

The
**Ontario
 Model
 Soldier
 Society**
 Founded 1962
 www.omss.ca



Monthly Newsletter for September 2020

Monthly Meeting Dates for 2020

12 January 2020 - 9 February 2020 – 8 March 2020
 5 April 2020 - 3 May 2020 – 13 September 2020
 18 October 2020– 22 November 2020 - 13 December 2020

Annual Show
 Saturday June 12, 2021

Monthly Newsletter for September 2020

2020 Executive

Keith Ritchie
 President

Scott Millburn
 1st vice president

Andy Traverse
 2nd vice-president

Gary Lenius
 Secretary/Treasurer

Lorne Farr
 Past President

Vacant
 Program Chairman

Ian Pearson
 Journal Editor

Scott Dummitt
 Annual Show Chairman

Alex Monsour
 Newsletter Editor

Dave Norman
 Facebook Page Manager

Frank MacKay
 Calendar Co-ordinator

Jeff Duncan
 Club Table & Donations

OMSS Archivist
 Ian Pearson

Next meeting...

CANCELLED - Sunday, 13 September 2020

Branch 643 Royal Canadian Legion 110 Jutland Road Toronto
 Meeting starts at 1:00 pm. Doors open 11:00 am



Letter from the President

It has now been more than five months since we last met face-to-face, and of the COVID-19 state of emergency. Things are re-opening, but this is a much longer and more gradual recovery. There are predictions of possible future waves and setbacks, and we have only to look at the news, especially from some other countries, to contemplate the risks.

On behalf of the Executive, I hope that everyone is staying safe and secure. I personally think about you, and I reminisce about the camaraderie of the meetings.

We have been trying to get you newsletters, and we have more Journals in preparation. There are also e-mails, telephone, and our Facebook page. But we have also been planning on how to get back together as a club. As I have been sitting – and working – from home, I have seen how COVID-19 has affected all aspects of life. Hobbies like toy soldiers are no exception.

Now that Ontario has entered Phase 3, we are making plans to resume the meetings, beginning with October 18th. But we will do so in accordance with Provincial requirements and Legion rules and procedures. We are also looking at making some changes to make it as safe as possible while enabling us to meet again. Details are presented in this newsletter.

I hope that we can pull things off beginning in October and further communication will follow in the next newsletter.

The following is brought to the attention of the membership to be able to meet again in person at the Legion.

Here are the published mandatory rules as of August 20, 2020 from the LEGION under Ontario Phase 3.

- a. No more than 50 people for any indoor meeting.
- b. A list of attendees, as well as contact phone numbers for each attendee must be recorded.
- c. Masks (or face coverings) must be worn indoors.
- d. The room and the washrooms will be available.
- e. The Legion will sanitize before and after the meeting.
- f. Tables and chairs must be 6 feet/2 meters apart.
(President note: Not in 1/30 or 1/32 scale).
- g. A bar manager will be available if requested in advance.
- h. No outside food. (There will be no muffins, doughnuts or coffee from Timmy's)

Tentative OMSS Executive Requirements

- a. Indoor Vendors are restricted to a maximum of five. They must inform Keith and Gary prior to the meeting. Any vendor above the five we will be informed that they will not have an indoor table. They may conduct business from the back of their vehicle in the parking lot.
- b. The Legion will have two containers of sanitizer. All vendors must provide their own sanitizer (both inside and outside vendors). This is the requirement of any business.
- c. Physical distancing is the expectation. Attendees and vendors are to avoid congregating at the tables.
- d. When the meeting is being conducted, any side conversations will not be tolerated and must be taken outside. Members must show respect to who is speaking. Wearing of masks with the lack of mouth visibility and muffling of sounds makes it more difficult to hear the speaker and in fairness to all, silence in the room needs to be observed.
This also applies to vendors who wish to pack early.
- e. Attendance may be restricted to paid members. If guests are allowed they will need to be registered with Gary upon arrival. (Name and contact number)
- f. There will no outside speakers until sometime in 2021. OMSS members will be asked to present topics.
- g. We may aim to have a shorter meeting initially with the Executive meeting from 12 to 12:30, the meeting commencing at 12:30 and a completion target time of 2:00 pm.

