



JOURNAL

of the Ontario Model Soldier Society



Ontario Model
Soldier Society
Established 1962

Volume 60

Issue # 1

June 2024

A little humour to get started

For those painting tartans your prayers have been answered—well almost





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Electronic submissions preferred but not mandatory. Please submit all material for consideration to the editor:

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Aims of the OMSS

The OMSS 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.

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From the Editor

Ian Pearson, Editor

Welcome to the first issue of the Journal for 2024.

It would be safe to say that I filling some big shoes. The OMSS salutes Captain Hogan for his years of dedicated service. Thank your very much for your time and effort.

The British Model Soldier Society turns 90 next year. Maybe the OMSS should start thinking about what kind of presentation we could send them. Better still a few individual with some air miles take it over and attend their annual show. Also included is a poem written about the BMSS. Anyone want to have a go and do one for the OMSS? Just an idea.

As always other interesting articles, modelling ideas included in this issue.. If you have an idea or article please send it along.



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Ripley's Believe It or Not (Toronto Star February 1983)

WHERE TIN SOLDIERS OUTNUMBERED THE HUMANS

Kulmbach—a small German town near Nurnberg, with population of 30,000 contains Plassenburg Castle, which houses a museum featuring as collection of some 300,000 tin soldiers and other miniature metal figures.

Next issue of Journal

November.

Please send articles by October 15th.

Cover Photo

This 1959 photo is British actor Peter Cushing enjoying the delights of making a model aircraft. He had a variety of interests including collecting and battling model soldiers, of which he owned over five thousand. He hand-painted many and used the *Little Wars* rule set by H. G. Wells for miniature wargaming.

2024 OMSS Monthly Meetings & 2024

Show

Please check out the OMSS website and monthly newsletter for the latest updates on monthly meetings and the annual show. Both are updated regularly to keep OMSS members informed of any changes to the scheduled meetings or the show.

President's Message
Andy Traverse
President of the OMSS 2024

As we swing into gear for the new calendar year, the first mention is that of a packed itinerary involving both the Executive and general membership. Matters such as the new compliance rules, regulations and obligations involving the Ontario Government's Not For Profit Corporations Act, together with a new and overhauled Constitution and Bylaws document, are well in hand and should be ready in time.

The Executive continues to thrive and deliver the goods in an efficient manner, so to speak. I am comfortable in my position as President knowing that the your Officers and Directors dedicate themselves to the wellbeing and continuing progress of the OMSS. Our new Program Chairman, Mark Silverthorn has arranged an itinerary of quality speakers delivering interesting topics for the remainder of the year and I take this opportunity to thank him on continuing this vital component of the monthly meeting agenda. Mention in Despatches also go to Gary Lenius, Jeff Duncan, Ian Pearson and Frank Mackay, Jim Qualtrough, Scott Milburn, Scott Paget, Duncan Johnstone and Dave Dorward for ensuring that the machinery of the OMSS delivers the products. The synergistic relationship with the Ottawa Section and the OMSS as a whole continues and has strengthened fellowship and goodwill throughout the Society.

Our Facebook presence continues to be strong and is reflected in the successful outreach to toy soldier collectors far and wide. The established and positive Youtube contribution to the hobby has placed us more firmly on the map. In essence, the efforts of the OMSS are becoming more recognized as time goes on. I would encourage all members to promote and visit these websites as the increasing number of clicks or views will indicate the level of interest and further serve to reassure and further encourage those responsible for these departments.

On Parade 2024 will be upon us very soon and the mood is that of optimism with high expectations coupled with excitement and enthusiasm. With the new venue, the site will better accommodate the needs of both vendors and attendees. Parking will not be an issue at the Franklin Horner Community Centre. Your attendance at the Show is paramount to the success of the event. So start painting figures and planning the dioramas if you intend to display. Otherwise begin saving some extra dollars as there will as always, be volumes of hobby-related goods to purchase. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible and remember, bring a friend, or family member.

Editors Note: Over the next several issues different Modelling Societies will be featured. Many of the Societies are or have reached their 50th year. OMSS members should look into going to the different show and take part in the competitions and shows.

