



JOURNAL

of the Ontario Model Soldier Society



Lord Lovat's Commandos at the relief of Pegasus Bridge June 6, 1944. Figures by W. Britain; Photo mash-up by Gary Lenius

Volume 56

Issue #3

December 2020

In this issue:

Sappers
Preservation Group
WW1 Highlander / Drum Major
Swami
Ships Time and the Last Dragoon
Name the parts
Ottawa Group
For sale items (real goodies there)
Royal Army Medical Corps
Remembering Tom Ablor

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Aims of the Society

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

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

See more at the OMSS website: www.omss.ca

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2021 OMSS Meeting Dates

See newsletters for
dates

From the Editor

Greetings!

"Seasons greetings to my fellow OMSS members from Latvia.

The Canadian-led NATO battle group stationed in Latvia has been busy on several exercises with our NATO allies in the Baltics over the past few months. In the battle group headquarters, I work as the fire support coordination centre officer, managing the artillery, mortars, and close air support for the unit.

Despite the restrictions due to COVID-19, it has been a terrific opportunity to work with the eight other sending nations in the battle group (Albania, Czech Republic, Italy, Montenegro, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Spain) as well as the Latvian army that the NATO battle group is subordinated. We have also trained with the American, British, and German-led battle groups stationed in Poland, Estonia, and Lithuania, respectively.

With the holiday season approaching, my battle group's rotation is nearly complete, and we will be replaced by the next rotation in a few weeks. I'm looking forward to coming home, enjoying some leave, and playing my soldiers! In the meantime, happy holidays and best wishes for 2021 – **Brendan Hogan.**"

Good to hear our battle hardened editor will be home soon. While enjoying this issue please send seasons greeting to Brendan and as always, happy collecting!

Ian Pearson

Acting Editor



IN THIS ISSUE:

[From the Editor](#) – 3

[President's Message](#) – 4

[Uniforms](#) – 5 - 6

[Model Ideas](#) - 7

[Swami](#) - 8

[Name the Parts / Ships Time /
The Last Dragoon](#) - 9

[Ottawa Chapter](#) -10

[Colouring Fun](#) - 11

[Artist Preservation Group](#) - 12

[For Sale Items](#) – 13

[Royal Army Medical Corps](#) – 14

[Remembering Tom Abler](#) - 15

Quote

When General Lewis MacKenzie was commanding the United Nations Forces in Former Yugoslavia, he stated: "If I could have one wish, it would be to dump the entire population of Canada in Sarajevo for about six hours. Perhaps then they'd realize Canada is the best damn country in the world."

Keith Ritchie - Ontario Model Soldier Society President

President's Message – Journal 2020

We have reached the last month of 2020. I think that I can speak for all and say that we will not be sorry to see the end of 2020. We can hope that 2021 will be an improvement, and there are some signs of hope. (And I am not just referring to the election south of here, although I wonder what Don Ritchie is going to do with his Trump Coliseum. Maybe now he needs a diorama with the former President playing the fiddle (with a golf club as a bow) as Mar-A-Lago is locked down in front of a bonfire of MAGA hats.) There are some signs of hope for a vaccine in 2021.

In the meantime, we still have to get through the winter of 2020-21. To help us get through these cold months, and as announced in the October newsletter, we plan to continue with the Journal quarterly, along with the monthly newsletter – until we can start to meet in person again. The Journal and the Newsletter will be the primary means of communication, along with email and the telephone (be it a Rotary 500 or the latest smartphone). The Ottawa chapter is using Zoom, and we are considering it.

I want to thank Ian for his efforts with the Journal, and to all of the members contributing material.

Finally, I want to wish all of the OMSS members, and their families and friends, best wishes for the season, and certainly better expectations for 2021. Until then, stay safe and keep in touch, until we can meet again – and we will meet again.

Keith Ritchie
President



Additional Membership Benefits
FREE Annual Club Figures
A choice of a FREE William Britain Collectors' Club exclusive. See our website for availability or request a four page flyer.
Welcome Pack
A welcome pack folder comes with your first issue of *The Standard* and can be used to store all subsequent issues of *The Standard* for the year.

Membership Dues • Canada: \$72.00USD
To see all the figures and for more information go to:

wbritain.com

The Official Magazine of the W. Britain Collectors' Club

WINTER 2020, Volume 5, No. 12
\$9.99 U.S. Canada

The Standard
THE EXCLUSIVE JOURNAL OF THE W. BRITAIN COLLECTORS' CLUB

The Men Who Wore the Redcoat

The acclaimed journal of history, collecting, travel and W. Britain toy soldiers, *The Standard*, is published exclusively for Collectors' Club members. Each quarterly issue features in-depth articles, crisp photos and updates of new and upcoming products and offerings from the W. Britain company.



