



Next meeting:

Sunday, January 12, 2014

Branch 210 Royal Canadian Legion 110 Jutland Rd. Toronto

Meeting starts at 1:00 pm Doors open 11:00 am

Founded 1962
www.omss.ca

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Meeting Dates

- 2014 -

January 12

February 9

March 9

April 13

June 22

September 14

October 19

November 16

December 14

Annual Show
Saturday May 3
2014



A Happy New Year to all members and their families. We trust you all survived the challenges of the recent ice storm and blackouts and that no toy soldiers were lost to frostbite. I guess we've all gained a deeper appreciation of the horrors of Napoleon's retreat from Moscow! (Pictured are some fine 28mm figures from Perry Miniatures, painted by Paul Armer)

We hope you can join us for our first meeting of 2014. As of press time the program hadn't been confirmed but we will have something interesting. And it's a good opportunity to bring out any model soldier treats that Santa left you for Show and Tell.

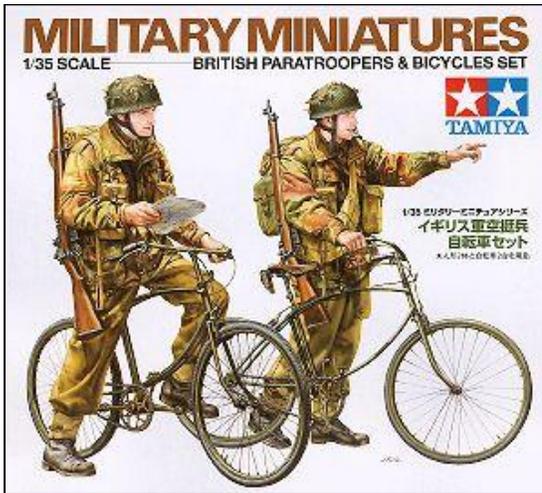
We had a very enjoyable December meeting, with our usual sumptuous luncheon catered by **Gail Stone** and her family of helpers. Thanks again Gail; don't know how you do it for only \$5 a plate. We had a bumper crop of dessert selections as the members really came through with contributions of all kinds of tasty treats this year. Thanks also to **John Hambly** and **Ed Tansley** for the gifts they donated for our Christmas draw. And as usual Santa's helper **Jeff Duncan** made sure we had some gift cards to give away.

The December meeting is when we traditionally recognize members who have made the Society better for us all. This year we had a new award to present. Past president **Bryan Gibbins** has donated a plaque to recognize each year the "OMSS member who best exemplifies the spirit of the Society". It is decided by the president. The first recipient is **Harold Morrison**. Harold was an early members of Society, although his career took him away from us for some years. But he has always been an enthusiastic participant and contributor to the Society's activities and is a regular contributor to this newsletter.

Coincidentally our awards committee had decided that **Harold Morrison** should be awarded a Life Membership in the Society. Congratulations again Harold and well deserved.

The newsletter is edited by Gary Lenius.

News items and notices can be submitted at omss@bell.net or 416-261-6494.



Harold's Corner Tidbits from Harold Morrison

aitchrwm@bell.net

Tamiya Mokei has issued a set of two British Paratroopers (1:35), WW2, with bicycles. They are nicely animated and are catalogued as item 35333. Modellers have the option of steel helmets, or berets. The bicycles can be standing with the figurines or folded. The kit has the making of a good diorama.

This is the 100th anniversary of the First World War. Obviously many books, figurines and memorabilia will be produced or discovered. One book to look for is a history published for the 100th anniversary of the PPCLI in 2013, "The Patricia's, a Century of Service". Author is David J. Bercuson author of seven books on military subjects. He is the Director of the University of Calgary's Centre for Strategic and Military Studies.

Have you heard of the war game involving 30 mm figures? Their commander said there was no hope, because the troops on the other side were 54 mm. (Joke)

My step-grandfather served in the 58th battalion during the First World War. Once after performing a personal function, he was bending to recover his braces. As he straightened up, ping! A sniper's bullet knocked off the side button of his head-dress. He dramatized, for me, the impact of war on a single man. As he lay dying in his 80s, he was reliving the experience of his patrol which came under fire... As a child, I was puzzled by the word "napooed" which he used. It was an English corruption of Il n'y a plus. (He isn't anymore.)

A must-read book, is Paul Fussell's, "The Great War and Modern Memory." First published in 1974 by the Oxford University Press. Fussell adds a knowing dimension to this work as he was severely wounded leading a U.S. Army infantry platoon in France during the Second World War. At this point, the book will probably be re-printed in paperback, but less expensive copies will be available at BMV stores, (I mention BMV, because of the stores' wide selection of military subjects. No, I don't get a discount!) www.bmvbooks.com

If you are frequent visitor to antique stores, you might find examples of "trench art" from the WWI. Brass casings might be used for serviette holders, pen and pencil trays and dozens of other imaginative creations.

Pocket watches, "the" timepiece before 1914, were at first given leather holders and wrist-straps for convenience. Eventually, real wrist-watches were made. As for telling time, that's when the 24-hour clock came into vogue. It avoided the obvious confusion between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.,

Membership Dues for 2014

Dues for 2014 are now payable. Gary Lenius will be glad to take your money at the meeting.

We have held our dues to the same low price: \$35 a year. (\$20 for the second member in a household or for juniors 16 and under)

Chicago Style Hardware

Congratulations to OMSS past president and owner of Hornet Hobbies Dave Browne, who won a gold medal at the Chicago MMSI show for his diorama "the Perilous North Atlantic". Also to Tom Karnas, former owner of North Star Hobbies, who won a silver for "The Panther's Thirst".

Books for Sale

David Dorward is looking to sell

Eat Your Weakest Man, Inside the Canadian Airborne Regiment, by Rui Amaral, \$20

Winged Stallion, Fighting and Training with the First Airborne, Michael Packe, \$10

dkdorward@sympatico.ca 905-584-5838

Ahoy, Browsers

Phil Andrews reports that the Canadian War Museum has buffed up their website with an online exhibition on Canada's naval history. Check it out:

www.warmuseum.ca/cwm/exhibitions/navy/explore_history-e.aspx

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