

Minutes

OMSS OTTAWA Meeting

Tuesday, 27 January 2026

OIC – Bob T

Minute Man – Doug C

Photographers – Alan M, Julian B

List of Attendees:

Doug Cope, Solez and Juan Lopez, Michael Canivet, Rob Kelly, Mark Hilash, Julian Bombord, Brendan Hogan, Morley Verdier, Bob Thompson, Alan MacDonald, Kelly Hayes, Paul Theriault, and Stanley Kershman (for 5 minutes)

INTRODUCTIONS

- New Attendee introductions: - none

- How are our other regulars? - Dennis D & Terry H are vacationing in warmer climes.

On his way to the meeting **Bob T** had a pleasant telephone discussion about tonight's meeting with **Steve Hammond**, unfortunately the latter was not on his way to the meeting but was in Virginia at the time. **Brendan H**, back from his tour of duty in Latvia, attended the meeting

OMSS CLUB BUSINESS & SPECIAL PROJECTS

OMSS Executive Update – none

OMSS Zoom Meetings – **Bob T** trying to set up permanent system of shared work load over next few months.

OMSS Ottawa in 2026 – **Bob T** wants to set up an OMSS Ottawa Coordination Committee to share workload for running OMSS Ottawa Meetings

OMSS 2026 Membership Renewal - **Bob T** accepted \$40 in OMSS dues from a number of members. From now on you must renew directly through OMSS

2026 OMSS Calendars & On Parade advertising cards were distributed by **Juan & Solez L** via **Bob T**

OMSS Ottawa Toy Soldier Show - at Kanata Legion has been postponed. **Dave Waddell** will contact the OMSS – planning is ongoing for a new date for the show.

WHAT'S NEW? – ANNOUNCEMENTS, & SHOWS

HOBBY NEWS, COLLECTIONS FOR SALE

Hobby News

- **Michael C** (former Toy Soldier Market) – has lowered his prices on his remaining items



- **Scott's Soldiers on YouTube** – no news
- **Replica Miniatures from England** – nothing new but Andrew is busy filling existing orders
- **Scott Dummitt** – no news
- **Toy Soldier Club (Quebec)** – no news but owners are active in the hobby

Other Toy Soldier News -

- **Large collection out of Toronto for sale** – Frank Barrett Collection – Call for partners to buy & share collection
10 partners at \$700 each for 10% share – **Bob T** has over 100 new photos and will send an email to members who may be interested – largely parades and bands , all 54 mm and all glossy

EVENT REPORTS:

OMSS Ottawa December Meeting – See **Doug C's** minutes that were attached to this meeting's email announcement along with excellent photos by **Julian B, Tom W, Bob T**

OMSS Toronto January Meeting – Guest speaker **Andy Travers** on "History of military dentistry"
- Apparently Andy is a dentist so he has insight into the issue. No other information.

International Toy Soldier Club – January Video Meeting – Andrew Stevenson hosts
– topic was 'Christmas'. No other information

BMSS January Zoom Meeting – James Opie hosted – topic was "Artillery" and "Transport" .
Brendan H was online with about 20 others. About 300 photos were shown.
There was a collection of glossy 54 mm figures for sale.

OMSS January Zoom Meeting

- 10 participants (5 Ottawa, 1 Toronto, 2 Quebec, 1 Montreal, 1 England) – Show & Tell topic was "Light" – And **Bob T** reports that it was "Because we are going to have more light now as we are between the winter solstice and the spring equinox." – astounding but then he chose to make it 'light' as opposed to 'heavy' and **Bob T** also made a photo presentation - Monthly Humour/Wow photo album
Also **Ian** was Unboxing #15 and there were **Eric Shaw** Photos

UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS:

OMSS Toronto Meeting – Bob T will write a Newsletter article

International Toy Soldier Club Video Meeting – Friday, 13 February – Topic is “Desert Island Figures” which interprets as which 5 figures would you bring to a desert island. [personally I would bring live girls]
– a time change for all future meetings was announced - they will be 1 hour later (3pm in Ottawa/Toronto)

BMSS Zoom Meeting — James Opie – 6 February - Show & Tell topic is “Napoleonics”

