiers. Everything I learned since I immigrated to Canada. I attended a show at the Novotel Hotel in North York in 1993 and shortly thereafter I joined OMSS and bought some sets at the auction which was operated by Russ Davis. I also learned a lot from Jim Milne, who died a few years ago from cancer.

What is your special interest re: model or toy soldiers? Do you have a favourite figure or set of figures?

Because it is very hard for an immigrant to get a job, I thought I would open a shop and sell toy soldiers. I couldn't find a place for my shop for a while but finally I got a shop space in Richmond Hill, but three months later, after I paid the deposit, the project was cancelled. I tried to get another space at the Sheraton Hotel on Highway 7, but there weren't enough people to buy soldiers. I tried also to rent space at Fairview Mall but was turned down because I was inexperienced in running a toy shop. Finally I just gave up, but I had a large inventory so I just sold from my house, which I found out is much better for me because I have a low overhead and can sell the goods at a lower price. I have many customers from across Canada, including Vancouver and Winnipeg, with my mail-order business. I have been a *Britains* agent since 1994.



I like all kinds of toys and I collect all kinds of fig-



If you had one suggestion to make to improve the OMSS, what would that be?

The change in membership in OMSS has been very great since I first became a member. The people I sell to now are completely different than those I used to sell to. I think we must continue to get people interested in the hobby of toy soldiers by putting application forms and flyers in hobby shops. We should try to get more young members.

What advice would you have for a person just beginning a model or toy soldier collection?

Decide what kind of figures you want to collect and focus on that. Most young people want the new product painted in matte colours. They are well done, very realistic and don't cost as much as the older figures. The more senior collector wants old Britains which reminds him of the past – it brings back memories.

In your years of collecting, what is your biggest regret – missed opportunity, the ones that got away?

If I wanted something eventually I got it, although it may have been at a very high price. I am still looking for the Royal Marines Light Infantry with red coats – a set of 26 pieces which is Britains pre-war. It is very expensive!

What do you enjoy most about the hobby – e.g., painting, casting, research, building dioramas, buying?

I enjoy collecting. I am a very poor painter. I buy plastic models of ships and tanks and pay someone else to assemble and paint them but sometimes I have to wait a long time for the completed product, but then I put it in my display cabinet. I waited for my Bismarck model for three years!
□

ures, but my favourites are the older ones, especially older bands. I like to display them in my cabinets, but then people come to see them and want to buy them and then I don't have them anymore. I still collect a lot but they must be old, of good quality and be in the original box. I like figures that are difficult to get. Most of them I get at auctions in England and the United States. I now keep the figures that I really like and I don't sell them to anybody.



How do you display your figures? Describe your collection.

I used to display many of my figures but so many people used to come and see my figures on display and they would want to buy them.

Now I keep my figures in the boxes and keep them stored away. People sometimes offer me a really high price for the figures which I can't refuse. Sometimes people want to buy partial sets but I refuse to sell unless they buy the whole set or combination of sets. For example, I had four sets of set #101 of a mounted band with different variations. The client offered me a very high price for all four sets and I sold them to him.

How many figures do you have?

At the present time I have between 2000 and 3000 figures. It is hard to tell because I buy and sell all the time and the number changes.





Photos by Gary Lenius

**OMSS Annual Show &
Competition Results
Saturday, June 11, 2011
Fort York,
Toronto**

Open Competition

Bronze Awards:

Jeff Duncan "Canadian Women's Army Corps"
Frank MacKay "Grand Master of Knights Templar"
Alex Morgan "Mg of the Toronto Scottish"
Bruce Sundstrom "Marder III"
Bruce Sundstrom "Military Medicine"
Andy Traverse "Thin Red Line"
Gail Stone "Collecting is Fun"
Andrew Laschuk "War Bird"
Andrew Laschuk "'32 Ford Black Highboy"
John Dean "Canadian Jeep with .50 Cal MG"
Frank Vella "Mounted Artillery"

Silver Awards:

Scott Dummitt "REME Staff Band"
John Brown "Newfoundland Bugle Band"
Will Murray "My Recent Models"
Bill Wyatt "Troop Landing Craft"
John Hambly "To the Rescue"
Don Ritchie "Canadian Guards"
Andrew Laschuk "Aria ZUZU Submarine"
Harold Jones "M4 Sherman Firefly"

Gold Awards:

Grant Lawson for his four figures "Canadian Soldier
WWI", "Hula Girl", "Retreat from Moscow" and
"Maybe Next Year"
Bruce Sundstrom "Chinese War Elephant"
Werner Schroth "Some Flats"
Les Eslary "Field Day England 1914"
Geoff Truscott "Wireless Set No. 19"

Wellington Cup

(Best of Show selected by the judges)
Phil Andrews "RCAF Pilot"

Club's Choice

(best of show voted by attendees)
Les Eslary "Field Day England 1914"

We had 42 entries, plus several large displays
which were not in competition.
With thanks to judges Ian Pearson, Phil Andrews
and Will Murray
For more:

<http://www.omss.ca/share/show2011>





Modelling The Horse

By Charles Buchanan, OMSS

Although I'm probably capable, I've no interest at all in sculpting or modeling miniatures of dogs, cats, tanks, ships or fish; my areas of interest lie solely in the creation of 3D images representing the human form and things equestrian, with emphasis placed on ensuring that whatever I do, it's proportionally and anatomically correct. Mood and colour are secondary and flow as a result, but in terms of painting my work, I'm still the 'novice', for our military modeling society contains the talent of others who are far superior figure painters than myself.

Military modeling does however, involve a relationship that I find fascinating, and that is the partnership between man and horse in times of peace and war. In previous articles, I've tried to help you look at the human form and how one can get better at modeling it, but in this article I'd like to try and create an interest in looking at the form of the horse, so that when you choose a kit, or modify an existing kit, which incorporates a partnership between rider and horse, you know what to look for in the steed and what to avoid.