Inside:
The Brown Bess Market
Kempston Whitechapel Park
George Army Coat weather
Outings Part 2

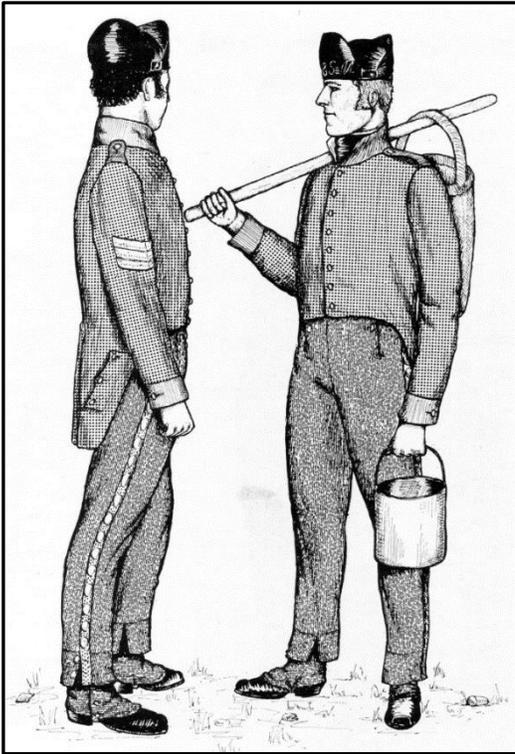


The King's Shilling

The King's Shilling was a silver coin used by the British Army from 1714 to 1825. It was named after King George I, who issued the first shilling in 1714. The shilling was used to pay soldiers and was a common sight in the barracks. It was also used to pay for food and other necessities. The shilling was a symbol of the British Army and was a source of pride for soldiers. It was also a source of income for the soldiers' families. The shilling was a common sight in the barracks and was a source of pride for soldiers. It was also a source of income for the soldiers' families.

Royal Sappers and Miners 1813-1823

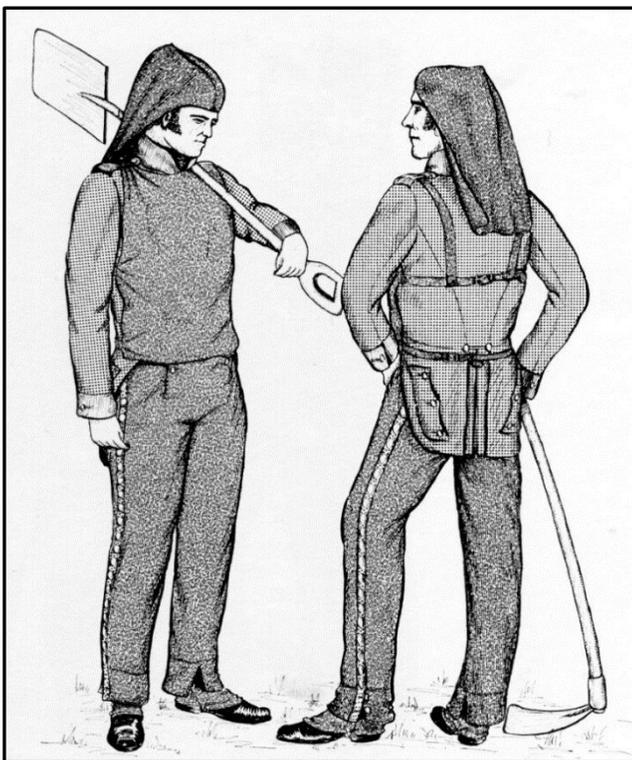
Taken from Tradition Magazine number 54 / pages 28-31 (Article by AJ Wright – Shorten for OMSS Journal)



The uniform changed at the same time when the title switched from Royal Military Artificers to the Royal Sappers and Miners.

The jacket remained much the same in cut and style but the colour changed from blue to red. The standup collar was in facing colour of royal blue with yellow edging and a yellow bastion pointed frog with a brass button to each side. The shoulder straps were in facing colour with yellow piping and a small brass button. The jacket was fastened at the front with ten brass buttons all equally spaced, each with yellow bastion pointed lacing. Cuffs were Royal blue with a yellow strip and four equal spaced bastion points in yellow each with a brass button. The pockets were in the tails of the jacket, but there was a false pocket flap placed horizontally on each side. On the flap there were four yellow bastion points with brass button to each and yellow piping to the edges. Turn backs were white in keeping with the standard pattern of the army.

The drawing above shows the working dress that consisted of a red jacket very similar to the uniform jacket minus the decoration and fastened down the front with eight small brass buttons. The collar, shoulder straps and cuffs were in facing colour of royal blue with a small brass button to each shoulder strap and to each cuff. At the small of the back there were two brass buttons and a vertical pocket with three small brass buttons. The coat tails were short and plain with no turn backs. Plain yellow chevrons were worn on the right arm by the NCO.



Overalls of a deeper blue grey were worn with the flap at the front fastened by two brass buttons. A broad red strip and brass buttons down each leg. The bottoms of the overalls were reinforced with a strip of the same material as the overalls. Short gaiters of the same material and colour were worn over black boots with brass buckle.