OMSS Zoom Meeting – 17 February – Show & Tell Topic is “Opposites Attract”

OMSS Ottawa Meeting – 24 February - the Show and Tell Topic is ‘Artillery’

OMSS OTTAWA TOY SOLDIER SHOW – postponed - likely until the fall of 2026

Ottawa Nostalgia Show 2026 - Sunday 15 March - 9am to 3pm. Nepean Sportsplex - **Doug C** vendor

Model Train & Toy Show – Saturday 11 April – Prescott – **Doug C** and **John S** are vendors

Ottawa Military Heritage Show - Saturday 25 April 2026 at the Nepean Sportsplex.

Arprior Toy Train Show – 6 and 7 June - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/46325467543/posts/10162355559502544/>

OMSS ON PARADE – Toronto – 13 June 2026 – Book tables now with **Jim Qualtrough**
Steve Alexander and **Bob T** will be vendors

Ottawa Military Show at Walkley Armories – **Bob T** reports that this event is in doubt at this time

SHOW & TELL PRESENTATIONS

– This month Show & Tell topic – 1st “Naval” a close 2nd: “Cats & Dogs” – so Cats & Dogs on ships?

Paul T – a group of small ships from the Battle of Savo Island [**See A Below**]



Juan L – displayed 25 of his 1/6 scale handmade sailors each with the name of their ship below

- He also had photos of the submarines he plans to build – a Japanese sub is under construction
- Also photos of the other uniforms that he is sending to his tailor
- Also plans for figures from landing craft operations





Solez L – brought out delicious cookies for all – well done and thanks

- If you want to know how to make an animated movie of your soldiers in action than ask Solez how to download the ap

Doug C – had one of the Royal Cheetahs plus a pride of Lions and one tiger

- Also for the Naval theme he had 2 of his Britain's low budget sailors with medic arm bands
He also had 12 Britain's WW2 action figures for sale



John S – in keeping with the Cats and Dogs theme he displayed his Britain's set #49505 'The Hunt'
[See B Below]



Julian B – brought out his 1/6 scale farm house – still in progress – it is held together with magnets so it can easily be broken down for transport – this is his 5th building to date



Alan M – displayed a number of Tri-ang Minic Ships [See C Below]

- A model of the Scharnhorst near the anniversary of its sinking [See D Below]
- A Tootsietoy Liberty ship plus 4 small submarines and a Japanese cruiser [See E Below]
- A fleet of ships including a pre-Dreadnaught gunboat
- Karl Hogemire figures of sailors – all different – he painted the bases to avoid lead contamination – sea battalion and sea battalion marines

Kelly H – had a 1/6 scale GI Joe figure from the Army/Navy football game

- Also a 1/6 scale Annapolis midshipman
- Marines in US blue jackets
- A pre WW1 4.7 inch naval canon
- Sailors from WW1 and a group of German sailors plus a comic 'Submarine Attack'



Mark H – 1/6 scale Sailor plus a 1/6 scale Sailor MP with a dog [should it not be Shore Patrol]
- A 1/7 scale RN Clearance Diver **[See F below]**

Rob K – 2 figures 28 mm, military, kneeling



Bob T – 2 flats that are pre-WW1 dreadnaughts

- His Admiral Nelson collection that are Britain's and King and Country
- A Pride of the Nation Navy Set
- Britain's Napoleonic Press Gang set of 4 **[See G Below]**
- A group of naval cadets who are children
- Naval ship borne artillery set
- A pirate ship gun crew
- A HMS Victory gun crew by Tradition
- Cats
 - o Egyptian princess with cat
 - o Britain's hunting cheetahs set
 - o A running cheetah by **Bob Hornung [See H Below]**
 - o A guy fighting a leopard
- Dogs
 - o William Hawker with dog
 - o Lord Cornwallis and his hunting dog
 - o A roman with dog
 - o A Nazi with dog
 - o An Australian with dog
 - o Patton with dog
 - o Hitler with dog
 - o Eva Braun with dogs
 - o A sled dog team
 - o A dog from Rorke's Drift **[See J Below]**