Horses are as complex and different as humans, probably more so, because of differing breeds, but like humans horses have their basics: four legs, a body, neck, head, and tail. Proportion throughout the breeds is roughly the same, with minor differences surfacing according to height and build, but they are beautiful creatures and in terms of all nature's quadrupeds, the most majestic in my opinion. In all of my off and on years of being around these animals, no two have ever been alike; they are all so different, with differing temperaments, personalities and moods. There is nothing quite like having one of these creatures underneath you as you try and steer it towards and over a jump, and still remain mounted. For those brief milliseconds that you are airborne,

there is no feeling like it in the world, nothing, none, zilch, nada, zippo, not one! It's a 'rider's high', pardon the pun.

Fig 1 is a generic drawing of a symmetrically sound gelding with thoroughbred and quarter horse traits; the head is smallish, signifying a tall mount of about 15½ -

16 hands or so, the body broad, and the legs long and well muscled. From my limited knowledge I know a creature like this would not win the Grand National, but it would possess the endurance and stamina necessary to eventually out run other steeds, and be able to jump a 5'6" fence; haven't done that yet and doubt if I ever will, it's just too high.

Fig 2 is the same drawing, but with the addition of a

dotted line drawn to form a square superimposed over the body.

In profile, a horse that is correctly proportioned will fit neatly into a square as shown, this square being unofficially referred to as 'the wheelbase'. The uppermost horizontal line sits atop the highest point of the withers, the left vertical touches the chest's pectoral muscles, the right the edge of the rump, and the bottom the base of the hooves. If a horse's dimensions extend beyond its wheelbase, don't buy it, with the distinct exception of a good jumper that is. Horses that jump well are the athletic hurdlers of the equestrian world, and tend to have a slightly longer wheelbase, (See **Fig 3**).

Fig 4 shows two additional horizontal lines added to the square, the uppermost positioned just above the halfway point, the second line dissecting the bottom segment into two equal halves. Take careful note that this second line lies under both knee joints, and is a good measurement reference for either long or short limbs, for a common mistake is modeling cannon bones that are too long. I've added **Fig 5** because it contains some of the terminology of a horse's external features, which are important because the following drawings make more sense when you understand what I'm referring to as I discuss pro-

Fig 2

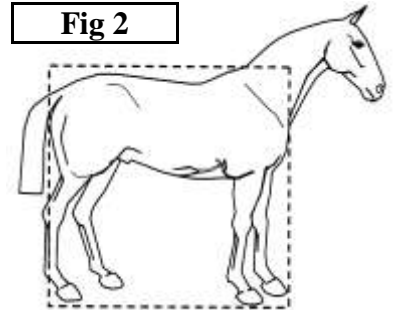


Fig 3

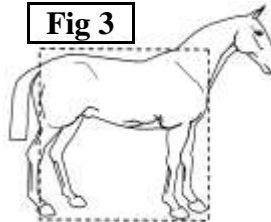


Fig 4

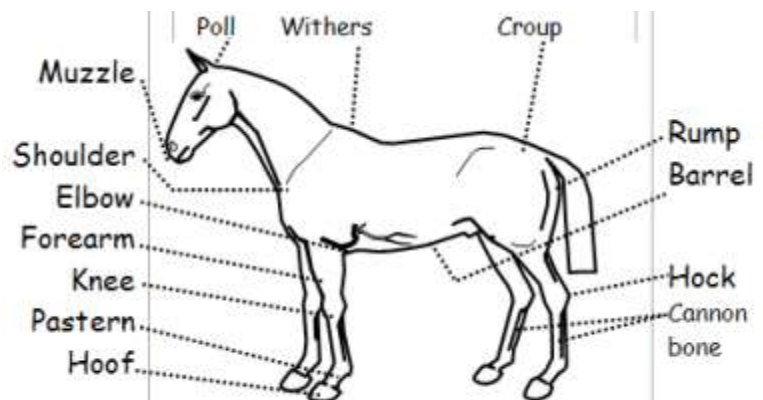
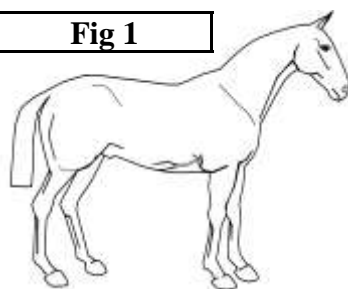
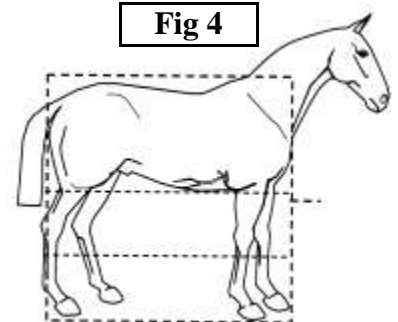
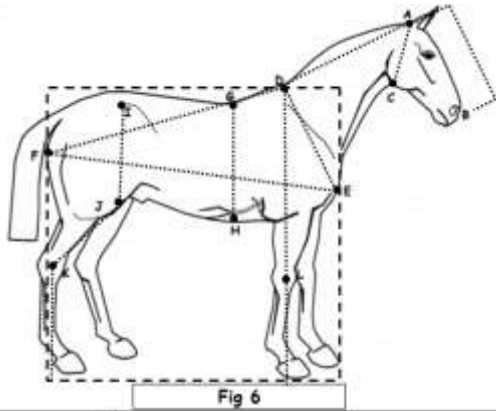


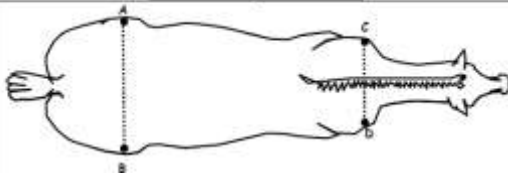
Fig 5

Measurements

- A - B = 1 (yardstick)
- A - C = $\frac{1}{2}$
- D - Ground = 3+
- D - E = 1
- F - E = 3
- J - K = 1
- K - Ground = 1
- G - H = 1+
- L - ground = 1-