The new working cap was similar to that worn by artillery drivers and was black leather with flaps turned up at the front and back. The initials RS&M in brass were worn at the front of the cap or a cap or brass badge showing a crown and garter ornamented. In addition to the normal working clothes various tradesmen had their own particular form of protection to their clothes.

The bottom drawing shows a useful adaptation to military style used during digging entrenchments. This was a head covering of grey blue canvas simply folded length wise and sewn at one end. The chest covering was of the same material with shoulder straps passing under the shoulder straps of the working jacket and looped onto a strap reaching across the shoulders to the back. Another horizontal strap reached across the small of the back making the chest protector fast.

Bank of England Volunteers 1799 Drum Major

Taken from Battle Magazine April 1977 page 250

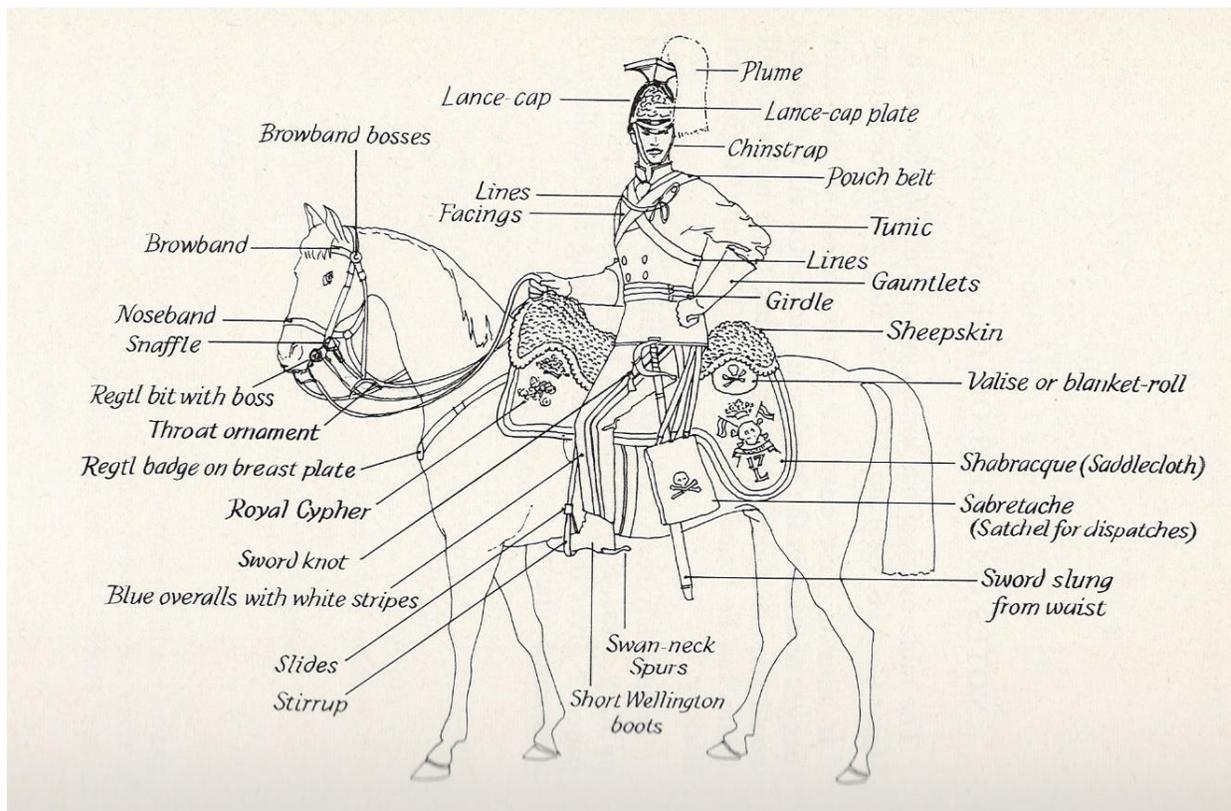


This volunteer corps was raised in London as a result of the threatened invasion from Republican France. Formed in 1798 the first establishment was eight companies totaling about 450 all ranks. It was disbanded in on the signing of the Peace of Ameins but was re-established in 1803 and by 1806 had strength of 500 all ranks. At first the men served without Government allowances or pay due to it being funded by the Bank itself. Later it was taken on army strength by remained the Banks own private force. The uniform of the 1798-1802 and that of the 1803 restoration was almost the same. The Drum Major drawing shows the uniform of the 1799 pattern that is taken from a contemporary painting.

Hat - Black hat with black cockade, silver lace loop and button, white over red feather

Tunic - Scarlet long-tailed coat with dark green collar, cuffs, lapels, shoulder straps and wings, all profusely lace with silver; silver buttons and silver lace chevrons on the sleeves; silver fringe on the wings. / Stock - Black / Shirt - White shirt-frill / Waistcoat - White waistcoat with silver buttons / Breeches - White breeches / Gaiters - Black / Shoes - Black / Sash - Crimson with a dark green stripe / Sword - carried in a frog on a belt over the right shoulder, this belt of dark green cloth with wide silver lace edging / Baldric - Dark green baldric with silver lace edging and crown badge and miniature drumsticks carried in silver tubes / Mace - Brown wood with silver head and cords

Name the parts answers from October



Model Ideas

Taken from *Richard Simkin's Uniforms of the British Army – The Infantry Regiments*. By WY Carman / Webb & Bower England 1985.