MEETING ADJOURNMENT & LAST POST

The 24 February Meeting

The result of the vote for Show & Tell Topic was: **Artillery**

Meeting Adjourned at: 2054

ADDITIONS

A – The Battle of Savo Island - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Savo_Island

Date	8–9 August 1942
Location	Off Savo Island , Pacific Ocean  9°8′S 159°49′E
Result	Japanese victory
Belligerents	
 Japan	 United States  Australia
Commanders and leaders	
 Gunichi Mikawa	 Richmond Turner  Victor Crutchley
Strength	
5 heavy cruisers 2 light cruisers 1 destroyer ^[1]	6 heavy cruisers 2 light cruisers 15 destroyers ^[1]
Casualties and losses	
58 killed 2 heavy cruisers damaged 1 light cruiser damaged ^{[1][a]}	1,077 killed 4 heavy cruisers sunk 1 heavy cruiser damaged 2 destroyers damaged ^{[1][b]}

The Battle of Savo Island, also known as the First Battle of Savo Island and in Japanese sources as the First Battle of the Solomon Sea (第一次ソロモン海戦, Dai-ichi-ji Soromon Kaisen), and colloquially among Allied Guadalcanal veterans as the Battle of the Five Sitting Ducks, was a naval battle during the Solomon Islands campaign of the **Pacific War of World War II** between the Imperial Japanese Navy and Allied naval forces. The battle took place on **8–9 August 1942** and was the first major naval engagement of the Guadalcanal campaign, the first of several naval battles in the straits later named Iron Bottom Sound, near the island of Guadalcanal.

The Imperial Japanese Navy, in response to Allied amphibious landings in the eastern Solomon Islands, mobilized a task force of seven cruisers and one destroyer under the command of Vice Admiral Gunichi Mikawa. This task force sailed from Japanese bases in New Britain and New Ireland down New Georgia Sound (also known as "The Slot") with the intention of interrupting the Allied landings by attacking the supporting amphibious fleet and its screening force. The Allied screen consisted of eight cruisers and fifteen destroyers under Rear Admiral Victor Crutchley, but only five cruisers and seven destroyers were involved in the battle. In a night action, Mikawa thoroughly surprised and routed the Allied force, sinking one Australian and three American cruisers, while suffering minimal damage in return. Rear Admiral Samuel J. Cox, director of the Naval History and Heritage Command, considers this battle and the Battle of Tassafaronga to be two of the worst defeats in U.S. naval history, surpassed only by the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941.

After the initial engagement, Mikawa, fearing Allied carrier strikes against his fleet in daylight, decided to withdraw under cover of night rather than attempt to locate and destroy the Allied invasion transports. The Japanese attack prompted the remaining Allied warships and the amphibious force to withdraw earlier than planned (before unloading all their supplies), temporarily ceding control of the seas around Guadalcanal to the Japanese. This early withdrawal of the fleet left the Allied ground forces (primarily United States Marines), which had landed on Guadalcanal and nearby islands only two days before, in a precarious situation with limited supplies, equipment, and food to hold their beachhead.

Mikawa's decision to withdraw under cover of night rather than attempt to destroy the Allied invasion transports was based primarily on concerns over possible Allied carrier strikes against his fleet in daylight. In reality, the Allied carrier fleet, similarly fearing Japanese attack, had already withdrawn beyond operational range. This missed opportunity to cripple (rather than interrupt) the supply of Allied forces on Guadalcanal contributed to Japan's failure to recapture the island. At this critical early stage of the campaign, it allowed the Allied forces to sufficiently entrench and fortify themselves and defend the area around Henderson Field until additional Allied reinforcements arrived later in the year.

The battle was the first of five costly, large-scale sea and air-sea actions fought in conjunction with the ground campaign on Guadalcanal, as the Japanese sought to counter the American offensive in the southern Pacific. These sea battles took place after increasing delays by each side to regroup and refit, until the 30 November 1942 Battle of Tassafaronga—after which the Japanese, due to increasing losses, resorted to resupplying their troops on Guadalcanal by submarine and barges. The final naval battle of the campaign, the Battle of Rennell Island, took place months later on 29–30 January 1943, by which time the Japanese were preparing to evacuate their remaining land forces and withdraw.

