

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



Monthly Newsletter for Summer 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.

2021 Executive

Keith Ritchie
 President

Scott Milburn
 1st vice president

Andy Traverse
 2nd vice-president

Gary Lenius
 Secretary/Treasurer

Lorne Farr
 Past President

Vacant
 Program Chairman

Brendan Hogan
 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

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.



Letter from the President

Hello again. It is June – six months through 2021.

It has been fifteen months since we last met in person. However, there is hope, as people receive their first and even their second vaccines. And while Canada was lagging, we are now ahead of many countries in terms of getting the percentage of the population with at least one vaccine.

That being said, we are taking a cautious approach to re-opening the economy and society due to spreads of variants. Ontario has laid out three phases for re-opening, but we still are uncertain of many details – especially when.

As such, we are still monitoring the situation, and will advise of when we can get together again, which will be guided by lifting of provincial restrictions and when the Legion re-opens and is available for meetings. I am hopeful that it can be sometime in the fall of 2021.

In the meantime, we will continue to communicate as we have for over a year now, and which many members have become accustomed to. (We may even need a refresher on how to do in-person meetings when we at last get the opportunity.)

There will be no newsletter for July and likely August, to allow Alex and regular contributors to take a break. But do keep in touch with fellow members,

And stay safe – and I encourage you to get vaccinated. We all want to get back to seeing each other.

OMSS 60th Anniversary Book

Help is needed!

Frank MacKay and myself, back in February, undertook a major OMSS Project.

We are writing the history of the Society with hope that the book will be ready for release at the 2022 show. The title is planned as “History of the OMSS – 60 years of getting the lead out”.

To do that we are asking for assistance. If anyone has anything they would like to contribute, please send it to us NLT the 30th of July. If you have a suggestion on what should be included, please let me know. All suggestions are welcome. Keep in mind that the book is about US, The OMSS, OUR HOBBY. It will be the only book of its kind except for the BMSS one. By doing ours we encourage other societies to do the same.

We are need of a **graphics person** to help with:

1. Design of cover and organize graphics in book.
2. If possible, convert everything into a publisher format so book can be printed.

I am going to start with all this myself but a more professional hand doing it would be better.

If anyone has **publishing background**, could you help out with this area?

To all Presidents: I am going to ask you to review the information on your year. Make any changes you deem necessary then return it. Once received it will go to Frank for final editing then into the book. I would like each one of you have a say about your year. I feel that is fair.

Around the end of July, Frank, the graphic person and myself will get together and finalize the layout and graphics that will appear in the book.

Please think about this carefully. Have a say. It’s our book about us. That includes you too.

Hope to hear from you.

Ian Pearson

Archivist

Some more Mark Felton videos for your viewing entertainment.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eMuw_BsfmV4&t=195s

Winston Churchill Almost Killed by the Germans crossing the Rhine River

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1HRaVDHiR5c>

Hitlers Mercedes at Canadian War Museum

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wbt4e87DvWc>

Food Bombers - Allied Operations Behind German Lines, Netherlands 1945

AND

The last German POW in the US surrendered on ABC Good Morning America show in 1985.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BecF_NEWeQ8

Whats New in the Hobby – June 2021

By S. J. Dummitt

As the summer approaches, there appears to be a bit of a slowdown in new items coming out. That said however, John Jenkins has announced a frontier trading post/fort that he has been working on. The initial concept had been inspired by a reconstructed establishment located at Snake River, west of Pine City, Minnesota. The finished product is not available yet; however I have posted photos showing what the set is based on and how it is progressing. The great thing is this set can be used to house troops from the French & Indian War up