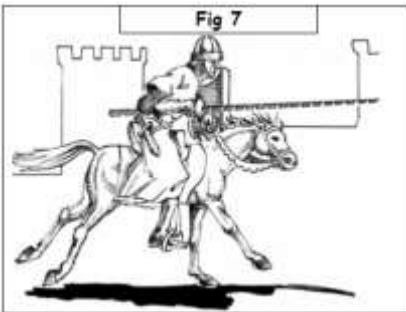


- A - B = 1+
- C - D = $\frac{1}{2}$



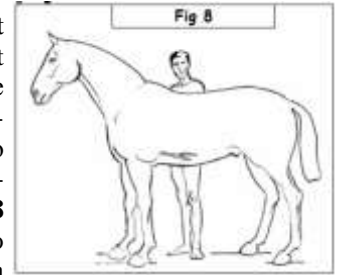
portional measurement.

If you recall human proportion, the length of the human head is used as a yardstick and fits into the ideal human body somewhere between 7- 7½ times. Well, we use the horse's head in the same way, but because this creature is a quadruped, we can't use it just as a vertical yardstick, as is done with the human form. Instead it's used horizontally, vertically and diagonally, as can be seen in Fig 6. In Fig 6 a symmetrical horse's wheelbase fits neatly into a square, with the withers at point D, the rump at F, and the chest at E, touching the square's border lines as described in Fig 2. Look closely at Fig 6 and you will observe how head length has been used as a yardstick for proportional measurement purposes. If these measurements are taken and appear correct, they collectively denote a horse of sound build. In conclusion, it sometimes proves difficult to know just how large a horse should be in terms of the average male rider who stands about 6 foot tall.



Personally, I seem predisposed to the error of modeling a rider one size larger than what's the ideal for his steed, and have had to remodel him from scratch, a frustrating business indeed. On one occasion I had to re-do the rider *three times* before I got it right, the lesson being that if you don't ensure proportional correctness before fleshing out your armatures, or converting an existing horse and rider right from the get-go, you may end up with something resembling Fig 7. Think about it: you sit at your bench admiring your work, you put it down at the end of the day, and then the following morning after your eyes have readjusted, you notice immediately what's wrong.

I've found that the best way of judging correct rider height is for the rider's armature to be posed in an upright position standing close to the horse's withers, so that his head and shoulders protrude just above them, (See Figs 8 & 9). Riders do differ in height, so if you're modeling a child or a woman, reduce armature height accordingly. If you are modifying or converting an existing rider, this presents a different problem, especially if it's a specific personality. You have to get a larger mount, or expand the size of what you already have by a minor percentage. This involves increasing body width and length, leg and neck length. By the way, you're severely limited in this regard because of head size. If you increase proportion too much, you end up with the equestrian version of the comic book hero, small head sitting atop a huge body, which doesn't exist in real life and is a product of Hollywood.



Well, there you have it. For those of you who are brave enough to try and scratch build a horse, keep your eyes open for a future edition of the OMSS journal, in which I will explain the process I use for modeling a horse. I've done all of the groundwork for you. □



1920's Cocoa Premium -- From the collection of John Brown, OMSS

Fourth in A Series: Famous Regiments of The Canadian Army

Compiled by Ian Pearson, OMSS



The 8th Canadian Hussars (Princess Louise's) is the longest serving armoured regiment in the Canadian Army. A Squadron being Regular Force served in CFB Gagetown and B, C and HQ Squadrons served in Sussex, Moncton and Sackville. In 1998

again due to budget reasons the Regular Squadron was disbanded and the regiment reverted to reserve status again.

Originally founded as the New Brunswick Regiment of Yeomanry Cavalry in 1848 by the regimentation of a number of independent cavalry troops, the regiment was the first volunteer cavalry regiment in British North America. During the Second World War the regiment first formed initially as the 4th Canadian Motor Cycle Regiment and then as the 5th Armoured Regiment. They landed in Italy on December 1943 at Naples and saw action thereafter at such battles as Cassino and the Liri Valley, the Metfa Crossing, Ceprano, The Gothic Line, Missano Ridge, Coriano, the Lamone River Crossing, and Coventello. In February 1945, the Hussars sailed from Italy to Southern France, and then moved by rail to Northwest Europe. After refitting the tanks, the regiment went into action in Holland, breaking through to Putten in mid-April. The regiment



then moved north for the final actions of the war at the Delfzijl Pocket where 3,000 German soldiers surrendered to the regiment. On 26 January 1946, the regiment arrived in Halifax and the next day reached Sussex, New Brunswick where it was demobilized. After WW2 the regiment provided men for the Special Forces which were deployed to Korea, and in 1951 "Y" Troop was organized for service with the 27th Canadian Infantry Brigade in Germany. It took part in the Oka Crisis, the 1998 Ice Storm and the recovery effort for Swiss Air Flight 111. The unit is stationed at the Moncton and Sussex detachments of CFB Gagetown, New Brunswick.

The Drawing - Provincial Militia uniform worn by the regiment during the 1860's

Pillbox: standard for the day / Tunic: scarlet with blue facings on collar and sleeve cuffs with piping along front and bottom and one breast pocket on the left side / Trousers: dark grey with red piping along outside seams / Crossbelt: white leather / Boots: Black leather.

References: Regimental history: 125 Years of Service 1848-1973 and Regimental website. □

Kit Review: Lindberg's 1:1 scale 'Pirate Pistols' (Arr!)

By Frank MacKay, OMSS

I'm a big believer in taking a vacation from my usual diet of figures occasionally, staying fresh by modeling something completely different. I usually tackle tanks or aircraft but I've done cars, ships, buildings, even a dinosaur, before gratefully returning refreshed to figures. When a friend gave me one of Lindberg's 'Pirate Pistol' kits, I knew this would be an unusual departure and also allow me to practice faux metal and wood finishes in a scale larger than 54mm.

