



The Ontario Model Soldier Society

Founded 1962



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Jim Qualtrough
Annual Show Chair

Tom Wright
Technical Committee Chair

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Newsletter for September 2024

Next Toronto chapter meeting Sunday, September 8th, 2024

Branch 643 Royal Canadian Legion, 110 Jutland Road, Etobicoke
Doors open at 11:00 am, **meeting starts at 12:30pm**

This month's presentation will be "The evolution of men's civilian and military clothing as portrayed in film"
by guest speaker Eric Shaw



Next Ottawa chapter meeting Tuesday September 24, 2024 @ 7pm

at The Barley Mow, 1541 Merivale Road.
The Show and Tell topic will be announced later



Next OMSS Virtual meeting

Tuesday September 17, 2024 @ 7pm

(there is no June virtual meeting due to "On Parade")

Virtual meetings are open to all OMSS and BMSS members.

Contact Bob Thompson at Thompson_robort@rogers.com
for an email invitation to the next meeting or more details.



OMSS members are cordially invited to attend

British Model Soldier Society's Monthly Virtual meeting

Friday September 20, 2024 @ 7pm GMT

(that's 2pm for most of us in Ontario)

for those interested in attending;

Contact James Opie of the BMSS at jamesopie@yahoo.co.uk
for an email invitation to the meeting or more details.

Mark your calendars:

OMSS Annual General Meeting and members only Auction

Sunday November 3rd, 2024

Branch 643 Royal Canadian Legion, 110 Jutland Road, Etobicoke



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As summer is beginning to come to a close unless we experience a heatwave, business at the OMSS will continue regardless as always with the end of the year stretch to Christmas. On Parade at the new venue proved to be a success with a healthy attendance and was well supported by vendors and exhibits. It seems that we now have a new home for the annual show.

My thanks goes out to everyone who worked hard to make it a good experience.

On another note, I am pleased to announce that the OMSS is now compliant with the Ontario Not for profit Corporations Act and the necessary documentation has been registered with the Government. For this process to be completed, we required the services of legal counsel as it involved some very detailed work.

Our annual general meeting will be held in November during which we will vote on approving the new Constitution and By-laws. For those unable to attend the meeting, proxies will be sent approximately one month before the vote.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the September meeting.

Andy Traverse, OMSS President

Checkout the future OMSS website



Mark Silverthorn has been working hard over the past several months building a new updated website for the OMSS.

It is still a work in progress as Mark adds new features and applies finishing touches, but members can get a sneak peak of the club's future website by going to the following link; **www.omss.blog**.

We ask everyone to take a few minutes to check it out and provide feedback to Mark. We are aiming to have the new website rolled out and replace the current club site at www.omss.ca sometime this fall.

More new OMSS videos are available on YouTube!

Mark Silverthorn continues producing more great YouTube videos for members to enjoy.



New videos include "Canada's Largest Toy Soldier Show: On Parade 2024" and a two part series "Ken Osen of Britains talks toy soldiers"

Also be sure to check out several short videos Mark has produced on a variety of interesting hobby related topics.

Simply go to YouTube and type in "**Ontario Model Soldiers Society**" or check out "**Scott's Soldiers**" (of OMSS Ottawa chapter) in the search bar to find the channel you are interested in.

Remember to click on **LIKE** and **SUBSCRIBE**; there is no cost to do so and it shows your support and encourages the making of more videos for your enjoyment.



2024 On Parade Post Event Report Update

- Jim Qualtrough, On Parade Chair

Hopefully everyone has had a fantastic summer and you have recuperated from a very busy but extremely successful Annual Show at the Franklin Horner Community Centre on June 15th.

I am very pleased with the way the entire two days went and want to thank every member for their help, participation, encouragement and positive feedback.

Friday the 14th was set up day. We were able to get into the building and meet with the managers for the day. The setting up of the tables provided by the community centre went well and the floor plan seemed to work for the flow of the guests as well as ample room for vendors and displays. Vendors came from all over Ontario and each helped set up their vending area as well as helped out with other show set up chores. Many volunteers from the club arrived on time and eager to work.

Saturday morning came early as the doors opened at 7am for vendor and display set up. Again, many club members showed up early and helped with the setup of the event. The day managers for the community centre were very helpful in getting us access to everything we needed and were available throughout the day.

The Show doors opened at 9am and in came many eager guests. The final count of visitors and vendors was well over two hundred. As good if not better than previous On Parade Annual Shows.