B Britains Heritage Collection - Set 49505 'The Hunt'.

<https://www.wbritain.com/media/products/49505LR.jpg?dimensions=498x240&format=webp>



C Tri-ang Minic Ships https://www.brightontoymuseum.co.uk/index/Category:Minic_Ships



Although Tri-ang were by no means the first company to produce a set of cast waterline ship models at or around the scale of 1:1200 – notable earlier ranges included Bassett-Lowke, Tremo and Dinky – the Tri-ang MINIC Ships range was arguably the most successful product range of its type after World War Two.

As well as a wide range of nicely-painted models, the accessories ended up including harbours and pier sets and even a very small scale-sized whale. Retailer display accessories included a three-piece moulded rubber model representing the port of Dover, with white cliffs and tiny sets of 1:1200 train track, and even a tiny train.



1976: Second issue, "Hornby Minic"

"Minic Ships" were reintroduced in 1976 as Hornby-branded products, and these are known as the "second issues". These were painted in slightly different colours, and were "updated" for the "Hot Wheels" era by fitting the ships' hollow bases with red plastic inserts with low-profile low-friction wheels. They did not sell well and are not as collectable as the original "first" series.

The range was limited to the Queen Mary, Queen Elizabeth, United States, Canberra, Vanguard and Bulwark, with some new models in the shape of the Missouri, Bismarck, Scharnhorst and Yamato.

Presentation sets were also produced, including some harbour parts and accessories. All second issues have "HONG KONG" stamped on the base.

D The Scharnhorst https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_battleship_Scharnhorst



Scharnhorst was a German capital ship, alternatively described as a battleship or battle cruiser, of Nazi Germany's Kriegsmarine. She was the lead ship of her class, which included her sister ship Gneisenau. The ship was built at the Kriegsmarinewerft dockyard in Wilhelmshaven; she was laid down on 15 June 1935 and launched a year and four months later on 3 October 1936. Completed in January 1939, the ship was armed with a main battery of nine 28 cm (11 in) C/34 guns in three triple

turrets. Plans to replace these weapons with six 38 cm (15 in) SK C/34 guns in twin turrets were never carried out.

Scharnhorst and Gneisenau operated together for much of the early portion of World War II, including sorties into the Atlantic to raid British merchant shipping. During her first operation in November 1939, Scharnhorst sank the armed merchant cruiser HMS Rawalpindi in a short engagement. Scharnhorst and Gneisenau participated in Operation Weserübung, the German invasion of Norway, from April to June 1940. During operations off Norway, the two ships engaged the battlecruiser HMS Renown and sank the aircraft carrier HMS Glorious as well as her escort destroyers Acasta and Ardent. In that engagement Scharnhorst achieved one of the longest-range naval gunfire hits in history.

In early 1942, after British bombing raids, the two ships made the Channel Dash up the English Channel from occupied France to Germany. In early 1943, Scharnhorst joined the Bismarck-class battleship Tirpitz in Norway to interdict Allied convoys to the Soviet Union. Scharnhorst and several destroyers sortied from Norway to attack a convoy but British naval patrols intercepted the German force.

During the Battle of the North Cape (26 December 1943), the Royal Navy battleship HMS Duke of York and her escorts sank Scharnhorst. Only 36 men survived, out of a crew of 1,968.

E TootsieToy

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TootsieToy#:~:text=Tootsietoy%20is%20a%20manufacturer%20of,originally%20based%20in%20Chicago%2C%20Illinois.>



Tootsietoy is a manufacturer of die cast toy cars and other toy vehicles which was originally based in Chicago, Illinois. Though the TootsieToy name has been used since the 1920s, the company's origins date from about 1890. An enduring marque, toys with the TootsieToy name were consistently popular from the 1930s through the 1990s.

Diecasting origins

Tootsietoy had its beginnings in the two diecasting companies of the Dowst and the Shure Brothers who were established near the same time in the 1890s. The Dowst brothers originally established a trade paper called the National Laundry Journal and later purchased a linotype machine to cast metal buttons and cuff links related to the laundry business.