There are four pistols in the series, this one being the 'Dutch flint-lock'. Although they are back on the market to cash in on the *Pirates of the Caribbean* movie craze, these are in fact very old kits. They were first released by Pyro in the 1960's, then by Revell and most recently by Lindberg. A little research on the internet revealed that the original pistols had nothing whatsoever to do with pirates. This pistol was modeled after a magnificent matched pair on display at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art (www.metmuseum.org). They have hand-carved ivory stocks and silver fittings and are the work of master gunsmith Leonardus Graeff, who worked in Aachen 1675-85. Blackbeard is pictured on the box, but it's highly unlikely that brigand would ever have owned such a fine piece. As I had no intention of finishing it in ivory, I was therefore free to proceed according to my own tastes.



The kit is fairly basic, comprising two trees with about 20 parts in white plastic. There were numerous sink holes in my example, which shows that the molds are old or not warmed up properly. These holes had to be filled and sanded smooth before proceeding, I use Testors or Squadron Green Putty depending on depth of the hole.

Building from the inside out, I painted the trigger mechanism darkened bronze and washed it with black acrylic. There is a rudimentary trigger mechanism inside which looks like it was once intended to fire, but several pieces have obviously been omitted. No matter, I wasn't going to fire it anyway.

The trigger mech inside, I then glued the stock together and sanded everything smooth. The pine-coloured wood on the box art is completely wrong; most pistol stocks were made of oak or even harder woods for strength. I masked the openings and sprayed all the wood parts with flat black from a spray can. After it was fully cured, I over-painted this with a coat of Apple Barrel brown acrylic paint. Then before it was dry, I dragged a knife blade across the damp paint to reveal the black underneath (don't go deep enough to expose the white plastic). When this was done, I over-painted again with 'coffee bean' acrylic and repeated the process. When completely dry, I roughed it up with steel wool to expose various layers of colour. From a distance, it does a pretty convincing job of simulating wood grain! I sealed it with a few coats of Testor's Glosscote.

Turning to the metal parts, I painted the lock with gold spray paint and used various acrylic washes to simulate worn brass. The hammer itself would have been steel, so I sprayed it with Dutch Boy chrome paint, the shiniest on the market. Untouched, it practically glows in the dark but repeated handling dulls down the finish and makes it look like worn steel that has been polished by being carried in somebody's

belt all day. The ornate helmet on the pommel received the same treatment, and I put in a few extra scratches and dings to simulate wear.

The hammer is very well molded and realistically done. With some acrylic and ink pinwashes, the screw vice really looks like it's gripping a flint. The flint itself is just a white plastic block. I scalloped and carved quite a bit off before it actually started to look like a rock. I undercoated with light blue, misting light green over that, drybrushing with white oil paint. It actually looks quite realistic and flinty.

Mating the barrel to the stock was the most fiddly and messy part of the build. The fit is poor and I had to do more sanding and gap filling in order to get the upper half of the barrel to fit right. I used Lepage's A&B epoxy and clamped it fore and aft in stages. The entire pistol is hollow, so no gaps can show light when you look down the barrel. I spackled up gaps with some putty on a stick, then fired some flat black spray paint down the tube. The overspray made realistic carbon stains near the muzzle to look like it had been recently fired. Might be worth making a plastic or paper .45 caliber liner to insert down the barrel.

Strangely, although the pan is well modeled, there is no touch hole, so I had to drill one myself. To simulate black powder primer, I soaked some model railroad scale coal in thinned white glue and piled it in the pan where it hardened up nicely. I glued the hammer at the half-cock so the contents of the pan would be visible. The lock itself has no engraving on it, so I scratched in Leonardus' name and 1685 by hand, filling in the depressions with repeated washes to simulate dirt and carbon build up. The brackets for the ramrod had to be filed paper-thin and clamped to get it to fit, and the tamper at the end wouldn't fit at all without major alterations. The photo on the box omits it entirely because the modeler couldn't get it to fit! Very poor effort on that score. The instructions are also very basic, may as well discard them.



All in all, it was a very interesting build, and I managed to win a silver medal with it at the Ajax Plastic Model Contest. I think I can recommend these kits as a pleasant diversion, but by today's standards however, they are very rudimentary. Don't expect much and don't pay top dollar for them. The scary part is, with today's crazy gun laws, these may soon be the only pistols we're allowed to own!

I hope you've enjoyed this kit review. You are writing the next one. □





Visiting the MFCA Show In King of Prussia, PA *A Magnificent Adventure!*



MINIATURE FIGURE
COLLECTORS OF AMERICA

By Phil Andrews & Ian Pearson, OMSS

The Miniature Figure Collectors of America (MFCA) was founded in 1941. It is one of the largest shows of its kind in the USA and renowned for its large display area of miniature figures and models. Model types range from connoisseur quality to tanks, ships and planes in all the most common scales, along with boxed dioramas or miniature staging of historic scenes. Incorporated into the show is a very large vendor area with nearly one hundred dealers on over two hundred tables selling everything for the hobbyist.

Ian attended this show last year and was very impressed with it. Being selected as judges and not having any real practical experience, we decided to take in the show and try out our judging lessons learned in Atlanta.

We rented a small compact car, however the size and no cruise control soon took made this mistake quite clear, in comfort and ease of driving. We departed Oshawa at 2215 on 29 April, crossing the border just after midnight at Fort Erie. We chose to use state roads to avoid tolls, but in time and ease of driving this did not come out as a good idea. Stick to the major roads! Our route took us just south of Buffalo onto highway 20 and about 10 hours of driving allowing for two stops and the border crossing.

After arriving, we decided to look around the show before getting to the judging. There is a \$15 entry fee into the vendor area and exhibits. An information table was available and we left OMSS pamphlets Gary had given us on the table to promote our show in June. By the time we were ready to leave, about half were gone. Their display area was much like Atlanta with all the

tables raised so one does not have to bend over a lot. This makes taking photos and viewing the displays much easier. The displays were really quite incredible.