The Artist Preservation Group



Artist Preservation Group is a gathering of like-minded historical artists whose mission is to generate capital, through fundraising and donations, to aide 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.

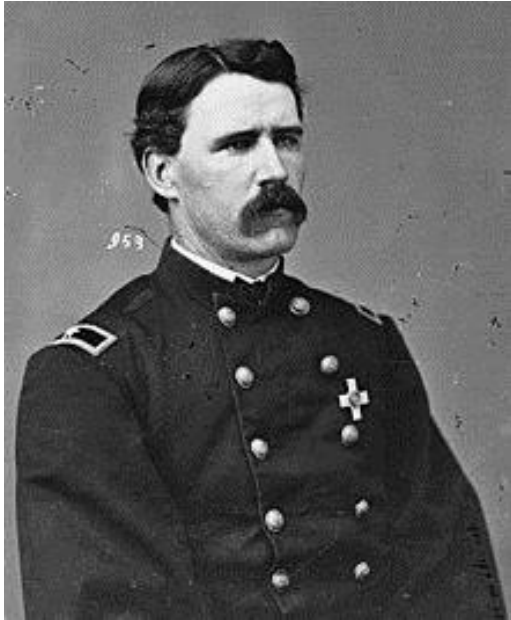
Thousands of artifacts and hundreds of acres of historic sites are disappearing or deteriorating each year due to lack of funding for preservation and conservation. This land and the artifacts, witnesses to history and testaments to our nation's past will disappear forever without the money to keep them 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.

Contact information—If your interested in their work see their web site at:
artistpreservationgroup.com

Canadians and the Medal of Honor

The Medal of Honor is the highest award for valor in the United States Military. Fifty-nine Canadians have won the US award and came from across Canada to join for their own reasons. They deserve the respect that goes with the medal. When one considers the number of people that served in the uniform of the US Services makes their valour that much more interesting. Many Canadians are unaware of these stories of courage and self sacrifice while in harms way. The first Canadian to be awarded was Captain McMahon 1862 and the last was Sergeant Lemon in Vietnam. Today, Canada does not have an official list of Canadian Medal of Honor winners.



Captain Martin T. McMahon

US Volunteers

White Oak Swamp, Virginia

30 June 1862

Martin McMahon was born in La Prairie, Quebec, Canada and moved to the United States as a child. He later obtained a law degree and worked as a special agent for the post office on the Pacific coast. He became aide-de-camp to General George B. McClellan when the war broke out and remained with the Army of the Potomac throughout the war, eventually rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel. Decades after the end of the conflict, on March 10, 1891, he was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions at the Battle of White Oak Swamp on June 30, 1862. He died suddenly in 1906 at his home in Manhattan.

Citation: *"Under fire of the enemy, successfully destroyed a valuable train that had been abandoned and prevented it from falling into the hands of the enemy."*

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Maitland Toy Soldier Shoppe - www.toysoldiers.com.wordpress.com