The King's Body Guard for Scotland

(Royal Company of Archers)

The actual date of raising the unit is not known its history goes back as far as Queen Ann in 1703. There was no special uniform in the beginning. The drawing shows a member from 1911. The field dress bonnet for Gentlemen of the Body Guard was green trimmed with black braid and had a crimson tuft/toorie, white and green silk cockade with ribbons at the back. A single eagle's feather indicated a Gentleman, two for officers while three was for the Captain-General. Officers had two rows of gold braid on the band and a gold button instead of the tuft.



13th Foot Pioneer 1812

The regiment began with yellow facings and breeches with grey hose. The light yellow was also known as philemot. Blue facings were added when the title Prince Albert's was added. The dress followed normal infantry practice for the time. The officer's lace had been silver but changed to gold in 1830 and had a black line. The badges included the Sphinx for Egypt, bugle horn for light infantry and special Mural Crown for Jellahabad.



Royal Military Artificers 1793

In 1787 a corps of Military Artificers and Labourers was raised in England. They were fitted with blue coats with black cloth facings. The coat was double breasted with yellow braid. The hat was cocked with short red feather. In 1797 the Gibraltar company was absorbed and a blue coat was then worn. The hat changed to a black felt round one with a yellow band round the crown with a scarlet plume.

The Swami Answers Your Modeling Questions



Q: O Wise One, as a figure painter I'm proud of my results but my figures just don't seem to be as impressive or get the attention I would like. How can I set the presentation off more?

A: It sounds as if the bases your figures are mounted on may be the problem. In any scale from 54mm to 1/16, the base on which it is presented is at least as important as the figure itself. A base should complement the figure and draw the eye to it, yet not detract attention away from the figure. The base serves several purposes, the first one of course is simply as a handle so that the figure itself need not be touched and possibly damaged. It should also have a broad enough base and

be sturdy enough to guard against the figure being tipped over. It also serves as stage on which the groundwork which supports the figure and gives it context is held. If you're one of those who like to affix engraved brass plates to the base describing what the viewer is already looking at and which ought to be self evident, the base serves as a platform for that as well. All these considerations make for a thin line to be walked and it will always remain a matter of intensely personal preference to a large extent.

We've all read the ancient books from the '60's saying that figures can be displayed on the plastic tops of jars and shaving cream cans, wooden thimbles, etc. I'm not one to criticize but if you do that, people will realize that you've simply glued your figure onto the cap of a can of Barbasol. The figure and the work you put into it is cheapened and it will rightly be ignored. Part of the purpose of a base is to call attention to the work of art it is holding; this object is so special and rare that it deserves to be displayed on a special wooden plinth like the work of art that it is. Having said that, there are modelers who spend vast amounts of money to obtain big blocks of French polished birdseye maple or mahogany, something that looks like the top of a banister sawn off the staircase in the Tsar's winter palace. Again, personal taste,

but huge and opulent bases are not necessary and may even defeat the purpose of highlighting the figure.

I always recommend wooden bases of a modest size of about 2x2 inches for a 54mm figure, and I advise sticking to that size for all your figures to give their presentation some uniformity. Once you have a supply, you can easily stain and varnish them to your own taste using Minwax products which are inexpensive, very simple to use and yield beautiful results.

The simplest way to secure your standard supply of bases is to use a router and make them yourself. With practice, it's within the capabilities of just about anyone and router bits exist which will give you the professional clean tapered edges that will set your figure off as if it were in a spotlight. You may wish to visit www.MLCSwoodworking.com and request free a catalogue of router bits, one of which will surely be to your taste. For myself, I prefer the French Baroque style (see illustration), stained mahogany with gloss varnish. For the terminally klutzy and inept, surely you must know a woodworking hobbyist who could cut you a dozen bases in return for a few pints at the pub?