The vendor area offered something for just about every area of the hobby. Books, models, stands, toy soldiers, tee shirts etc., the list is endless. Bring your wish lists and credit cards, they won't go unused.

After picking up a few things we opted for a quick lunch about 1200 and at 1240, we started our shadow judging. Wanting to put our limited knowledge to work, we decided to select about 10 figures from different categories and went to work. Some of the displays were simply fantastic. We had made note of the painter, model name, category and took a photo of each for easy identification later. We checked the winners list later on the internet to see how we did.

During the show, we again met Swedish World Master, Mike Blank. Phil has a developing project involving North American Indians. While looking at a fabulous display of Indians bust the painter Al LaFleche (at left)



who took time to speak with Phil about painting techniques. This proved to be an interesting and extremely helpful conversation. While doing some judging we came across several small vignettes. They were done by a very talented Frenchman and a MFCA Master, Christian Petit (see www.christianpetitfigurines.com) and he was kind enough to spend close to 20 minutes with us explaining each one, how he came up with the idea, construction methods, painting techniques and how he wanted the story to be relayed to the viewer. If ever we learned anything from the show this was it. This is just what we needed to look and see what each little scene is trying to convey. Phil also talked to a few flat painters from the American chapter of The British Flat Figure Society (www.britishflatfigures.org.uk) who gave him some tips and also told him to ask at



the above mentioned web site and he would get answers. These are some of the things one can experience in going to the shows. We have learned that if you find a piece that grabs your interest, the owner is more than happy to speak to you and answer questions. Learn from the best and Philly is good place to do just that.



Around 16:00 vendors started packing up and people started to exit the show. We decided to have one last look around then headed for dinner and the hotel. Dinner was at a steak house next door to the hotel. Great place to eat! Afterwards we went back to the convention center to the meet and greet. There we were greeted by Brad James, a member of the MFCA executive, who gave us a taste of

local brews, judging tips, stories of past shows and people like John Rosengrant! We found more conversation about modeling and learned a few things about the Prussian Army, as it that seemed to be the main topic. After a while the effects of being up since 10 the previous night was starting to show and we departed safely. It did not take long for us to get to sleep. The next day was a bit hard to get stiff legs to work properly!



Since Phil had never been to Valley Forge, we decided to take the opportunity to have a look around the historic site. Arriving at opening time we took two hours to quickly cover the site. If you go, one could easily spend an entire day. Leaving about 1100 we were back to Os-hawa arriving about 9 pm.

In all, the trip was well worth the effort and money. By the way, the economics are really good. Ian and I figured on \$250



US each and were over by \$28. What we learned and experienced only adds to the value of the trip. Should you get the chance to go, GO! Enjoy an excellent time and show. ne thing we must mention is the completeness of their web page. It very clearly laid out with a separate section for the show. Well done Philly, excellent show. □



Book Review

By David K. Dorward, OMSS



Lead Soldiers and Figurines, The World of Miniatures by Marcel Baldet, published 1961 (127 pp.) with a sympathetic translation from the original French edition by E. Stanton Russell, is simply a marvellous book and encapsulates much of the history of military miniatures up to the date of its publication. Sitting in the Caledon Hills on a snowy Saturday morning, I was compelled to write a review of a book I received yesterday courtesy of my good friend, Ben Weed, collector of flags, especially movie related ones, in Stockton, California.

The author, Frenchman Marcel Baldet, an Honorary Member of the Society of Collectors of Historical Figurines, Paris, and General Secretary of *La Sabretache*, also of Paris, is the author and was an authority on the world of military miniatures judging by the book.

As many of you know by my article and talk on *C.B.G. Mignot* some time ago, I have a particular fondness for French military miniatures and companies and this book did not disappoint. The front dust jacket cover depicts in colour two flat figurines of Jousting Knights, height 65 mm, arms and helmet visors articulated, by *Besold*, circa 1835. A deceased (2003) former President of the Society, Rick Irons, who loved knights, would have really appreciated this and other knights depicted in black and white and colour photographs throughout the book.

There is something for every miniature enthusiast in the book. There are whole chapters on Artillery, and Military Vehicles, The Age of Plastics and A New Science: The Military Uniform is covered along with the history and almost every facet of our hobby. Some of the illustrations I noted and enjoyed were flats depicting naked runners (historically and anatomically correct) from *The Olympic Games (500 B.C.)* by *Kiel* from the Wattier Collection in Paris and *Greek Warriors in Council*, flat figurines painted by A. *Mathiot* from the Mathiot Collection in Chantilly, France. Not to neglect North America, there is a photograph of Gettysburg diorama of Confederate Troops in Retreat After The Battle of Gettysburg, July 3, 1863, showing details of the center. This diorama is displayed at the West Point Museum in New York. Seek out this book and if you get a chance to purchase it, do not hesitate. You will not be disappointed! □

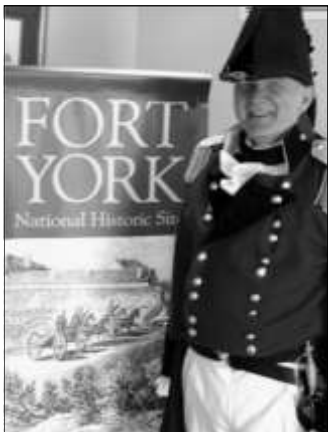
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Did You Know...

The famed Confederate 'Rebel Yell' is thought to have alluded to the biblical king Jehu (Ya-hoo), who was noted for driving his chariot furiously and recklessly, stopping for no one.

Past Prez Thanks OMSS for Hard Work and Great Annual Show

Predicts Exciting Upcoming Year!



By Jim Matresky, OMSS

It has been a very busy time for the OMSS since our last Journal went to press. A few of our most long-standing members and friends have passed away. I will not mention all of their names but I must give special thanks on behalf of the OMSS to the families of Bob Fairburn and Paul Aitchison for all the figures they have donated to us so that our members could have a tangible memory of these departed

friends. Thank you also to Mike Niederman, who donated a large inventory of kits and figures in the name of Keith Demmery.