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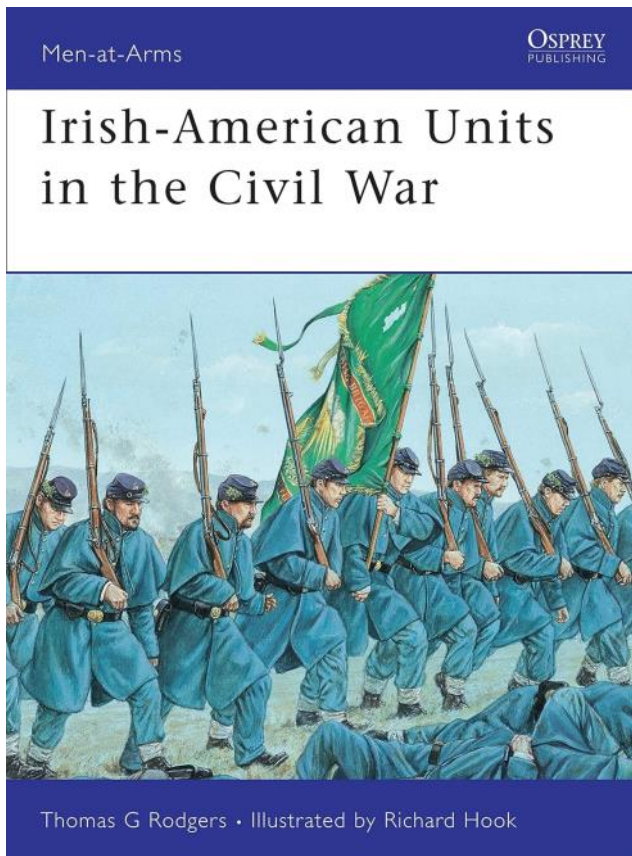
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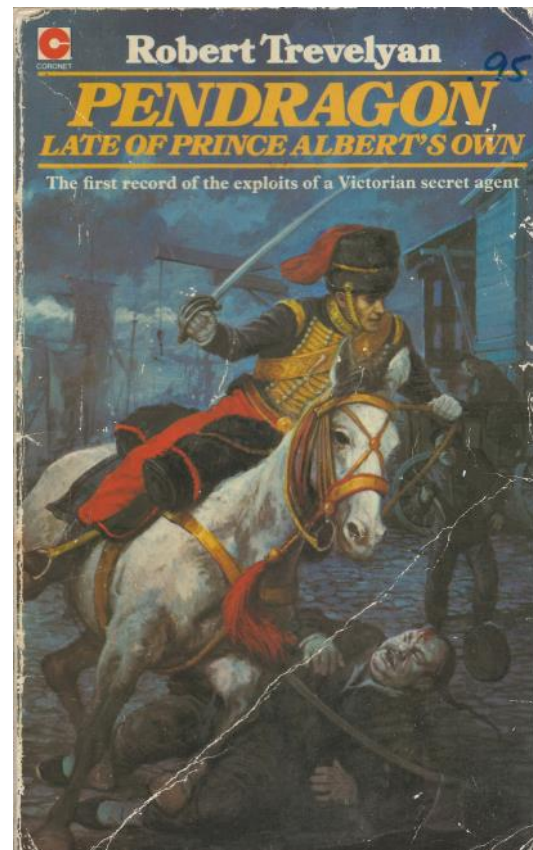
Store Hours: Friday through Monday 10 am to 5 pm

email: gijoe@kos.net





Some 150,000 Irish-American immigrants served in the Union Army during the Civil War (1861-1865), and about 40,000 fought in the Confederate Army. The best known unit was the Irish Brigade (Union Army) which distinguished itself at Antietam and Fredericksburg. Famous regiments were New York's 'Fighting 69th', the 9th Massachusetts, 116th Pennsylvania, 23rd Illinois and 35th Indiana. Two Louisiana Confederate brigades from New Orleans were almost entirely Irish and several other Irish companies made a name for themselves at Shiloh, Chickamauga and other key battles. This book will give a brief overview of the history of the units on each side of the conflict and will be illustrated with uniform details, flags and archival photographs.



Hussar Captain John Hawkedale Pendragon, late Prince Albert's Own Hussars, arrives home from the Crimea, badly wound after taking part in the Charge of the Light Brigade. Unfit for service he needs a new career. In London a government agent is killed while tracking stolen dynamite and a ship load of opium. Someone must take his place and find out who is behind these events. Who better than a dashing brave Hussar. Further books are *The Montenegrin Plot* and *Seeds of Mutiny*. Make for a interesting mounted figure.

Ever hear of these?