The show venue consisted of two gymnasium sized rooms, a break out classroom for Wm Britains and the Cafeteria. One of the gyms was dedicated to Vendors. We had 46 vendor tables at the show this year. The other gym was for Club display pieces and competition area. We also had a display from our Wargaming friends up on the stage area. The Kids painting table went well again this year and we need to thank my wife Cindy as well as Barb Milburn for doing a great job in corralling the young ones and give them an opportunity to paint a figure supplied by Britains. The Club table was set up and several club members took turns manning it. It turned out to be an excellent day for the club table thanks to these volunteers.



Our fabulous friends from Wm. Britains Ken and Erica Osen were set up in their own break out room where they had a power point presentation for two workshops that they ran in the morning and afternoon. Ken and Erica also held a draw for attendees and each winner received a Britains Figure. I want to stress how pleased and grateful we are that they were able to come up from the States and be at our show. You are game changers and are one of the main reasons for our shows success.

Our Judges headed up by Keith Ritchie poured over the competition entries and scored each entry for potential gold, silver, bronze or Merit Awards. Best of Show and Club Choice awards were presented at the Closing Ceremony as well as all the well deserved awards.

“What I did this summer” ... an overview of OMSS Ottawa Chapter recent activities.

These notes will bring everybody up to date on the activities of the OMSS Ottawa Chapter since the last newsletter article in June.

OTTAWA MONTHLY MEETINGS *(last Tuesday of every month)*

June 25 Ottawa Meeting – There were 18 attendees, including 1 new guest. The Show & Tell topic was “D-day”, and we had a number of D-Day related Show & Tell presentations

At the June meeting we took a vote regarding how to proceed with July and August summer meetings. The “informal” approach won out. It was agreed that informal meetings would be on regular meeting nights, but would have no set agenda, and no Show & Tell Topic.



Bob T's D-Day display with rare Britains set

July 30 Ottawa Meeting – The first of our “Informal meetings” was well attended. There were a few “news” announcements, and event reports, followed by everyone in turn showing any items they brought to the meeting. Basically it was just an opportunity to gather, have some food & drink ... and buy & sell toy soldier items.

August 27 Ottawa Meeting – The participants of our second “Informal meeting” brought out a number of interesting items for all to see. We also discussed a date for our upcoming Parking Lot/trunk Sale ... Juan will be posting an announcement on Facebook soon.

In September we'll be back to our regular meetings



OMSS MONTHLY ZOOM MEETINGS (3rd Tuesday of every month)

At our May OMSS Zoom Meeting we had agreement that we would not hold a Zoom Meeting in June as it was so close to our “On Parade” event.

July 16 OMSS Zoom Meeting – the Show & Tell topic was “On Parade” - with 13 participants, there was a lot of discussion and photos of show acquisitions.

August 20 OMSS Zoom Meeting – The Show & Tell topic was “Current Toy Soldier Related Projects”. Of the 10 participants, Bob T. and Eric Shaw made presentations on their recent and upcoming toy soldier related projects. The September OMSS Zoom meeting topic will be “(French) Foreign Legion”



One of Eric Shaw's recent painting projects



The Quartermaster's Store



FOR SALE: Spincaster and mold maker. Here is a unique opportunity that doesn't come up very often, if you have been wanting to cast your own model soldiers. Joanne also has a large assortment of molds for sale.



Contact Joanne Ritchie at "j_ritchie@rogers.com"



FOR SALE: Tradition of London set of 1815 French Fusiliers
Excellent Condition
\$65 + shipping anywhere in Canada.

Also, I am looking to purchase any modern plastic or compo Swiss National Army figures; Lineol, Elastolin, Starlux, etc.

Contact Gene Maynard at generoymaynard@gmail.com



WANTED

Hoping to complete his collection of Monogram Merite figures, Frank MacKay is always on the lookout for the following kits from the series (sometimes branded as Hobico or Hobby Centers and dating back to 1968):

#821 US Camel Corps 1858

#822 US 1st Cavalry 1884

(?) USMC 5th Marine Regt. 1918

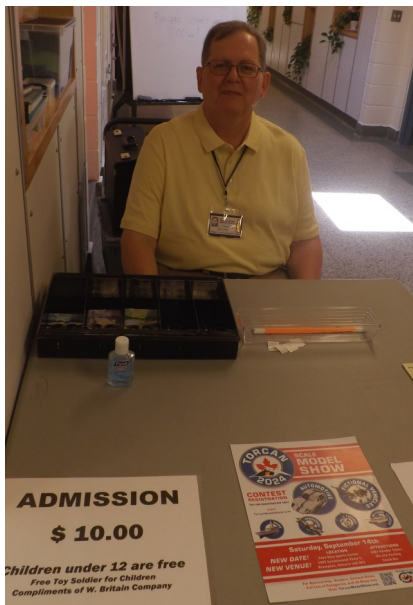
Original box and base unnecessary, painted or unpainted--but complete.