Guy Elliott, our newly elected President, and his Awards Committees have been working hard on the nomination of our awards recipients. The awards will be presented at our Christmas Luncheon, which has become an annual tradition.

Eric Clarke, in his capacity as Programme Chairman, has continued to find outstanding speakers for our monthly meetings. Gary Lenius has kept busy as usual, designing our Annual Show flyer for this year as well as our publicity pamphlet and our revised web site, plus editing the monthly Newsletter. Scott Dummitt has filled in admirably on the Executive. Gail Stone continues to volunteer her services to represent the Society at various shows and, of course, is the driving force behind our Christmas Luncheon.

By the time you read this publication, our Annual Show will have concluded for another year. Thank you to Norm White for your leadership in organizing the Show and thank you to Frank MacKay for another fine Journal to record it for posterity. Thank you also to Janet MacKay and the 48th Highlanders Chapter of IODE for organizing the refreshments at the Show. Ian Pearson and Phil Andrews have done an outstanding job in revamping our judging system for the Show. I would be remiss in not acknowledging John Murdock who is always willing to share his expertise during the discussions at the Executive level.

Please stay tuned for all of the exciting plans that Bren Furlong and his 50th Anniversary Committee are developing. The date at Fort York for the Annual Show and Competition and the 50th Anniversary Dinner is September 8th, 2012. This should be a once in a lifetime experience!

Finally, at the risk of forgetting any number of people who contribute to our organization behind the scenes, I must acknowledge Jeff Duncan, John Brown and Evelyn Brown for all their work with the draw and with the sale of figures for the Society.

I look forward to the exciting coming year. I have a suspicion that our activities will not slow down over that time. Please remember to find time for what is *really* important in your life – collecting, casting, painting, buying, and selling toy soldiers! □

Gen. James Wolfe Portrait Purchased by Canadian Buyer



An unidentified Canadian buyer has shelled out \$640,000 at an art auction in Britain -- more than triple the expected price -- to purchase the last known privately held portrait of Gen. James Wolfe, ill-fated hero of the Battle of the Plains of Abraham and legendary "conqueror of Canada."

Wolfe died heroically on the battlefield 250 years ago in the most important military battle in Canadian history -- a pivotal defeat for New France and a key victory for Britain in extending its empire widely across North America.

Bonham's sale of Old Master Paintings in London proved Wolfe still packs a serious punch in the auction market. The Wolfe portrait is believed to have been painted by the famed British artist James Highmore following the September 1759 battle at Quebec. It's effectively the last portrait of Wolfe which is in private hands. The final price in the hotly contested sale, paid by a Canadian buyer bidding by telephone, far exceeded the pre-sale estimate of about \$190,000.

The metre-wide, expertly crafted image of Wolfe had been "in a country home in Cornwall, just hanging there for generations", a spokesman said prior to the sale. The last time a significant Wolfe portrait was auctioned in Britain, in 2007, it was also initially valued at less than \$200,000 and sold to an unnamed North American collector for more than \$525,000. That transaction, however, was abruptly halted by the British government. Declaring the 1760 painting by J.S.C. Schaak a national treasure barred from export, The U.K. Ministry of Culture forced the resale of the work to a buyer within the country, and it was acquired in 2008 by Britain's national army museum for \$600,000.

The portrait is deemed to have been painted by Highmore as early as 1760 -- just months after the Wolfe-led assault on Quebec profoundly altered the course of Canadian and world history. □

Answers To P.4 Pilot Wings Quiz

1. Royal Canadian Air Force (1939)
2. US Air Force (1943)
3. Royal Air Force (1939-)
4. Royal Flying Corps (WW1)
5. RAF Glider Pilot (1943)
6. Free French Air Force (1940)



The Swami Answers Your Modelling Questions

Q: O Wise and All-Knowing Swami, I've been a member of the OMSS for many years and enjoy it very much. I feel a sense of loyalty to the Society and attend almost every meeting. Sometimes however, I just don't find some of the topics of our meetings fit my interests. What can I do?

A: The first thing that must be appreciated is that the OMSS encompasses a group of people with many different interests. It's not just a club for toy soldier collectors; there are connoisseur painters, plastic model builders, book and print collectors, military history buffs of every imaginable stripe. Imagine if it were your task to plan lectures and activities that would enthrall *each and every member, every month*, without fail, at every meeting for ten months of the year. It's almost impossible. The late great Charles Kaufmann, who served as OMSS Program Chairman for many years before this death, always found this a very daunting task. His successor, Eric Clarke, would certainly agree, although many would say he has now excelled his mentor. If a particular topic doesn't excite your interest, my advice is to give it a chance anyway. I can't think of a single OMSS featured speaker in decades that could actually be described as '*boring*'. If you give it a chance, you may be introduced to entire new worlds of information you had no idea existed. Personally, I have never come away from an OMSS meeting without picking up at least one fascinating new bit of information. Certainly, there will be main speakers occasionally who don't fit your interest, that is inevitable and you have no reason to feel guilty about it. In cases like this, focus on everything else the Society has to offer. Our vendor's prices cannot be beaten; there's coffee, donuts, beer for afterwards; monthly draws for excellent hobby materials at every meeting; free access to the club spare parts box; free access to news, views and a vast storehouse of knowledge on military history. You have but to ask, and you'll get answers to any question imaginable. Not to mention the camaraderie of our close knit society and it's many unique characters. Truly, you're cheating yourself by missing a single meeting. □

Send your modeling questions to The Swami c/o The OMSS Journal—he knows all, sees all and feels all (when he gets the chance.)

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We can also insert your promotional materials inside an issue starting at only \$25!

Received and read by every member!

Wyatt of The 16th Foot: More Proud Military Heritage From OMSS Members' Family Histories

By William Wyatt, OMSS Most histories of the towns and cities of Ontario list the colonels and the sea captains who settled there after their service in the British Empire. They do not list the 'other ranks' that did. This is the brief story as far as it can be traced, of one private soldier, my great grandfather, Private Thomas Wyatt.