(Taken from A Dictionary of Military Uniforms by WY Carman)

Centry gown—Name given for the watch coat in Charles II reign

Farion—Greek word for the fez worn by the Evzones

Festoon—Elaborate plaited cord on the front of some shakos

Furbelows—Trimming on hunting shirts/trousers during American Revolution

Gum cloth—American term for a water-proofed sheet

Isabella—Popular colour in French Army in 18th century

Jodhpur—Indian cavalry breeches

Kolpak—German fur cap or busby

Manteau—French cloak or mantel

Papachka—Russian fur cap of the Cossacks

Redingote—French version of a riding coat of cavalrymen

Valise—Infantry soldier's pack late 18th century



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The Official Magazine of the W. Britain Collectors' Club

WINTER 2017, Volume 5, No. 12
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the Standard THE EXCLUSIVE JOURNAL OF THE WB. BRITAIN COLLECTORS' CLUB

The Men Who Wore the Redcoat



Inside:
The Brown Bear Market
Penguin Miniature Park
German Army Cold Weather
Clothing Part 2

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.



Visiting Eastern Ontario Forts – July 2023

Brendan Hogan, OMSS Member

This past summer, I spent some of my summer leave visiting three forts in Eastern Ontario—Fort Wellington in Prescott, Fort Henry in Kingston, and Fort York in Toronto. Visiting battlefields and historic sites is one of my favourite pastimes, and I'm glad that most of these locations have bounded back from the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. OMSS members living in Ontario may not realize it, but we are fortunate to live so close to several historic sites many of which have living history programmes during the summer months.



View from the Fort Wellington earthen wall south across the St. Lawrence River towards Ogdensburg, New York.

Living in the Upper Ottawa Valley, Fort Wellington is the closest fort to my home and where I began my journey. Fort Wellington was originally built by the British during the War of 1812 to protect the St. Lawrence River, a vital line of communication for the British forces in North America, and in particular the supply depots located in Prescott. The original fort was replaced with newer works in the

1830s that are managed by Parks Canada today. The fort is essentially a large blockhouse surrounded by some out-buildings contained in an impressive earthen wall.

Visitors to the fort should first enjoy the exhibits in the visitors' centre, particularly, the recovered wreck of a War of 1812 bateaux. Your visit to the fort is self-guided but there are staff in the fort, including uniformed interpreters, who can answer your questions and enhance your visit with musket firing demonstrations. Most of the exhibits in the fort focus on the lives of the officers, soldiers, and their families who garrisoned Fort Wellington in the 19th century, particularly during the War of 1812 and the Rebellions of 1837-1838. Interestingly, the uniformed interpreters portray the 1840s Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment—a British Army unit stationed in Canada comprising veterans from other regiments. The Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment has a sharp green uniform with red facings. If you have some extra time when visiting Fort Wellington, a stop at the Battle of the Windmill National Historic Site, Upper Canada Village, and Battle of Crysler's Farm National Historic Site are worth the stop. Sadly, the small gift store located in the visitors' centre did not have any toy soldiers for sale, but it did have several military books for sale with decent pricing.



Interior of Fort Wellington: the blockhouse, ordnance, latrine building, and officers' quarters

The next fort I visited is my personal favourite—Fort Henry. Having grown up in Kingston, some of my fondest childhood memories are visits to Fort Henry to see the world-famous Fort Henry Guard. The guard portrays infantry and artillery of the British army in the late 1860s. The British constructed the first fort on the heights of Point Henry during the War of 1812 to protect the Kingston Royal Navy Dockyard (located on Point Frederick, the present site of the Royal Military College of Canada (RMCC)).

The heights offer commanding views of Kingston, Navy Bay, Cataraqui River, Lake Ontario, and the St. Lawrence Seaway. I learned to appreciate the geographic importance of the fort running up and down the hill during my time as a cadet at RMCC.

The British constructed the impressive limestone citadel, currently managed by the St. Lawrence Parks Commission, that visitors can see today during the 1830s. The impressive fort not only defended Kingston and its naval facilities but also protected the southern entrance to the Rideau Canal which linked Kingston to Ottawa and bypassed the most vulnerable sections of the St. Lawrence River.