Contact Frank at; Frank_mackay@hotmail.com

On Parade 2024 in action



There was a great turnout to see all the competition entries, displays and browse the vendors.



"We can't change the direction of the wind, but we can adjust our sails"
Indian proverb

The newsletter is edited by Scott Milburn.
News items, notices and upcoming events can be submitted to scottm33@live.ca.

Articles must be submitted no later than 14 days before monthly meetings.
Articles that cannot be accommodated will be forwarded to the Journal Editor.

What's New in the Hobby – September 2024

by S.J. Dummitt

September's announcements by the various companies has revealed a great variety of new figures. This month Thomas Gunn Miniatures has released several new sets but the ones that caught my eye were his Roman Tubicen Players and Laurel & Hardy from their exploits in the French Foreign Legion.

The Tubicen Players from Imperial Rome served as early command conveyers as well as for ceremonial purposes. Gunn's set is limited to only 50 sets of two and will sell for approximately \$142.00 CDN per set. The second set depicts actors Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy as they were portrayed in the movie "The Flying Deuces" which was released in 1931. This set is limited to 100 sets and will sell for approximately \$150.00 CDN.



Thomas Gunn's Roman Tubicen Players



Thomas Gunn's Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy in the French Foreign Legion movie "The Flying Deuces".

John Jenkins Designs has been extremely busy lately introducing several new themes to his vast vary of conflicts. One of his latest is the line of the British Marines (they did not receive the “Royal” title until 1802) as they took part in the “Battle for Bunker Hill” While the British won the battle, due to the Colonials abandoning the position when they ran out of ammunition, they took an extremely high casualty rate. However that said there is a great variety of Marines being introduced including line companies, Grenadiers and Light Infantry. The two figure sets of marines sell for approximately \$126.00 cdn each.

Jenkins has also just release a new selection of British infantry that took part in the “Battle of Gingindhlovu”, during the Anglo-Zulu war in 1879. The first of the figures released represent the 91st (Princess Louise’s Argyllshire Highlanders) Regiment of Foot. The first of these sets have been released and will soon be joined by three other regiments present at the battle. These are the 3rd Battalion, 60th King’s Royal Rifle Corps, the 99th (Duke of Edinburgh’s) Regiment, the 2nd Battalion, 3rd (East Kent) Regiment “the Buffs” and the 57th (West Middlesex) Regiment. Single set figure are approximately \$76.00 cdn while the pair sets are approximately \$133.00 cdn.

Photos:

Top: British Marines at the “Battle of Bunker Hill”

Middle: The 91st (Princess Louise’s Argyllshire Highlanders) Regiment of Foot, Gingindhlovu, 1879

Bottom: 3rd Battalion, 60th King’s Royal Rifle Corps, Gingindhlovu, 1879

All figures produced by John Jenkins Designs

Lord Chelmsford led a force of 3,390 Europeans, and 2,280 Africans to relief the besieged command of Charles Pearson at Eshowe. On the morning of 2 April, 1879 he was attacked by a force of 12,000 Zulu warriors. The British were able to hold off the continuous attacks due to their superior firepower, including Gatling guns and eventually force the Zulu’s to retreat. The British lost 6 officers and 55 men while the Zulu’s were estimated to lose over a 1000 warriors.





Mounted RCMP Constable by W. Britain

The folks at William Britain Ltd have been extremely busy introducing several new figures and revealing items that will soon be appearing. Amongst the new items is a mounted version of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police as would be seen in the world famous “Musical Ride” This stunning figure sells for \$165.00 cdn. New figures and upcoming ones representing the American Revolution include a series of British 43rd Regiment of Foot, the Hessian Regiment von Donop, 1776, and the French Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment, Private Standing Firing, 1781. All three regiments will have several new figures added to their line-up and will sell for approximately \$71.50 each.



British 43rd Regt of Foot, NCO, 1776



Regiment von Donop Private Firing, 1776



French Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment Private Firing



2024 “On Parade” Assessment – The Head Judge’s Perspective

Keith C. Ritchie

It is now a few months since the mid-June *On Parade* show, and we are now resuming our meetings for the fall – and preparing for next year.

I am going to provide a short summary of the competition entries and the judging at the 2024 show. These are my thoughts, based on my analysis and a few discussions I have had after the show. I am continuing my *post mortem* analysis and will bring my fellow judges on board, as well as the show chairman and the OMSS executive.