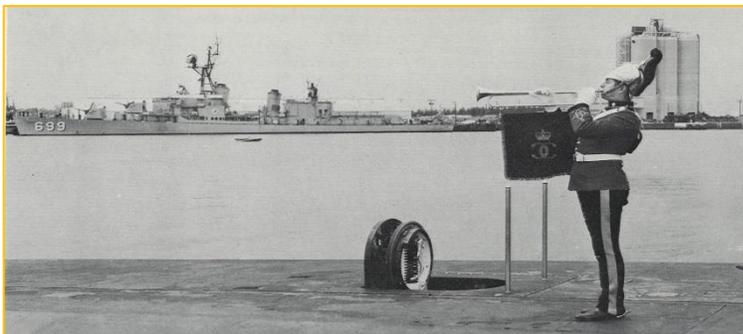
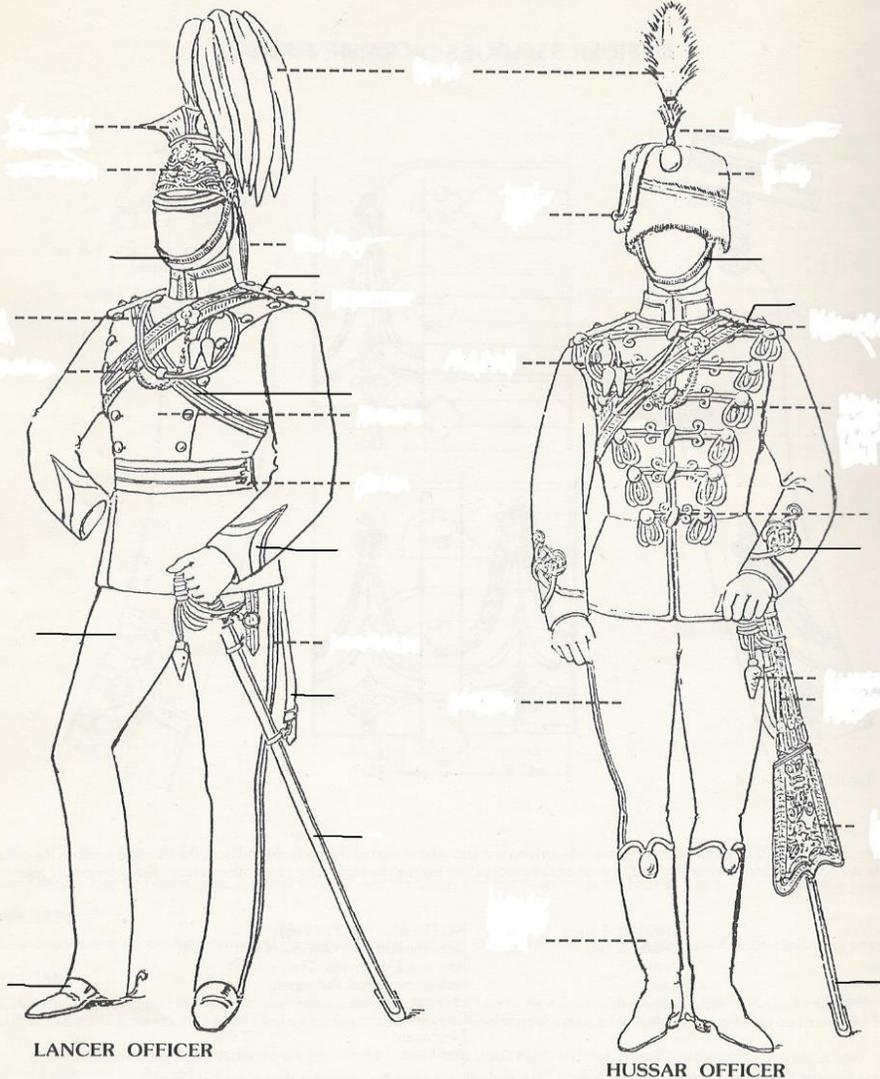
For larger figures of 1/16, 90mm, 75mm, it's true that proportionally larger bases are required—but not banister tops. One of my favourite sources for larger bases is to take a summer stroll in the neighborhood the night before garbage day...when people throw out their couches. Furniture legs are often the perfect shape, made of quality hardwood and can be refinished with little effort. Best of all, they're free. There is no need to buy expensive bases from online retailers, attractive though they certainly are.

We have several woodworking experts in the OMSS and I have always said that we should be tapping into their experience and making use of their expertise to a much higher degree. Bases are an important facet of the presentation which is too often treated as merely an afterthought in finishing a figure. Consider the artwork as a whole before it leaves your bench.



Name the parts

CAVALRY OFFICER'S FULL DRESS UNIFORMS



The Royal Dragoons

'The Last Dragoon' was this trumpeter seen sounding a fan-fare on the submarine HMS Repulse entering Port Canaveral at Cape Kennedy. When he returned to Detmond he found his Regiment amalgamated and the Band to which he belonged dispersed.

Reference: The Royal Dragoons (Famous Regiment Series) photo #33

CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS

Ship's Time in Barracks

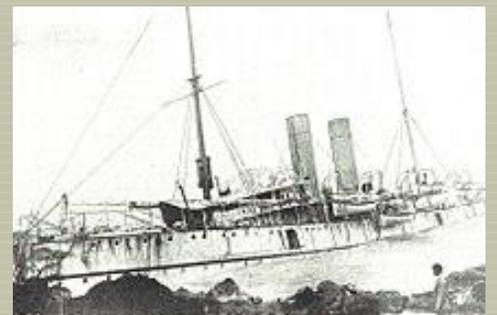
The wreck of the troopships *Warren Hastings* on the night of 14th January 1897, was recalled by the custom observed in the 1st Bn The King's Royal Rifle Corps of sounding ship's time in barracks on a bell which belonged to the ship.