Meanwhile, the TootsieToy brand also had origins in a range of miniature cars in the form of charms, pins, cuff links and the like, introduced circa 1901 by the Chicago based Cosmo Company owned by the Shure Bros. which bought Dowst in 1926. The name, however, remained Dowst Manufacturing Co. The first actual model car from the company was produced between 1909 and 1911. One was a closed limousine which was followed by a 1915 Ford Model T open tourer.

Pre-War toys

By the early 1920s the name 'tootsie' was being used as a brand name and "Tootsietoy" was registered as a trade mark in 1924. The 'Tootsie' moniker apparently came from one of the Dowst Brothers' granddaughters, whose name was "Toots". TootsieToy made metal prizes for Cracker

Jack boxes, and this success in the 1930s may also have led to Dowst providing cast pieces for the game Monopoly. The company also produced a large assortment of die-cast dollhouse furniture.

In the 1920s trains, cars, trucks, military vehicles, aircraft, pistols and a variety of other toys were manufactured by Dowst. Vehicles often had white rubber tires which over time become brittle and often have not survived play-wear and time. One of the unique offerings were a set of 1932 Graham diecast cars - Tootsietoy offered a Graham sedan, town car, coupe, roadster, dual cowl convertible, delivery panel truck and tow truck. A marque not often seen in miniature since, Graham was a household name at Tootsietoy. The Tootsietoy Grahams were available in boxes with "Graham" on the sides - indicating that they may have been used as promotional models for the Graham company. If so, these would have been just about the earliest promotional automobile toys seen anywhere.

One car that definitely was a promotional model was the 1935 LaSalle made for General Motors that came in sedan and coupe versions packaged in a special smallish blue and dark rose box. Another interesting model was the 1936 Lincoln Zephyr which was available in a gift set with a 'Roamer' camper trailer. World War II work later had the Dowst Co. making detonators for grenades and mines as well as belt and parachute buckles. As would be expected, little toy production was seen during wartime production, though some paper toys were made.

Toy construction

Whether small or large, metal or plastic, Tootsietoys were usually simply made - often with only seven parts: a single diecast metal body, two axles, and four wheels. Arms protruding from the underside of the body were pinched around the axles after the wheels were added, which held wheels and axles in place. Many Tootsietoy cars are still made in this basic manner, though in the 1970s and 1980s, plastic interiors and other parts were also added.

late 70's 3.5" Tootsietoy

Later business

In 1961, Strombeck-Becker, later abbreviated to 'Strombecker' was a hobby company purchased by Dowst / Tootsietoy. Strombecker had previously made popular plastic models mainly for slot-car racing — and continued to do so, but by the end of the 1960s the slot-car niche had largely run its course. Later, plastic as well as die-cast toys were identified with both names as "Tootsietoy-Strombecker". The name Tootsietoy was often applied to larger, but fairly realistic plastic cars and trucks through the 1990s, but some die-cast were also still made like the Hardbody series in Matchbox size and slightly larger than 1:43 scale.

By the late 1960s, Tootsietoys were made in both the United States and Hong Kong. Though most Tootsie toys are produced in Asia today, they were traditionally produced in Chicago, and were also made in a few other American factories such as Rockford, Illinois. Tootsietoy, however, should not be confused with the similar brand Midgetoy, which was also based in Rockford.

Tootsietoy, which is now owned by J. Lloyd International, Inc., is still based in Chicago and makes about 40 million cars per year.

F] Clearance Divers

<https://www.google.com/search?q=RN+Clearance+Diver&rls=com.microsoft:en-US:&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&sourceid=ie7>

A clearance diver was originally a specialist naval diver who used explosives underwater to remove obstructions to make harbours and shipping channels safe to navigate, but the term "clearance diver" was later used to include other naval underwater work. Units of clearance divers were first formed during and after World War II to clear ports and harbours in the Mediterranean and Northern Europe of unexploded ordnance and shipwrecks and booby traps laid by the Germans.