Other than a story about him walking from Goderich, where he settled on retirement, to London, ON, to pick up his pension cheque, and how he died, we knew little until my father wrote to the Public Records Office (PRO) in London, England, for what information they might have. A half page summary came back.

We found that he was born in Southampton and enlisted at eighteen in 1842 at Portsmouth in the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment, the 16th Foot. Later investigation through census records in Canada revealed that he was born two years later than the PRO records suggest to a Thomas Wyatt, shoe maker, and his wife, in Hythe, just across the river from Southampton. It would seem that he lied about his age when enlisting and later in Canada when it no longer mattered, corrected the record.

As to whether it was wanderlust or home life that led him to enlist, one will likely never know. The PRO report listed Thomas as a shoemaker by trade (years in his father's shop) and this was likely a useful trade in a unit that travels by foot. The record of the regiment, however, tells more of sea voyages than of marching. Stationed initially in Ireland, in 1846 he and the regiment began a year and a month at Gibraltar, and then four years and three months in the Ionian Islands (Corfu). Beginning in 1853 the 16th was in the West Indies (Jamaica) for three years and five months during which time Thomas must have avoided the fevers that were often fatal. This service in the West Indies kept the regiment and Thomas out of the only significant war, Crimea, during his period of enlistment. In 1857 they were in Quebec before being returned to home service in England.

The Trent Affair during the American Civil War caused the regiment to be returned to Canada in 1861; first to Montreal, and by 1863 we find them garrisoned at our own Fort York in Toronto. As for Thomas, the PRO has him transferred on April 1st, 1862, to the R.C.R. which did not actually exist till 1866. Presumably it was the Oxford Rifles of London, Ontario, that he moved to. Then on December 1st, 1863, he was "discharged

at his own request to pension at London C.W." At retirement he was listed as having a very good character, a Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and five G.C. badges. The LS&GC medal was highly prized among common soldiers as it was believed to be a guarantee of a good job in civilian life. It certainly worked for Thomas, as he obtained a position, perhaps railway policeman, with the Grand Trunk Railway in Goderich. He is proudly wearing the medal in the only portrait we have of him with his wife.

Thomas died in 1885 in a railway accident. Family lore has it that he was hit by an overhead railway structure while clearing vagrants off the top of a moving train. His death was marked by a



FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH

**Died at his post, in the early morn,
Valiant and strong, - a soldier born:
Shirk'd not life's hardships, of sterling
worth,
Faithful and true at his fireside hearth.**

**God knowith all things. God is all love,
Let us always look to Him Above;
He will reward us, He bore
the cross, Which sheweth all
earthly things are dross.**

**"Faithful to death!" The engine's call,
Sure as the Cannon, sends death to all;
But in glory, when Christ comes again,
Will call him to his ranks, on Heavens
Plain.**

A few years ago *Britains* brought out figure #44016 - a private in the 16th Regiment of Foot. I think of this figure, as it stands in my collection, as my great grandfather. □



The Grand Lodge of Canada
in The Province of Ontario
Extends Congratulations and
Best Wishes to
The Ontario Model Soldier Society
on your 50th Anniversary

New in Connoisseur Figure Releases

Wonderful Advances Made in Model Soldiers in Russia — Why Not Here, Comrade?

By Frank MacKay, OMSS

A few meetings ago, I did a ‘show and tell’ talk on some 54mm figures I had recently purchased from Russia. Many members know that I’m highly critical of the outrageous prices and inflated postage charged by some international connoisseur figure makers, but in this case I couldn’t complain. I purchased them on Ebay and as those familiar with the site know, if something is listed for .99 and nobody bids it up, it’s yours for .99. This was my strategy and I ended up winning about eight figures. With combined postage, the whole order came in at under \$20.

When they arrived, I must say I was completely bowled over by the quality and the magnificent detail. I’m not sure, but I think they may be unpainted castings from the St. Petersburg Collection. The moulding is faultless and there’s not a seam line to be found anywhere. Indeed, I don’t know how they could have produced these as one-piece castings, ready to paint. I found one shield arm which had been glued on (*Leonidas*, at right), but the rest were single piece castings with many diverse angles. From the colour of the lead, they look to be made from old linotype—probably old communist newspaper plates, which are no doubt plentiful and probably even free in Russia. They also have a thin coat of some orange shellac-like substance which is probably intended to help stabilise or strengthen the lead.

The range of these figures is quite remarkable and has a particular emphasis on medieval knights, Vikings, Greeks and Romans, samurai, Napoleonics and of course soldiers and characters from Russian history.

Those wishing to have a closer look at these figures on the internet can surf over to www.ekcastings.com, this was the particular retailer I dealt with, but there are others selling the same and similar figures on Ebay. I would highly recommend having a look, you’ll be amazed at



The quality is remarkable!



the quality, animation and variety you will see.

While I’m extremely pleased with these acquisitions, it makes me very uneasy that they’re only available from overseas. Obviously their production and labour costs are much lower and both Russia and China are exploiting this to the maximum. It comes down to the fact that even though the Western World is by far the biggest market for model soldiers, 90% of that demand is being met from overseas. We have to face it, in the West we simply cannot produce figures like the ones shown in this article for .99 and sell them at a profit. With our labour, material and postage overhead, plus environmental overregulation, it just can’t be done.

There was a glimmer of hope in the 1980’s when some manufacturers started producing figures in resin. Naked greed soon crushed that hope however, and manufacturers were soon charging \$50 for model soldier kits that cost them .50 to produce. It makes me very uneasy about the future and mirrors what is happening in the global economy. True, wonderful bargains are available on shoddily made Chinese crap at Walmart; but what happens when we no longer have the jobs necessary to allow us to buy that wonderful crap?

I offer the example of the connoisseur figure industry as a micro-model of what will happen—it’s become a rich man’s hobby and almost eliminates involvement of young people at any level. Furthermore, there is almost no domestic employment involved in the production of these goods except at the local retail level.