When I visited the fort, the living history experience featured the fifes and drums and artillery from the guard and domestic interpreters. I would suggest taking the guided tour before wandering off and exploring the living history programme and museum displays. Even if you are familiar with the history of the fort, I always find it useful to get my bearings. I found the exhibits on the military history of Kingston, interment of Ukrainian-Canadians during the First World War, and the Second World War prisoner of war exhibits very interesting. I must admit being a little disappointed with this visit to the fort compared to previous visits. Apparently, Fort Henry has struggled to staff the guard since the COVID-19 pandemic, and it showed during the garrison parade when the number of guards on parade only totaled seventeen interpreters. The fort has also turned to restaurants, craft beer stands, and local artisans' shops in the Advanced Battery to increase revenues at the expense of space for military history exhibits. Like Fort Wellington, the gift store lacked any toy soldiers, but purchasing some bread baked in the fort's woodfired ovens is worthwhile. Kingston has a plethora of historic sites to visit, so if you have an extra time after your visit to Fort Henry, you won't have a shortage of options to choose between.

The last fort in Eastern Ontario that I visited this past summer was Fort York. It had been sometime since I last visited Fort York, and I believe the last occasion was when On Parade was held there before we moved the location of the show to Humber College. Originally constructed in 1793 by the British to defend the then small town of York and its harbour, Fort York is a time capsule in the heart of Canada's largest city. The earthen walls, blockhouses, and other Regency-era buildings contrast immensely with the surrounding condos and skyscrapers. Admission to the fort was free and parking wasn't too much of an issue with a nearby parking lot under the Gardiner Expressway. The visitor centre had a very well put together audio visual orientation to the Battle of York fought on 27 April 1813. The exhibit did a good job presenting the battle from the perspective of American and British soldiers, Indigenous warriors, and Canadian militia.

I have to say other than one exhibit in the fort that I thought was a little much (that's a story to be told over a pint another time...), I was most impressed with Fort York. I didn't know what to expect after reading the Toronto History Museums decided in 2022 to some furor that uniformed interpreters at the fort was too militaristic. It seems that decision has been revisited (there was a single member of the Incorporated Militia of Upper Canada in uniform), and the guided tour was very well done. My favourite exhibits were the fully recreated soldiers' barracks and the officers' mess. The gift shop was the best of the three forts and had shelves of military history books, prints, and W. Britain and plastic toy soldiers for sale. While the logistics of our show made Fort York an untenable venue, I felt nostalgic walking around the fort and remembering being a kid attending On Parade in Toronto's best historic site.

I hope my short account of visiting three Eastern Ontario forts will encourage you to get out and explore these gems in our backyard. I certainly was inspired to make toy soldier dioramas based off the forts themselves and the exhibits on display inside of them. Next summer I'm looking to travel a little further for an American War of Independence and Civil War battlefield tour. If it works out, I'll be sure to provide an account for the OMSS membership.



A rifleman of the Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment prepares to fire his rifle for visitors.



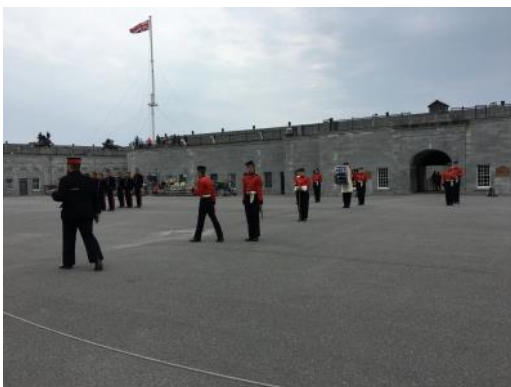
Soldiers' living quarters in the North Soldiers' Barracks at Fort York.



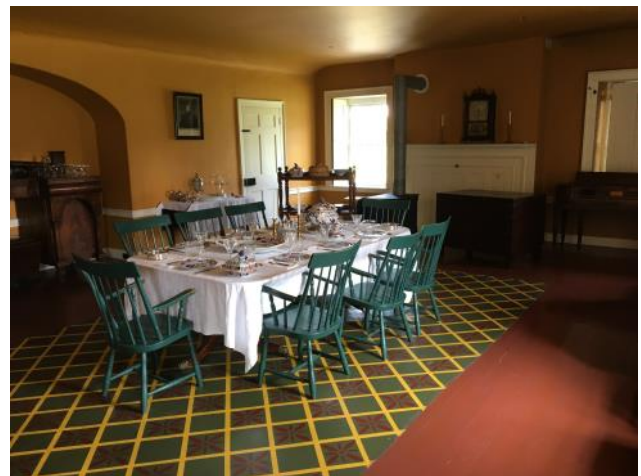
View from Fort Henry over Navy Bay the Royal Military College of Canada, and Kingston.



