

# MINUTES

## OMSS OTTAWA Meeting

### Tuesday, 31 March 2026

OIC – Bob T

Minute Man – Doug C

Photographers – Alan M and Bob T

**List of Attendees:** Kelly Hayes, Doug Cope, Steve Hammond, Francois Brisebois, Alan Macdonald, Bob Thompson, Morley Verdier, Rob Kelly, Julian Lopez, Sylvain Allaire, John Shrives, Tom Wright, Paul Theriault, Mark Hilash

## INTRODUCTIONS

- **New Attendee introductions:** - none

- **How are our other regulars?** - **Michael Canivet** was being repaired, **Dennis DeRusha** still in the wilds, **Dave Waddell** also being repaired, **Brendan Hogan** was sheltering under a canon barrel in the rain and **Julian Bomford** was done in by tax time

## OMSS CLUB BUSINESS & SPECIAL PROJECTS

**OMSS Executive Update** – no news

**OMSS Ottawa in 2026** – **Bob T** will update the list of paid up 2026 OMSS Ottawa members, Names and addresses were taken and in HQ **Gary Lenius** is to produce and updated members list

**Proposed OMSS Ottawa Toy Soldier Show** - nothing new – November 2026 is possible date?  
– **Mark H** produced an excellent list of upcoming hobby shows & events to help choose a show date that would avoid major conflicts.

**OMSS Ottawa Spring 2026 Trunk Sale** – **Juan L** had no news – possibly late June 2026

## WHAT'S NEW? – ANNOUNCEMENTS, & SHOWS

### HOBBY NEWS, COLLECTIONS FOR SALE

- **Michael C** (former Toy Soldier Market) – not at meeting so no news
- **Scott's Soldiers on YouTube** – not at meeting so no news
- **Replica Miniatures from England** – no news
- **Scott Dummitt** – no news
- **Toy Soldier Club (Quebec)** - no news

### Other Toy Soldier News -

**Barrett Toy Soldier Collection** – **Bob T** purchased the collection and it is now in Ottawa.

The process of unpacking, sorting, cataloguing, & preparation for viewing has now begun. An email with a link to over 100 photos of the collection has been sent to potential OMSS Ottawa shareholders. 10% shares of the collection are now available at \$700 per share. **Bob T** reports that 6 of the 10 shares of the collection have been spoken for, but since money has not changed hands the sets are still available on a first come, first payment basis. A complete inventory list will be distributed once compiled, estimated 1<sup>st</sup> week of May. **Bob T** is preparing an email outlining how the preparation and selection process for the collection will proceed.

## EVENT REPORTS:

**OMSS Ottawa 24 February Meeting** – ‘Artillery’ was the topic and we had the best turnout for Show & Tell in a long time. Also a discussion about OMSS Ottawa taking over the running of the Military Hobby Show at the Walkley Armoury in 2027. The first test will be to see if the group can run a Toy Soldier Show in the fall in Ottawa. See **Doug C’s** February Minutes for photos from the meeting.

**OMSS Toronto March Meeting** – **Alan M** attended and reported that it was a good meeting with discussion of the wars and battles on the Scottish/English border from the 900s to the 1700’s Discussion of the Reevers [**See A Below**]

**International Toy Soldier Club March Video Meeting** – Andrew Stevenson (Replica Miniatures) – no report

**BMSS March Zoom Meeting** – James Opie host – Topic was “Honourable & Dishonourable”  
– the online group consisted of 12 including **Morley V**

**OMSS March 17 Zoom Meeting** – 9 participants (5 Ottawa, 1 Toronto, 2 Quebec, 1 Montreal)  
Show & Tell Topic was: “Your Canadian Collection” – Great presentation from **Eric Shaw** on the History of Canada using toy soldiers which included a “Find the Nazi” game – something like ‘Where’s Waldo’.  
**David & Jani** from the **Quebec Toy Soldier Club** gave a presentation of periods of Canadian history featuring King & Country and John Jenkins figures.  
- **Bob T.** showed photos of **Steve A’s** toy soldier sales setup at 613flea  
- **Bob T’s** “Canadian Collection” presentation was on Canadian toy soldier manufacturers. [**See B Below**]  
and **Bob T** suggested an OMSS project to research Canadian manufacturers and to document the “Spirit of the Empire” and Scott Dummitt’s “Pride of the Nation” series.  
- **Brendan H** gave an interesting presentation on his recent trip to Ireland where he visited the **Prince August Store/Factory**. [**See C Below**]