Our myopic politicians and business leaders had better wake up soon; we need drastic price reductions across the board and incentives to encourage domestic production, or we’ll be buying all of our hobby supplies from overseas from now on and permanently. Provided we can afford them. □





New From the World of Toy Soldiers

by Bryan Gibbins, OMSS

At the risk of being branded a pessimist, I am rapidly approaching the idea that toy soldiers are a thing of the past. Looking at some of the companies that still sell traditional "toy soldiers", I have reached the conclusion that the title should more accurately be something like 'lower grade connoisseur figures'. I bet there are very few collectors that would allow their offspring or even themselves to actually *play* with toy soldiers as we did in the days of yore. Lined up in battle formation and shot at by guns



that fired matchstick-heads; arms were lost or held on by chewing gum or match sticks (are even these around still?). Although I would allow that war gaming still comes under the heading of play, the battles are sure not conducted in the same way anymore. Nowadays, most kids do their wargaming on handheld electronic devices and are connected to millions of other gamers worldwide through the internet. There's no more need to buy 15mm figures by the pound, as their soldiers are all made of electricity and need no paint. The painting of genuine wargame armies can now almost be relegated to an obscure corner of the connoisseur painting camp but thankfully, the art continues to survive.

Britain's employed housewives to paint figures on the basis of a delivery of once a week to pick up painted figures. They were paid something like 25shillings a gross (look up the cash equivalent in today's money). The paint used was the colour of the uniforms provided in jam jars. The interesting thing about these paints was that the thinner was methylated spirits which dried almost as soon as applied, so if someone was quick, the family income went up a notch; this was when a £1 BPS was the best part of a man's weekly wage. This piecework was a boon to many families and was a major factor in the charm and nostalgia that we cherish so much in vintage toy soldiers.

While we are talking about toys, Britain's also had vehicles and planes. They're rather on the crude side now compared to what's on the market these days. Look at what is being offered for toy soldier scale: these are *not* toys, they are fine scale models. I still have a drawer full of old catalogues, and will be working on a column highlighting some of the items from way back. It's very interesting to note the prices. It's almost incomprehensible that things could be sold so low, but obviously they were different times.



@ 80,00 €



I have two figures that I'll be writing on in future columns, one is the first model soldier to be manufactured in Canada and the other is the finest 54mm of a British soldier I ever saw—but for the life of me, cannot remember where I got it. Not to worry, the beauty of magazine journalism is that you have lots of time to research and work on the story. As a good friend said to me the other day, "face it mate, you are becoming a decrepit old fart." Truthfully, I starting to feel like one because times sure have changed.

I joined the OMSS in 1965, and we used to meet in someone's house or in the basement of Stan Wellington's shop in Royal York Plaza. A pre-meeting gossip session was held in a cafe next door prior to Stan opening the shop. The members I remember include

Bruce Boyd, Gord Dumbleton, Carl Mctaggart, Graham Armstrong and many other. The society



The new Britains British Camel Corps Bugler 1884. @ 65,00 €

has had a rather gypsy-like existence with a number of meeting sites from those early days: Union Station, Design 5, Royal Canadian Military Institute, Polish Legion, Harbourfront, a parochial school and the Lakeshore Legion. In those early days figures for the connoisseur were few and far between in Canada and what was available could be purchased at Stan Wellington's. He stocked *Courtney, Gammage, Staddens, Imrie, Greenwood and Ball* and others out of which only *Imrie Risley* remains in the trade. *Humbrol* supplied the paints at anything from .25 to .59 cents a tin and covered a complete range of colours for military uniforms. I myself also used artist oils, a tip from when I was a member of the BMSS in England but then an unusual technique. The Casa Loma period for our shows was reported in *Military Modeling and Campaigns*. I really hope we can manage to stage a past presidents dinner again so I can attend and recall those days gone by. □





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



By Guy Elliott, OMSS President

As your new President, I'd like to take a few moments of your time to talk about the past and the future. They have both been on my mind of late as I think about our Society. January, 2012 begins our fiftieth anniversary year and that thought automatically reminds me of all the years past and all the excitement and events of the upcoming year. I'm starting my ninth year in the Society and have lots of warm (and funny) memories. But then I spend time talking to other members who've been in for so much longer and that past of theirs comes alive again. Whenever I chat with, say, Carl McTaggart – who was there at the very start – I realize, in a small way, all that has gone before. There have been great times. But truth be told, sometimes I think there is too much about “the good old days” floating about. The Society was much bigger in those days and we were all so much younger. But from my point of view these last nine years are *my* “good old days” and I'm having a whale of a time right now. Yes, even in my own life I think back to the 1960's with a warm glow in my heart. But I'm here now and going to make the best of everything. Take this last year for example.

With a huge effort from the leadership of Jim Matresky as President, we have had a banner year. A new and revised Constitution, Awards process, elections and better processes for Executive and regular Meetings. Jim took what was good, polished it all up and fired up a lot of enthusiasm. And all this while we also had a year with a lot of difficult hurdles to get over – especially the passing of a number of members. We all are the age we are. The Society is the size it is. But we can still improve and re-vitalize it and enjoy every single person in the Society and all the things we do together. I'm reminded of a Wednesday Group meeting a couple of years ago. The discussion was heated about how to get new members, growing the Society, involving young people and maybe even amalgamating with other hobbyists. All sorts of weighty matters. Then Jim spoke up: “You're all worrying too much. As it is, the Society is full of fine members who come to meetings and have a great time mingling with other model soldier collectors and chatting about the hobby they love. What more could we all want?”. He's right. But more than that, we're about to embark on an exciting year. With Scott Dummitt and his 50th Committee working, there will be events, treats and adventures to come – stay tuned. But as part of this year I can promise you on my behalf and that of the Executive that you all will be consulted and be part of the decision-making process. As John Hambly regularly reminds us: “This is *your* Society!” As President, I'm looking forward to this year – just like you. I'm here to work only on your behalf. But I'm also going to have a lot of fun! Join me! □



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