Royal Navy (RN) Clearance Divers are elite, highly trained specialists responsible for worldwide underwater force protection, bomb disposal (EOD), and mine countermeasures. Operating 24/7, they handle threats ranging from WWII ordnance to modern devices, often in zero-visibility conditions. This physically and mentally demanding role requires expertise in deep diving (up to 54 meters), demolition, and search techniques.

In peace time the clearance diving role is less glamorous and largely involves clearing ropes and other debris from the bottom of a ship in very murky harbour water.

G] The Press Gang

<https://www.gijoeCanada.com/product/pressed-for-service-royal-navy-press-gang/>

Press gangs were armed, state-sanctioned groups—primarily operating for the British Royal Navy between the 17th and early 19th centuries—that forcibly abducted men into naval service. Using intimidation and physical coercion, these gangs scoured coastal towns, taverns, and merchant ships to fill manpower shortages during wartime. While skilled sailors were preferred, press gangs often took labourers, apprentices, and sometimes even non-British citizens.

Organized groups, known as "press gangs" or the "Impress Service," used force, intimidation, and coercion to conscript men into the Royal Navy, particularly during the Napoleonic Wars. "Pressed for Service", Britain was desperate for men to serve in the King's fleet during the Napoleonic Wars. Some of her vessels, Ships of the Line in particular had crews of approximately 800 men. Able-bodied men were rounded up by ship's Press Gangs to round out their crews. Pressing was an extremely unpopular practice and was the initial premises for the United States declaring war against Britain in 1812 after her ships had been repeatedly boarded by Royal Navy boarding parties.

H] BOB HORNUNG

[Arhttps://trainsandtoysoldiers.com/hornung-art/](https://trainsandtoysoldiers.com/hornung-art/)

Bob Hornung is a master craftsman and one of the most renowned American miniature craftsmen working today. An institution in the Toy Soldier and Military Miniature world, Bob Hornung has participated yearly in every Chicago Toy Soldier Show since 1980. Bob Hornung's thirty-six years of continual attendance to the world's largest toy soldier showcase makes Bob one of a select group that claim that honor. Through the ups and downs, Bob Hornung has always had success.

The secret of Bob Hornung's success is his commitment to excellence in everything he produces and his warm and generous spirit which endears him to everyone he meets. The Trains and Toy Soldiers family feels blessed to call Bob Hornung a friend. Bob Hornung's beloved Heraldic Knights series, the charming Historical Figures, and the extensive and always in high demand Trees and Accessories. Each of Bob Hornung's Heraldic Knights, Historical Figures, and Trees and accessories is hand painted and therefore while each item is similar to the item pictured there are variations in color especially in the scenery.

Of course, the individual attention Bob gives every miniature he creates is why he has been so popular for so long. Trains and Toy Soldiers is committed to providing our customers with the highest level of service available anywhere. Our small family run Nebraska business might not be the biggest, but we are doing our best to make sure we are the nicest people in the miniature collectible business. Please email or call us today if we can help you find that perfect item.

J] Dogs at Rorke's Drift

<https://www.google.com/search?q=dog+at+Rourke%27s+drift&rls=com.microsoft:en-US:&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&sourceid=ie7>

Several dogs were present during the defence of Rorke's Drift on January 22–23, 1879, with "Pip," a terrier belonging to Lt. Charles Pope of the 2nd/24th Regiment, being the most prominent. Pip reportedly ran along the barricades, yelping at the approaching Zulu forces. Another dog, "Jack," was associated with Surgeon Reynolds.

Pip the Terrier: Left in the care of Surgeon James Henry Reynolds when Lt. Pope moved to Isandlwana, Pip survived the battle and was allegedly adopted by Reynolds, returning with him to England.

"Jack" the Dog: Another dog, often identified as a fox terrier named Jack, belonged to Surgeon Reynolds and was present during the fight.

Other Dogs: Some accounts suggest a white dog appeared during the pre-dawn hours of January 24, causing a brief "stand-to" for the Natal Native Contingent (NNC).

While many dogs from the British camp at Isandlwana ran away, terrified by the battle, those at Rorke's Drift remained with the defenders, with some accounts suggesting they were part of the 1st/24th Regiment's presence.