Four companies of the regiment along with four companies of the York and Lancaster Regiment and a detachment of the Middlesex Regiment plus women and children.

About 2:20 am the ship struck rocks off the Island of Reunion. What's remarkable is no one lost their lives. This was due to the discipline exhibited by all ranks. On 13th March 1897 the Commander-in-Chief declared he was proud of the behaviour of the troops during the incident "a good example of the advantages of subordination and strict discipline, for it was by that alone, under God's Providence, that heavy loss of life was prevented."

In memory of Colonel MCB Forestier-Walker, in command, and their comrades on that occasion, the 1st Bn King's Royal Rifle Corps sound the ship's time throughout the day on a bell from the *Warren Hastings*.

Ship's time is also sounded in the Wiltshire Regiment. In 1758 four companies of the 62nd Foot (later 1st BN) were drafted to the Royal Navy for service as Marines and sailed to Canada via the St. Lawrence River. As a reminder of this service the regiment plays *Rule, Britannia* before the regimental march at the end of band programmes and observes the long-established custom of striking ship's time on a bell. The bell is struck every half-hour by a non-commissioned officer of the guard or picquet.



From the Ottawa chapter sent by Bob Thompson



Left - Tips for displaying 'flats'.from Michael's (\$87) bases of flats will hold in felt slots, even when stood upright.

Right - Pike and Shot by Eric Shaw of Chatham with lots of great diorama photos, this one is kind of all various figures from the era.



Left - Elastolin plastic by Bob Thompson

Right - 1/6 scale diorama depicts Allies discovery of Nazi stash of art treasures

Not painting, get the colouring pencils out. Or better still water colours.
Print out the page and have fun.



4. Infantryman, Seaforth Highlanders, British Army, 1914. The Highland regiments that arrived in France with the B.E.F. laid aside their brilliant dress uniforms, adopting a service dress which, for effective camouflage, contained a khaki-colored apron to conceal the front of the tartan kilt. Their performance in combat earned them a nickname from the Germans—"the ladies from hell." The soldier's cap is dark blue with a diced band of red and white. His cap badge is silver. The jacket is khaki and his belts, haversack, knapsack and cartridge pouches are light brown. His apron is light khaki and his socks are diced red and white. His leggings are white and his shoes are of black leather. His bayonet has a black handle. His cap ribbon is red, as is the ribbon at the fold of the socks. His kilt is alternating and overlapping stripes of dark red, scarlet, light green and dark green.

The Artist Preservation Group



The Artist Preservation Group is a gathering of like-minded historical artists whose mission is to generate capital, through fundraising and donations, to aid in the preservation and restoration of threatened historical sites and/or artifacts. We are committed to using our artistic talents to actively support historical sites as they continue their dedication to the preservation, restoration, and interpretation of events that shaped history.

In 2005 Sergeant Major Mike Stelzel USMC (ret) invited a group of miniature artists including painters, sculptors, and collectors to pool their resources to raise money for the preservation of the Revolutionary War Battlefield at Camden, South Carolina, thus, the APG was born. Since then, the APG has grown to include painters, sculptors, miniature dealers, collectors, and manufacturers. Each donates their work, time, talents, and resources to raise money to fund conservation, preservation and restoration projects.

Thousands of artifacts and hundreds of acres of historic sites are disappearing or deteriorating each year due to lack of funding for preservation and conservation. This land and the artifacts, witnesses to history and testaments to our nation's past will disappear forever without the money to keep them intact and provide proper care. We are taking positive steps to ensure that as many of these artifacts and acres of land remain for our future and the education of our next generations.

We raise money several ways but primarily through the sale of donated art. Dozens of our country's most notable miniature artists donate their work for sale at an annual auction. We have also received donations from several European artists for sale. Artists also donate work for sale through our online store as kits or raffle prizes. We have also been fortunate to have historical painter Keith Rocco donate his work in the form of an original painting and images for prints. We accept donations for memberships, corporate sponsorships, and private donations. All money minus some small administrative fees goes towards our projects. No one is paid or compensated.



For Sale Items

From John Hoffman and Scott Dummit

Christmas Goodies from John Hoffman



Winter's Coming

With winter fast approaching and another lock down looming on the horizon, it's time to stock up on some new model kits. Choose from my large selection of Napoleonic subjects from Historex, Airfix, and 90 mm Poste Militaire kits. I probably have every kit ever produced by Historex, including several of the green boxed sets with resin castings. If you are looking for any "spare parts" ask, I might have them too. Historex is still considered to be the most versatile, most detailed range of Napoleonic subjects. The possibilities for animated vignettes are endless.



Send me an email for the complete list and prices. I'm happy to send you pictures of any kit that you are interested in. Shipping costs are extra. Please stay safe and healthy during these trying times.

Thanks very much.

