

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



## Monthly Newsletter for May 2021

### Monthly Meeting Dates for 2021

All meetings are cancelled until further notice.

### Annual Show

The show is cancelled for 2021. Stay tuned for 2022.

### Monthly Newsletter for May 2021

**2021 Executive**  
 Keith Ritchie  
 President

Scott Milburn  
 1st vice president

Andy Traverse  
 2nd vice-president

Gary Lenius  
 Secretary/Treasurer

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Vacant  
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Brendan Hogan  
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Scott Dummitt  
 Annual Show  
 Chairman

Alex Monsour  
 Newsletter Editor

Dave Norman  
 Facebook Page  
 Manager

Frank MacKay  
 Calendar Co-  
 ordinator

Jeff Duncan  
 Club Table &  
 Donations

OMSS Archivist  
 Ian Pearson

OMSS Ottawa Chapter hosts a zoom meeting on the last Tuesday of the month from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm or later. This is open to all OMSS members. For an invite and link, please contact Bob Thompson at [Thompson\\_robert@rogers.com](mailto:Thompson_robert@rogers.com).

### Letter from the President



Welcome to a new month. Most of us (at least in Ontario) are still in a form of lockdown/stay-at-home for now, as new variants of the coronavirus are spreading and we are in the third wave. However, there is hope as vaccines are arriving and many of us start to get at least the first “jab”.

On April 22, we lost another member – Israel Gencher. Israel was a member of the Ottawa Chapter, but I and many others got to know him – and his 1/6 collection from the Zoom meetings. He was a friendly and knowledgeable member and will be sorely missed. I want to thank Stanley Kershman for keeping us informed and passing on our condolences to Israel’s family.

Even as we get vaccinated, we still do not know when things will get back to normal – or even start re-opening. They do not call Toronto “the lockdown capital of North America” for no reason. Nonetheless we will be planning for when we can get together again. And I know that members are keeping in touch, even with “socially distanced” visits. Let’s keep it up.

On the hobby front, Stuart is settling into his new editor role. Manufacturers and retailers/e-tailers are coming out with new figures. What else are you going to do with the vacation money you have been saving for over a year now? (Unless you decided to do a renovation at home and had to pay for lumber recently!)

Stay safe, get vaccinated, and keep in touch – including through articles in the newsletter and the Journal. We will get through this and get together as the OMSS in some point of the foreseeable future.

### Bill Wyatt shares "What Have I Been Doing?"

Well, the last few days have been sunny and warm, so I have been in my garden, but that is not really what you want to hear.

I have been struggling with a book review that I have been writing to send to the Journal Editor. I have not been painting, although the flats I bought a few years ago still sit near the paints. And I have no figures at this time that I want to cast. However, I did buy a few soldiers at a local on-line auction! Six of them are worth talking about.

These soldiers are 54 mm, painted in the model figure style. Now, I only do traditional toy soldier painting, and have always felt that was just fine but these figures amazed me. The tartan on the two with painted kilt and trows rival anything I have seen before. The one is a Gordon Highlander; I wish I knew the unit of the one in trows made by Rose Miniatures.

The other figures here fit into my Delhi Durbar theme mentioned in the last Journal and again were purchased for their beauty. The one with the square base is another Rose casting; the other with a hexagonal base is a New Hope Design. The last two pictured here have round unsigned bases with a stone texture on the top. Again, I wish I knew their maker.

*If you can answer that for Bill please contact him at wyattwi@hotmail.com.*



Some more Mark Felton videos for your viewing entertainment.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GjYNPPrjAnc&list=RDCMUCfCKvREB11-fxyotS1ONgww&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GjYNPPrjAnc&list=RDCMUCfCKvREB11-fxyotS1ONgww&start_radio=1)  
First Daring WW2 Helicopter Mission - Burma 1945

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FILxoQyKzDg>  
America's 'War' Against Switzerland

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QtngxfLQ9o0>  
Escaped German Prisoners-of-War Stole A Plane

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YvuQQaQLDPQ>  
World's First Air Hijack - Allied Aircrew's Daring 1942 Escape

## Whats New in the Hobby - May 2021

By Scott Dummitt

Remember when you were younger and first started collecting toy soldiers. You could save your allowance up and know that when you went to your local toy soldier store, the same figures were available year after year. Britains produced “Eyes Right”, Swoppet, Herald figures, and of course their metal hollow-cast figures. How we looked forward to building up our collection of Grenadier Guards, US Marines or Fort Henry Guardsmen. Unfortunately, the price has gone up drastically on metal figures (and so has the quality and pay checks), but the most frustrating thing is the limited time figures are available. King & Country, Britains, Thomas Gunn, and many more have created a limited shortage of figures so if we miss out on them, then we have to look to the aftermarket to build up our troops. You can’t believe how many collectors I have had ask if I ever get the King’s 8<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot privates in stock and sadly, I explain that only one casting production was done of these figures. There are many smaller companies that do continually produce the same figures for years which is a blessing. Amongst those companies are Tradition of London, The British Toy Soldier Company, my own Pride of the Nation (although we have had problems getting our castings), Mignot and others. I recently was made aware of a company that many club members have seen the figures but did know much about. This is KRONPRINZ, a manufacturer in Spain. Our own Grant Lawson has sold