First, I will note that this was a “learning” experience for myself and my fellow judges. I want to thank Tom Wright and Bryan Patterson for joining me in judging, and for their dedication, matching myself in dedicating ourselves to focussing on making sound and informed (and independent) assessments of the 49 entries into the competition.

I noted in earlier Newsletter articles that all three of us have judging experience. However, these were in other (but related) hobbies, while I have assisted in judging in some earlier On Parade shows, mostly for 1/6 figure entries. However, while I have noted that, for a specific entry, our individual scorings could deviate for specific criteria (reflecting our backgrounds), there was general consistency in our scorings.

As noted earlier, there were 49 competition entries. Some entrants had more than one entry, while some others grouped their figures or dioramas as one entry. This generally worked, with one matter (discussed below). I would like to thank all entrants, as their displays showed their work and the thought that went into their presentations.

I think that the venue worked out well to allow for viewing (and judging) of entries (whether in the competition or for display). On this, I thank Jim Qualtrough, as Show Chairman, for allowing me to provide advice on the location and set up of tables for competition and display. I think that this worked quite well, and the lighting in the hall was fine. There was also adequate space for people to view the displays. I do not see the need for changes in the layout next year.

It did take us nearly four hours to judge the various displays, and over an hour to compile results. We did not have any down-time! The time judging reflected our newness, and on having to agree on the category and sub-category for each entry. Then we had to assess the entries according to the criteria weightings. One thing that worked for us is a new Excel spreadsheet that I developed to help compile results and which even worked out the appropriate award, if any, for an entry. (This was good, as the earlier deadline to complete the clean-up reduced the time that we had for judging.)

For the 49 entries. There were 12 Certificates of Merit, 16 Bronze, 11 Silver and one Gold. However, several of the scores for Silver were high, and, in the consensus of the judges, the Best in Show was awarded to a Silver. As I have said, it was a learning experience for us. However, I am pleased with the outcomes, and I consider our judging work a success.

As I noted in Newsletter articles in the spring, I did not make changes to the categories, but did change some criteria weightings to try to achieve greater consistency. However, based on our experience, I think that some simplification for categories and sub-categories is possible.



2024 “On Parade” Assessment – The Head Judge’s Perspective - conclusion

I have begun work to examine existing competition documentation of the Military Miniatures of Illinois (MMSI), the Model Figure Collectors of America (MFCA) and the International Plastic Modellers Society (IPMS, for both the U.S. and Canada), which I think supports this. We will be guided by this, but I recognize that we have some differences from the MMSI, MFCA and IPMS shows. I think that simplification may help us in how to identify the category and sub-category of an entry – and will point out that we had some difficulty with a few entries, debating what category fit, or even if the entry related to the “model soldier” genre, as reflected in the club name – the Ontario Model Soldier Society.

I will note that advancement of the start of the award ceremony was decided on during the Friday set-up. This resulted in tighter deadlines for the judges, which we tried to meet. However, there were some late entries, with two entrants finishing their set-ups after 12 noon. It was around 12:30 for one of these to be fully set-up. Further, these two entrants had, between them, 12 of the entries, nearly one quarter of the total entries. This put a lot of work on the judges late in the day. In this, I am suggesting a deadline of 12 noon for entries to be completed for set-up, and this will have to be communicated. Entries not ready for judging by noon will be excluded from the competition.

Finally, while I think that Bryan, Tom and myself worked well together, I suggest that we recruit one or two more members that we can call on, as needed. I remind members that any judge must recuse themselves from judging of their own entries. Also, I think we need to plan for the future and to help spread the workload.

Overall, I thank all members for their cooperation. I thank all entrants for their work and displays that contributed to the success, yet again, of our On Parade show. I thank: Jim as the Show Chair for his support and agreement; all members assisting at the show; and the support of the current OMSS executive. And, again, I will voice my congratulations for my fellow judges, Tom and Bryan, for their dedicated work, and which all members should know about and appreciate.

Hope to see everyone next year!



**Looking for that missing piece to finish
your project?**



The OMSS Spare Parts Box will be available at every Toronto meeting. It contains a wealth of spare figure parts and modeling bits and pieces of every kind--and they all belong to YOU!

The rules are simple: if you take something and find it useful, replace it with something of equal value--if not now, then at the next meeting.

And before we go; a few more photos from Ottawa's summer meetings



Dave Waddell's 48th Highlander Band



Steve Alexander's Samurai's



King and Country Bren Carrier



Motorcycle MP's



Kelly's Britian's Zoo set



Juan's 1/6 US ranger