The interior of Fort York with urban, modern Toronto looming in the background.



The officer of the day prepares to inspect the Royal Artillery detachment and the Fort Henry Guard Drums Corps during the daily garrison parade.



Dining room in the Fort York Officers' Barracks & Mess.

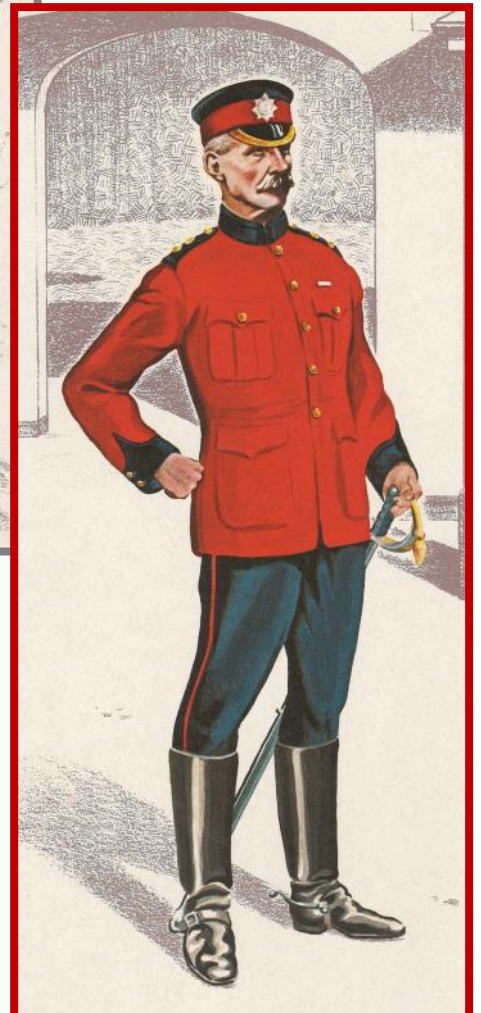
Figure ideas

Taken from prints of the Royal Canadian Regiment done by Geoffrey Jamieson.

Left—RCR Corporal Italy 1943

Center - Infantry School Corps Sergeant-Major 1892

Right - Royal Canadian Regiment of Infantry Lt. Colonel 1899



History Buffs—Scratch the head questions

(Taken from BMSS THE BULLETIN #04 April 1955)

Take note of Number 6. This would make for an interesting diorama if you're doing the Indian uniforms and history.

1. What British regiment started life as the 1st Invalids?
2. In what campaign did the Royal Navy ride camels?
3. What General said 'Strategy is horse-sense: when practised by Indians it is called treachery'?
4. When was a railway train used for a raid in hostile territory?
5. What Army Commander in modern times found himself behind the enemy's line in the middle of the battle?
6. Where did ladies on elephants lead a British army into action?