Email: jhoffmann00@cogeco.ca



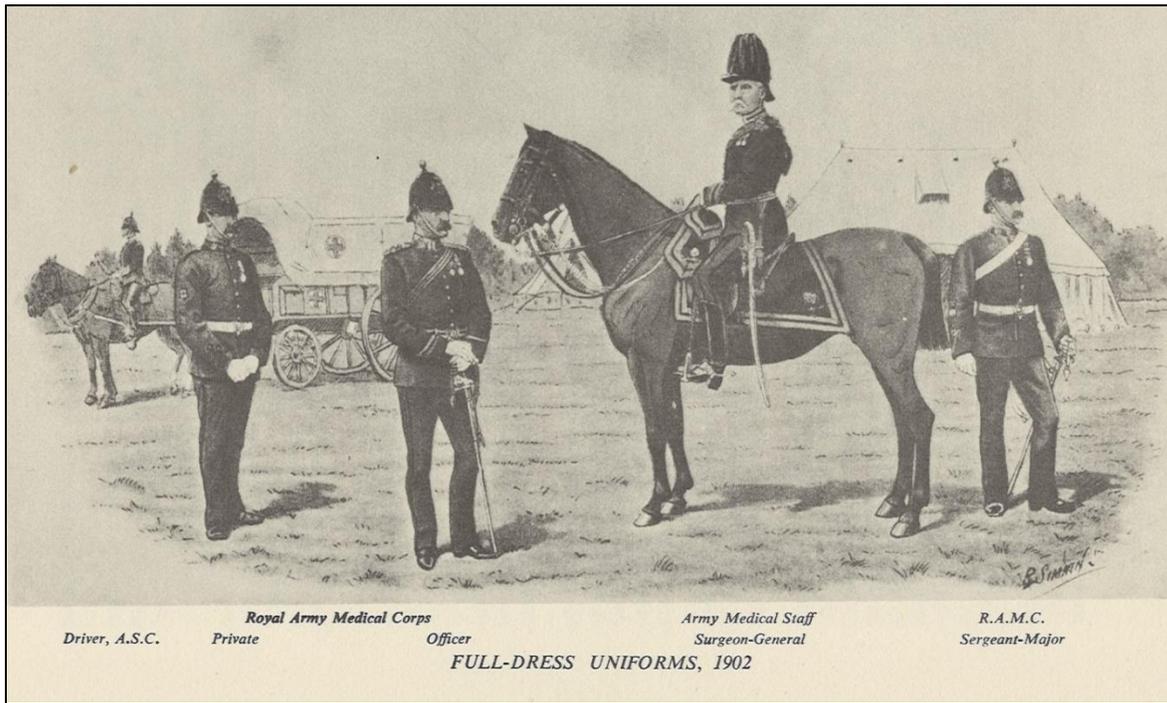
Scott Dummitt has new figures

British Toy Soldier Co. depicting The Royal Canadian Navy / The Canadian Guards / The Governor General's Foot Guards and the 1st Canadian Parachute Brigade 1940s.



Contact Scott at 705-939-1028 / email gjoe@kos.net or his web site gjoecanada.com.

Editors note: These are great figures and should go quickly.



The Royal Army Medical Corps 1902

Based on the article by WY Carman from Military Historical Society Bulletin November 1951

The **Royal Army Medical Corps** was formed in 1898 however there were several predecessors. Surgeons had been attached to regiments from very early times. The Ordnance Department had its own reserve of medical officers to tend the needs of the artillery, Engineers and others. Other medical services were stretcher bearers or equitant with the regiments, frequently among bandmen. Attempts were made on a larger scale to create a corps to perform medical duties. The Crimean War saw the creation of a Medical Staff Corps in 1855 which did not last past two years. In 1857 the Army Hospital Corps came into being and by 1865 its uniform had settled down to blue with edgings of scarlet. Surgeons were still a separate body wearing red coats with black and cocked hats. In 1884 the Army Hospital Corps became the Medical Staff Corps. Fourteen years later both would be merged into the new Royal Army Medical Corps. In 1899 the Corps were given facings of dull cherry.



The above drawing was done by Richard Simkin dated 1902. This was part of a series of drawings and should be noted that the officer has gauntlet cuffs and three strips on the trousers. The private has a crow's foot tracing on the cuffs and a narrow welting on the trousers. The History and Traditions cards show non-commissioned officers and privates: one by illustration by J. McNeill (colour) shows the cherry facings to the collar and cuffs and the narrow welting to the trousers while another by E. Ibbotson (colour) adds the double row of lace to the trousers and alters the shape of the back pipings.

The old uniform of the Army Hospital Corps was distinguished by the Geneva Cross. The Army Medical Service wore the lion and crown of Staff, while the Medical Staff Corps had their initials in a monogram on the pill-box and the Tutor crown on the collar. The newly authorized badge for the Royal Army Medical Corps appeared in the Navy and Army Illustrated in February 1899. It showed the familiar rod of Esculapius and the serpent in a laurel wreath with a Queen's crown above and the motto below. The Medical Staff had for their badge 'VR' in a star with a crown above.