Reconstructed trading fort at Snake River, Minnesota



Details of timber walls and inner buildings



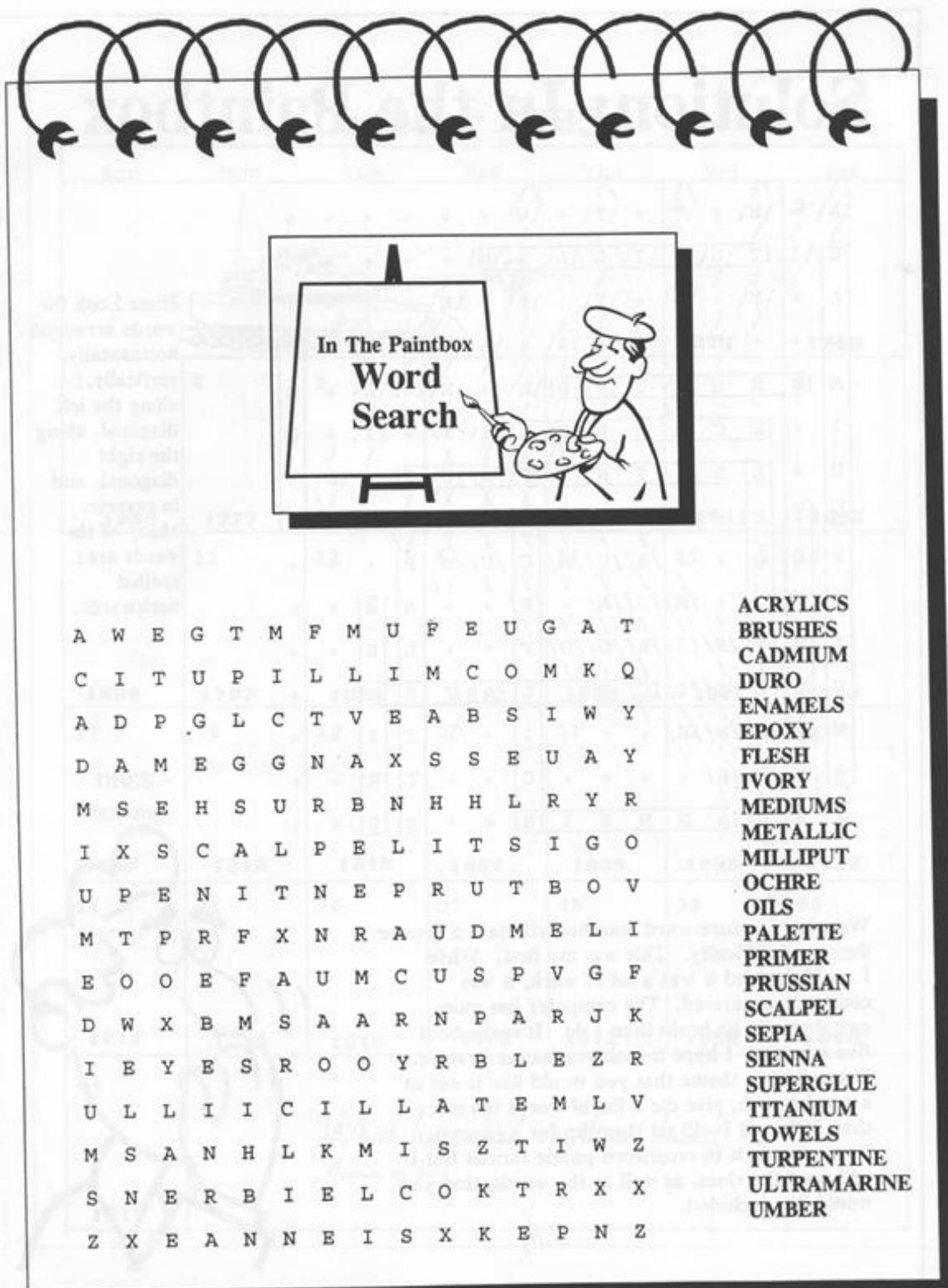
Placement of the gate and corner bastion with figures.

to and including a western outpost for the North West Mounted Police and US Cavalry detachments. Its size can be increased just by adding extra wall units. No word release date yet, but it should be a popular item.

William Britain Limited has just announced the arrival of several new figures. One in particular is Lt. Colonel George Armstrong 1876 in ceremonial uniform. Originally this figure was sold through one of the US retailers as an exclusive but circumstances have led to the figure now being offered through your favourite Britain's retailers.

Toy Soldier Collector & Historical Figures has reached a milestone with the release of its 100th issue with the OMSS's own Stuart Hessney at the helm. Issue 100 includes a photo with his massed Guards bands of late OMSS member Don Ritchie. Other articles cover the Zulu War, Gallipoli, W. Britains plastic Civil War Detail figures and K&C's IDF Centurion squadron.

Courtesy of Ian Pearson for all you painters of figures:



**In The Paintbox
Word
Search**

A	W	E	G	T	M	F	M	U	F	E	U	G	A	T
C	I	T	U	P	I	L	L	I	M	C	O	M	K	Q
A	D	P	G	L	C	T	V	E	A	B	S	I	W	Y
D	A	M	E	G	G	N	A	X	S	S	E	U	A	Y
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Z	X	E	A	N	N	E	I	S	X	K	E	P	N	Z

ACRYLICS
BRUSHES
CADMIUM
DURO
ENAMELS
EPOXY
FLESH
IVORY
MEDIUMS
METALLIC
MILLIPUT
OCHRE
OILS
PALETTE
PRIMER
PRUSSIAN
SCALPEL
SEPIA
SIENNA
SUPERGLUE
TITANIUM
TOWELS
TURPENTINE
ULTRAMARINE
UMBER

Our Sympathies...