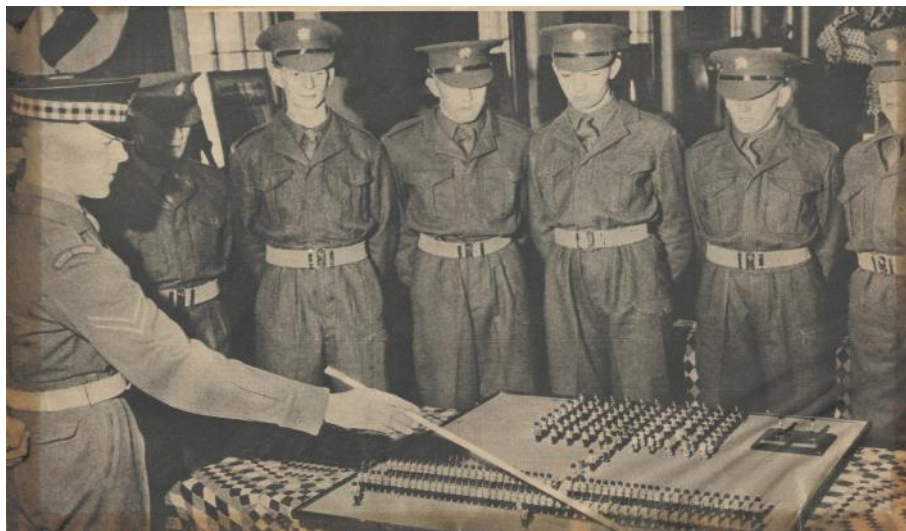
Answers

1. 2nd Battalion the Welch Regiment.
2. In the attempt by the Desert Column to relieve Khartoum in 1884 the Naval Brigade rode on camels (Interesting figure for someone).
3. The Confederate General Beford Forrest.
4. In 1862 a party of Union soldiers penetrated 200 miles behind the Confederate lines into Georgia, seized a train and drove it back for 150 miles, attempting to destroy bridges on the way.
5. Lord Raglan at the Alma
6. At Maharajpore, 29th December, 1843, Lady Gough and others were riding at the head of Lord Gough's Army on elephants when the Mahratta artillery opened fire on them. Anyone need an idea for a diorama?

This old photograph was in a file marked interesting. No indication source of photo or the newspaper. Caption reads:

MODEL SOLDIERS HELP TO TURN OUT MODERN GUARDSMAN

In the Guards Brigade Museum at Caterham Depot, a corporal takes recruits through details of a ceremonial. The Nazi flag was captured in the western Desert. The museum is filled with historical was diaries, dispatched, old uniforms and trophies



Dr. Bussler and the Incurable Fever

Jack Mosher / Quincy, Mass

Around this New England town, witchcraft once flourished. Among other things, spells were cast. And there is reason to believe, some citizens feel that the practice is not yet a thing of the past.

“Look at Dr. Bussler” they tell you.

“What about him” you ask.

The answer begins with his strange behaviour back in 1947. Wives and mothers kept coming to him for advice on what to do about their husbands and grown-up sons. Case after case was reported. Each displayed the same symptoms.

The men folk, it appeared, were coming home with flat cardboard boxes under their arms. They wore a shifty look on usually trustworthy faces. Asked about the contents of these boxes, they evade the question. They quickly hurried upstairs and shoved them under the beds or behind old suitcases in the attic closets.

“Then what?” the doctor asked excitedly, giving the women folk the feeling he was on the point of making a great discovery – like coming up with another Salk vaccines, for instance.

“Well,” he was told. “You won’t believe it, I know, doctor. But there are lead soldiers in these boxes. And last night, my – my husband and the man next door – he came home with some too – got down on the playroom floor with – with little cannons and – and they actually started banging away at one another’s armies. And do you know what?”

What demanded Bussler, eyes boggling.

When the children come near, they snarl at them he was told. They say can’t they see this is no kid’s game. That they’re –they-ere re-fighting Shiloh or-

Shiloh Bussler would put in, quite beside himself now Did they actually say that.

Yes, I’m sure its serious, doctor. Is there nothing.

Nothing madam he would say. Once it reaches the Civil War stage, all you can hope to do is treat it. Best thing for you to do is buy him a few boxes for Christmas. Or his birthday. Hell, figure you’re the swellets wife or mother in the world, if you do that.

Then shoos them out of his consulting room, Dr Bussler would hurry back down to the basement and carry on with molding still another batch of General Lee, happy in the knowledge that he had just received a report on another satisfied customer. Because, for years, the good doctor himself had carried the lead soldier virus around in his system.

As a boy, he’d turned out his first original figures, clearing them to schoolmates for a thin dime apiece. But at the time there was no future along this line here and he took up doctoring. On returning from overseas however – Bussler served with the US Medical Corps during WWII he found that lead soldier’s fever was at last beginning to spread on this side of the Atlantic.