What's New in The Hobby By Scott Dummitt

Some interesting releases have just been announced and should start being available in stores by the time of this reading. John Jenkins Designs has introduced new figures to his Carthaginian/Roman naval series with the bases moulded as decking. In addition there are new 62nd Regt of Foot figures added to the Saratoga Series, new Conquistadors, Confederate infantry, Punic Wars and Aztecs, however my favourite piece that John is about to release is a Supermarine Spitfire Mk.1Xe,Mk.392 which was flown by W. Cmdr "Johnny" Johnson. Johnson was in command of a Canadian Spitfire wing, of 144 Wing in 83 Group of the 2nd Tactical Air Force which became 144 RCAF (Fighter) Wing, a fighter/bomber unit comprised of 441, 442 and 443 Squadrons. It comes however with a whopping price of appx. \$400.00 Cdn.



Now for a little shameless advertising, SCOTT J. DUMMITT PRESENTS is now a Canadian retailer for The British Toy Soldier Company. This cottage industry producer is run by Patrick Adam in the UK and features some superbly painted 60mm toy soldiers representing ceremonial units of the British Armed Forces, along with a selection of WWI figures from the Empire, WWII North African campaign figures, the Gibraltar Regiment through the ages, small to large bands and a series of British Nile and Gun Boats. With our new association, BTSC is now going to produce two sets of RCN circa 1953 and The Canadian Guards (red & white brush on the left side of bearskin) in Greatcoats for us. These will be his first Canadian military units produced with their own number and box label. An eight piece set will sell for appx. \$178.00 Cdn.



**BTSC Canadian Guards circa
1953 in great coats.**

William Britain Limited has received in some new stock including a wonderfully animated set titled "Coffee, News and a Loyal Friend" (Set No. 31284) which depicts a 1860s gent sitting at the breakfast table with his dog at his side and reading the paper. Also new are: Zulu Attacking 24th Foot from High Position (Set No. 20192), an 1898 USMC NCO, five new Continental infantryman, and four Civil War members of the 146th New York Zouaves in their resplendent, but impractical uniforms. The sitting gent will sell for appx. \$113.00 Cdn and the 24th/Zulu set for appx. \$109.00 Cdn. Note both of these sets are limited to a 450-production run each and Britain's Dealers have basically scooped them all up already. The other new figures range from \$51 to \$53 Cdn each.

Quarter Masters Store

For Sale: Contact Ian Pearson - Ian.pearson560@gmail.com

John Tunstall "Soldiers Solders" Royal Marine Band c. 1910 in Tropical Whites. Brand new never removed from box. 16 piece 54mm metal set - \$200

William Britain Ltd – Royal Engineers Band – Never removed from box, 13 pieces - \$125.00

William Britain Ltd – Royal Bahamas Police Band – Ceremonial Series. Mint in box with certificate book - \$125.00

Mignot – French Napoleonic Band: Legion Du Nord 1806, 12 piece band mint in box \$275.00

For Sale: Nora Campbell, Toronto. N.j.campbell@sympatico.ca Phone: 416-481-8919

William Britain Ltd – Ceremonial Black Watch Pipers - \$5.00 each

William Britain Ltd – Ceremonial Black Watch Pipers, drone needs repair work - \$2.00 each

William Britain Ltd – Ceremonial Black Watch Officer - \$5.00

Glass Display Case - \$20.00

Assorted boxes of Suren figures - \$15.00 per box (3 in Total) Photos are attached.



A CAPITAL REPORT (from the OMSS Ottawa Chapter)

by Bob Thompson

OTTAWA CHAPTER MEETINGS - March to July 2020

Since the last report from the Ottawa Chapter (covering our February meeting in the March OMSS Newsletter) the world has changed. Although we did cancel the March meeting, we have held virtual meetings in two different formats for our April, May, June, and July Ottawa Meetings.

We have held a live video 'Zoom' gathering for our last four monthly meetings with about a dozen members on each video meeting. We've had Alex Monsour (Guelph) and Eric Shaw (Chatham) on our last two Zoom meetings. Last meeting, Jim Qualtrough (Brighton) joined in and gave us an excellent video tour of his collection. I would like to see more Toronto area OMSS members join in our virtual meetings. I'll continue to post our Ottawa meeting announcements on the OMSS Facebook pages.