The members of the Club would like to extend their condolences to **Andy Traverse** and his family on the loss of his wife Jo-Anne (Gail) after a battle with cancer.

“Holding Action” Life around the Treasurer’s post by Gary Lenius

Alex asked me to write an update on what’s been going on around the treasurer’s foxhole since we’ve been hunkered down for Covid. It’s largely been a case of “holding in place”, keeping the club website updated, sending out the monthly newsletters and mailing out Journals.

Unfortunately I’ve had to deal with some family health issues. My wife had an accident at home back in February and tore up her knee – and needed a second replacement surgery. She was in hospital and rehab for a month and due to Covid no-one could be with her. When she got home she was pretty helpless and I got a taste of what PSW’s have to deal with. She is recovering well although slowly, but I’m still chief cook and bottle-washer around here.

Last fall I picked up pieces from the auction of the late Tom Ablor’s figures. I did an article on them for last October’s Journal. The only other acquisition I’ve made in the last while is a group of four figures from Team Miniatures of Russian troops from the Boxer Rebellion. These were purchased from Scott Dummitt and are gorgeous. I don’t buy large numbers of figures but I like to put together small groups of figures that appeal to me. Sadly at present most of my collection resides in boxes as I have very limited display space.

I have the sad duty to report the passing of an unsung work horse that has served the Society behind the scenes for many years. Each year it was called upon to produce many of the printed items that keep the Society functioning, from membership cards, mailing labels and envelopes, auction cards, signs, and much more. Each month it produced the copies of the newsletter that have to be printed for our members who don’t have email. And it did a raft of jobs for our annual shows – signs, entry forms, etc. Of course I’m referring to the trusty Canon inkjet printer that I have been using for years. It did sterling service year in and year out and didn’t complain when I fed it with off-brand ink. But old age gets to us all eventually and it had been showing signs of advancing decrepitude for a while. Finally the old girl expired with a error code that meant the end of the line. So a new recruit had to be brought in. I have acquired one of the newer ink-tank printers – no more cartridges, so it will be even more economical to operate. She’s a Canon too and so far she’s working well.

They say history doesn’t repeat but it rhymes. This Covid pandemic reminds me a lot of the great siege of Gibraltar. I had read a book on it just prior to the pandemic hitting. In another “history rhyme” I had finished the Charles Dickens novel “Barnaby Rudge” just days before the U.S. Capitol had its little invasion. Dickens’ novel is set during the anti-Catholic Gordon Riots of the 1780s when a mob (stirred up by a demagogue) invaded the Houses of Parliament and the doors to the chamber had to be defended by members at sword point. What a weird echo as I watched the U.S. insurrection coverage!

Quartermaster Store

"**Seeking to Buy a Britains Rorke's Drift** limited edition (of 2,000) set(s); if anyone has one they are willing to part with at a reasonable price. I looked at eBay and was shocked at the price + shipping/import duties/taxes and the US dollar exchange so thought I would try the OMSS!" Contact me, David Dorward, at dkdorward@sympatico.ca Thanks! My phone number is in the membership list as well if you prefer to call.

Worth Watching

There is a new game show that has come to North America having originated in the UK and is featured on Global TV called **SMALL FORTUNE**. Competitors compete with miniature dioramas that have been set up of various scenes. I watched the first episode and the workmanship is excellent but the show is sluggish and overdramatic. But perhaps this may trigger a renaissance of model figure making amongst the youth.

The Last Word of a Civilian Bureaucrat

I was advised when I first started collecting that I should keep the boxes or packaging of the soldiers I purchased. It would help hold the value of the figures and when a move comes, they would be more safely transported. I have found the photocopy paper boxes that arrive at work an ideal size. They are rigid, strong and arrive regularly so plenty of them. Each of my display themes is kept together and in some cases several paper boxes have to be utilized. The lids keep the dust out!

And then arrived some of the larger pieces which the manufacturers have felt need more interior packaging to protect them during the shipment. This introduced a new dilemma since these figure boxes do not fit in the photocopy boxes. I made a call out to our Supplies Dept at work asking if they might have empty ones that the paper towels or toilet paper arrive in. In my office walked a Receiver with a larger, strong one that we receive steel strapping in. Would this work? Problem solved. So great to work for a company that supports my hobby.

THERE WILL BE NO NEWSLETTER IN JULY And AUGUST. THE NEXT PUBLICATION WILL BE IN SEPTEMBER.

Have a great summer.

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.

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