Although prevalent among the adult population of Europe for generations it had long been regarded by unsophisticated Americans as child’s play. Its followers here numbered no more than a corporal’s guard. The first collectors group as not formed until 1941 when interested Philadelphians got together under the leadership of Ashton McDonnell, a husky landscaper engineer who had been buying swapping or making his own since he was six.

After the war, when military leadership passed to the United States certain enterprising European firms began to promote the sale of miniatures here. A question frequently asked was Why are there no American figures?

Bussler, among others, could provide the answer. For when not long after World War II he took some of his work to a big New York store he was told ‘They’re collector’s items, all right. But American made. And for collectors, anything American made couldn’t be good enough.

Naturally the Quincy man refused to believe this. But how was he to prove it. Where would he find a market, if not through the stores He decided to try the mail order. A small ad inserted in a hobbyist's magazine soon began to bring in so many orders he no longer had any time left for doctoring. In 1953 he went out and took down his shingle.

Today Bussler turns out some 235 varieties and poses of Civil War figures. BUSSLER MINIATURES as he calls his firm now boasts a staff of six, including Mrs. Bussler who serves as business manager and general trouble shooter dealing with customers who range all the way from millionaires with upwards of 25,000 figures already on their shelves down to a St. Louis newsboy. He's collecting Custer reveals Mrs. Bussler 'Sends us a dollar a week and when he's paid for another US 7th Cavalryman we send it along.

By pre-war, strictly European standard Bussler's prices are quite reasonable. Striking a fire somewhere in between toy soldiers which bring around 25 cents each and imported figures selling as high as \$50 per copy, his foot soldiers bring \$1.25 to \$3.50. Cavalry cost \$3.00 to \$7.50 regardless of rank with General Lee bringing no more in miniature than his lowest trooper. The difference in price depends on whether customers want figures already painted or do it themselves. One customer Bussler reveals has already painted more than 2,500 blanks – as unfinished figures are called – less than five years.

Latest estimates place the number of adult collectors throughout the United States at close to 50,000. Bussler, therefore, is not the only figure maker active in this brand-new field. John Fleming Scheid a former lieutenant in Canada's famed Black watch, recently completed a checkerboard size replica of John Philip Sousa's Band which may now be seen in the Marine Corps Museum at Washington. While part time competition is provided by Richard T. Brady, vice president of a Baltimore bank.

Brady is known among an ever-increasing circle of lead soldier men as Four and A Half. This has nothing to do with the current rate on short term loans. He is so called because he turns out figures 4 1/2 inches high for \$4.50. And marketing presents no problem for the Baltimore man. I simply have a list reveals Brady to which I keep adding names as time goes by. When I come up with a new model I mail out as many as there are names on the list. So far, he adds none have come back.

Among collectors certainly the most outstanding on this side of the Atlantic is Ashton McDonnell a husky landscape engineer of Devon Pennsylvania. For years McDonnell kept his collection a secret. It wasn't until the family moved to Valley Forge shortly after WW2 that his wife finally persuaded him to bring it out when it was revealed that among other things, he a far larger force of Revolutionaries than Washington commanded.

Like many veteran collectors, McDonnell can't tell you how many he now possesses. But his wife has a pretty good idea how big his collection is. When we moved to Devon from Valley Forge, she says it took three solid months to pack them up. I don't to move again it I can help it. At the time the good lady is determined to hold her laundry, even against great odds.

But from the looks of things around the McDonnell ménage time is running out. For week and spent husband's ever-growing legions, 8-year-old Terry took me a on a little tour of his own. When we got to the laundry, he lifted the lid of his mothers Bendix to reveal half a dozen tiny khaki clad figures crouched at the abuse of the spiralator. Commandos, he told me as any 8-year-old military knows, wherever these boys land the whole darn army is bound sooner or later to follow.

It's a disease no doubt about that Bussler agrees. And once it gets hold of a man quite incurable but what a happy way, he adds with the look in his own eye of a man who can't wait to get back to his bench to die.

Jack Mosher was a member of the Society back in 1970 era. He did a series of articles on toy soldiers. In future issues of the Journal will feature one of the articles.