At the end of March, I started up a Facebook Group called "OMSS Ottawa" to further keep our Ottawa members connected. Following each monthly Zoom Meeting, we've held a Facebook 'meeting' where we post all sorts of photos, texts, and make comments. All of the monthly meeting agendas and minutes are posted on our Facebook Group. The advantage of Facebook is that all the photos and texts remain for others to view at any time.

Check out our 'OMSS Ottawa' Group ... there's lots of photos and good info to be seen.

OUR VIRTUAL FUTURE

Let's face it, it's going to be quite a while before we can have our physical OMSS meetings. I would encourage everyone to learn the virtual assets at our disposal.

FACEBOOK: Aside from the various Internet 'web sites' (including the OMSS site), the world of Facebook opens up a whole new layer of toy soldier related activities. Besides the OMSS and OMSS Ottawa Facebook groups there are all sorts of wonderful toy soldier related groups to join. All this is free! If you have a home computer, a laptop, a Chromebook, a tablet, or a smartphone, it is easy and free to install Facebook. As long as you don't make or respond to all sorts of friends requests, you won't be bombarded with notices. (Also, you don't have to worry about teenage issues nonsense on Facebook since they all think Facebook is 'old news' and have moved on to other social media platforms.)

ZOOM: Also, free ... by installing Zoom you can set up and participate in live video meetings with up to 100 invited friends. Zoom meetings aren't a total replacement for our physical meetings, but they allow great interactions and sharing of images. Our Ottawa group is just starting to understand the potential of Zoom meetings. I plan to have a Zoom swap meet sometime in September where we will buy, sell, and trade toy soldiers. Since physical location is not a factor in Zoom meetings, members from anywhere on the globe (including Toronto!) can join in on the meetings. Also, members that have health or transportation issues can join in our Zoom meetings, whereas they were never able to join in our physical meetings.

So ... don't be a Luddite ... get with it! ... with a little bit of effort, you can be 'Zooming' and 'Facebooking' in no time!

You Tube Snippets from History

Jeff Duncan has found several historical short films available on Youtube. They are typically 10- 15 minutes and have stories about lesser known experiences or information about World War II. These are Mark Felton Productions and may serve as inspiration for your next diorama or project.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rs0ZaCQrScc>

Secret Nazi Antarctic Base - Fact or Fiction?

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

"The Devil's Own" Lawyers Secret D-Day Mission

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OWcRl7Q7pGs>

Canadian Paratroopers Save Denmark! Operation Eclipse 1945

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=80ZyPeoDUqk>

The Battle of Castle Itter - US & German Troops Join Forces to Fight the SS

Chicago Toy Soldier Show Goes Virtual for 2020!

In light of its cancellation this year why long to be packed into hotel rooms jostling with other collectors and arm wrestling over that wonderful figure while having a great time?

This year as an alternative, the show is trying a virtual format on September 26th and 27th. Some aspects are free while other parts require a fee.

Check out details at: <https://chicagotoysoldiershow.com/>

The Last Word of a Civilian Bureaucrat

Well I did not expect to begin the Editor role of the Newsletter during such a time of upheaval. The age of digital technology is amongst us whether we fully want to embrace it or not. And it is in that technology that the Ottawa chapter meets, planning continues amongst the Executive and preparation of the Journal, Calendar and the Monthly Newsletters occur. They are not a substitute for the in-person contact we so long for, but technology still provides for connection that would otherwise be completely lost. Stay safe, carry on until as, Vera Lynn so famously sang, "We'll Meet Again!"

The newsletter is edited by Alex Monsour.

News items and notices can be submitted to artmons@rogers.com.

Articles must be submitted no later than 14 days before monthly meetings. Note due to postal costs the Newsletter is limited to 6 pages maximum. Articles that cannot be accommodated will be forwarded to the Journal Editor.

Articles submitted must be original as due to copyright law we cannot reproduce any published article without permission of the publication in question.