their figures for many years but again I don’t believe our Canadian collectors have given them a close look. The subjects are produced as 1/30<sup>th</sup> scale matte painted figures in white metal. The company does not have everything in stock that it advertises on its web site (<https://kronprinztoysoldiers.com/gb>) but will produce to order. The nice thing about this company is their quality is as good as K&C, Britains and so on. Highly detailed figures at an average price of \$52.00 Cdn. Kronprinz produces a variety of figures ranging from Ancients, 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> Century conflicts, North American Western figures, Napoleonic (Including two regiments that fought in Canada during the War of 1812), and WWI and WWII. Being Spanish it also offers a wide variety of Spanish units, too numerous to mention but check them out. Starting this summer my own business will start selling this line. We hope that collectors will give them a second look over as they offer much that would interest the average collector.

William Britain Ltd. has just released their French Imperial Grenadiers of the “Old Guard”. The first grouping includes a variety of poses such as standing firing, kneeling at the ready, officer, and so on. There were six Imperial Guard Grenadier Regiments. Two with each of the following: The Old Guard, The Middle Guard and The Young Guard. At Waterloo it is usually thought that the Grenadier regiments made the final



**The French Imperial Guard Grenadiers of “The Old Guard” in action**

attack on their own, however this is wrong as they were joined by several battalions of similarly dressed Chasseurs (the Chasseurs did not have bearskin plates on their headdress). In addition to the French Grenadier figures, Britains is also releasing a large variety of US Civil War figures, their “Dirty Blue Shirts” and restocking some of their older ACW personalities.



**The Pipes & Drums of the Royal Highland Regiment (the Black Watch), circa 1900**

To all you highlander fans, King & Country has released several figures and sets of early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Black Watch on parade in their ceremonial series. Sets include a mounted Colonel, Colours with Escort, individual foot officer, Sergeant, Highlander Privates and a soon to be Pipes & Drums. Figures of the Pipes & Drums are also available as single purchase so you can build your band up in size.

## Quartermaster Store

FOR SALE: Various 5" ship crests from the Royal Canadian Navy. These crests are made of either plaster of paris or cast at the dockyard in aluminum. Hand painted. Contact Scott Dummitt at [gijoe@kos.net](mailto:gijoe@kos.net) for a list of available crest and prices.

### Israel Gencher 1961-2021



Israel was a criminal lawyer in the Ottawa region for over 20 years. He was a person who would put others ahead of himself, whether it be his family, his friends, or clients. The impact of his loss will be immense to everyone. He always did a real service for those people that he represented and was a man of integrity and an unshakeable moral compass.

He was involved in a variety of charitable fundraising events as a stand-up comedian. Although a lawyer, he was also a collector of 1/6 soldiers. At the Ottawa chapter meetings, he always had a display on the topic of the evening. He would bring in several sharp and realistic looking figures all dressed in their complete uniforms and accoutrements. His displays also included vehicles, tanks etc. At one Fort York show, he and other 1/6 enthusiasts set up in the garden outside and simulated a battle with tanks and other vehicles.

Israel continued through the pandemic Zoom meetings and showed his displays and told great stories about them. One of the memorable ones was his Hanukah display of various personalities including Harrison Ford, Moshe Dayan and David Schwimmer all in uniform presented in the January newsletter.

Even through his illness he always had a positive attitude before passing away April 22nd. Rest In Peace.

### Andy Traverse

Long-time member and current Society second vice-president Andy Traverse recently lost his wife to cancer. We all extend our condolences to Andy in this difficult time.

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

Without an in-person toy soldier show to peruse, just a reminder to the Club members that we have some great Canadian options available to us:

Scott Dummitt Presents [www.gjoecanada.com](http://www.gjoecanada.com)

Henry Chow [toysoldier.chow@gmail.com](mailto:toysoldier.chow@gmail.com)

Grant Lawson [www.toysoldiertoronto.com](http://www.toysoldiertoronto.com)

Bob Thompson [Thompson\\_robert@rogers.com](mailto:Thompson_robert@rogers.com).

Toy Soldier Club [www.toysoldiersclub.com](http://www.toysoldiersclub.com)

Toy Soldier Market [www.toysoldiermarket.com](http://www.toysoldiermarket.com)

Carefree Hobbies [www.carefreehobbies.com](http://www.carefreehobbies.com)

**The newsletter is edited by Alex Monsour.**

**News items and notices can be submitted to [artmons@rogers.com](mailto:artmons@rogers.com).**

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

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