Show and Tell – Remembering Tom Abler

by Gary Lenius

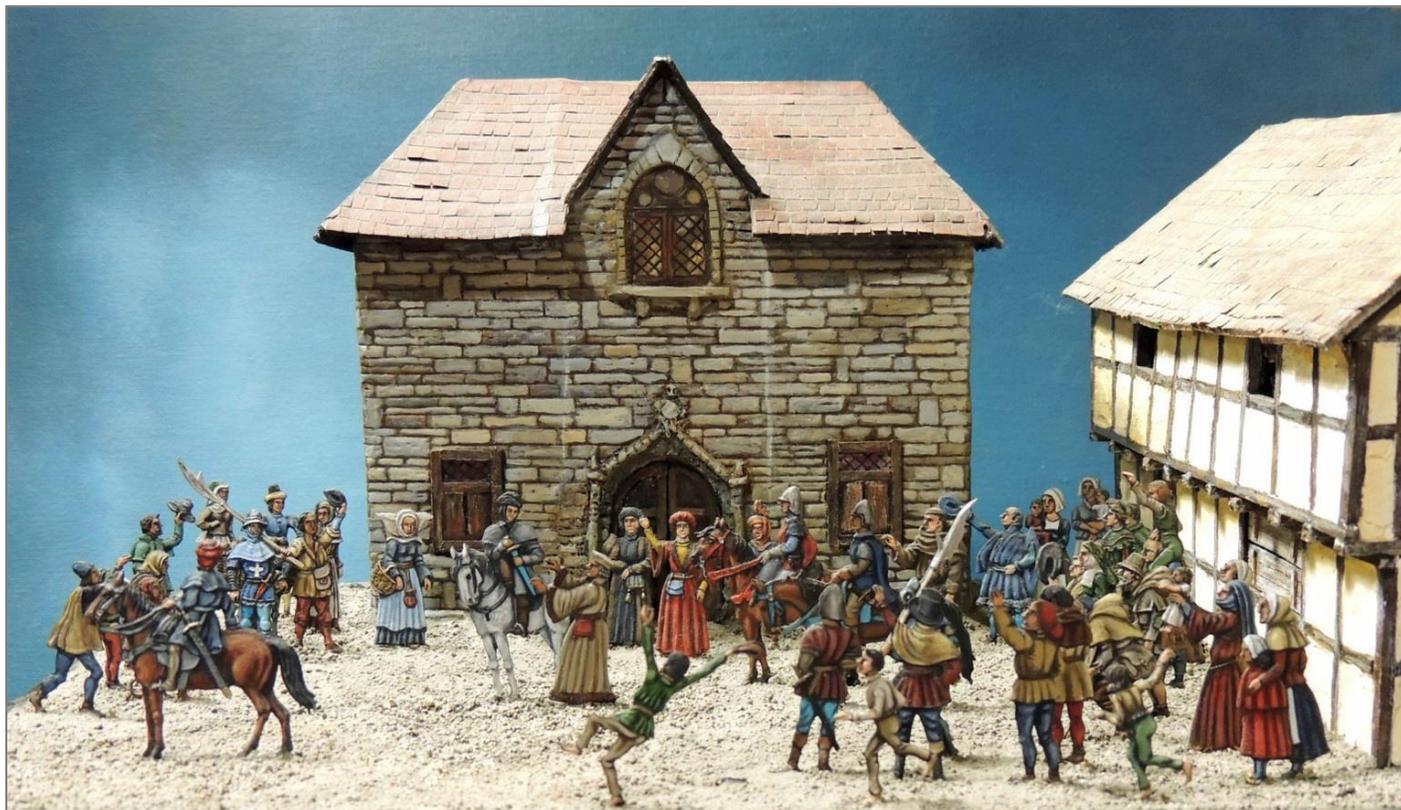


Long-time member Tom Abler passed away in 2019. He was a prolific painter in his day. Tom retired down east some years ago after an academic career at Waterloo.

His collection of figures was auctioned off recently through Wooden Rose Auctions in Nova Scotia. I acquired a few lots pictured here.

The figure at left is the 54 mm Men at Arms figure of the Royal Guides of the Canadian Militia of 1862.

I also picked up some flats that Tom had done, including a diorama "Departure of Jeanne D'Arc from Valcouleurs Feb. 1420", some medieval knights (scale around 35mm) and a large standard bearer (75mm).





“You oughta be in pictures” SHOW and TELL wanted

The club is still unlikely to be able to hold in-person meetings for some months yet. In the meantime, why not share something from your collection with your fellow members via the Journal?

We're always looking for material. Submit a photo of something you might have brought out to a meeting and give a short blurb about it. It could be a recent acquisition, your latest masterpiece (finished or in progress) or maybe something inspired by a book you're reading or a film recently seen.

We have some examples in this issue from the Ottawa group and Gary Lenius.

See page 2 for submission details.

*2020 has been a tough year for everyone
and we have had to forgo much of the
companionship of our fellow club members.*

*As we approach the holiday season
the OMSS Executive wishes that you and yours
may enjoy a happy holiday season
in spite of current restraints.*

*Let us all stay positive and look for
better times in the coming New Year.*