**Nostalgia Show** – **Doug C** had a good show but strangely sold few soldiers. Many from the club attended the show and bought lots of toy vehicles. **Francois B** found a valuable set of boxed aliens

**Geeked Out - Ottawa’s Toy & Collectible Sale** 28 and 29 March, Sportsplex <https://www.geekedoutevents.ca/>  
**Mark H** reports some 1/6 GI Joe. Mostly contemporary plastic figures

**HeritageCon** - Hamilton – IPMS Plastic Model Show – **Morley V** reports there were 80 dealers and 920 models in Aviation Museum hanger

**Kelly H** informed the group that the new Hobby Shop in Brockville, Ontario has 1/6 scale figures in stock

## UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS:

**OMSS Toronto 12 April Meeting** – <https://www.omss.ca/pages/meetings.html>

**International Toy Soldier Club April Video Meeting** – Andrew Stevenson (Replica Miniatures) -

**Model Train & Toy Show** – Saturday 11 April – Prescott – **Doug C** and **John S** are vendors – there will be toy soldiers and other toys for sale plus lots of operating train layouts for kids to watch

**BMSS Zoom 17 April Meeting** – James Opie – annual Show is 18 April in Leeds  
- interesting to note that the **BMSS is also the British Mass Spectrometry Society and the Burnaby Mountain Secondary School**

**OMSS Zoom 21 April Meeting** – Show & Tell Topic is “Easter”

**OMSS Ottawa 28 April Meeting** – the Show and Tell Topic ‘Anti-tank Weapons’

**Ottawa Military Heritage Show** - Saturday 25 April 2026 at the Nepean Sportsplex.  
**Bob T** and **Steve A** to be vendors

**Cangames** - Gaming Convention – May 15 – 17 - Rideau Curling Club – Percy Street – All sorts of games  
○ miniatures games, board games, Role Playing Games, Collectible Card Games, etc. plus  
fantasy figures Free Entrance (if not gaming) – **Bob T & Morley V** are sharing vendor booth

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

**OMSS ON PARADE** – Toronto – 13 June 2026 – **Bob T & Steve A.** are vendors – There is a problem  
with hotels due to FIFA game in Toronto on the same date – good luck

**Ottawa Military Hobby Show** at Walkley Armouries – Postponed again for 2026 due lack of organizers

**Model Show** at Walkley Armouries – Sunday 27 September

**Nostalgia Show** – Sunday 18 October – Nepean Sportsplex, Ottawa

## **SHOW & TELL PRESENTATIONS**

– This month Show & Tell topic – “Dioramas” with “Flame throwers” as an alternate  
[Again I apologise if I have assigned some photos to the wrong club member]

- **Bob T** gave a presentation on **German Regimental Beer Steins**, a topic that only 2 weeks ago  
he claims that he knew absolutely nothing about ... but after purchasing 26 of them and research  
he is now an “expert”. These are reproductions made from the 1950s to the 1970s and he has  
extras that he is selling. Most have an intricate metal model on the lid plus some have pictures of  
nude women inside.

[Has he got your attention now? And Now you know why he really bought them.]





He also had figures of a village peddler, King Chuck III, and some John Jenkins UELs, a King and Country WW2 U.S. marine with a flame thrower, and part of the Battle of Agincourt in plastic covered diorama and 6 Canadian 2D soldiers



**Mark H** – several Crescent and Lone Star figures – some are brittle with age  
WW I soldier on horseback and a figure with a Wolseley pattern helmet that he made  
**[See D Below]**  
And 2 Canadians in a small red boat



**Doug C** – still trying to sell his WW2 action figures

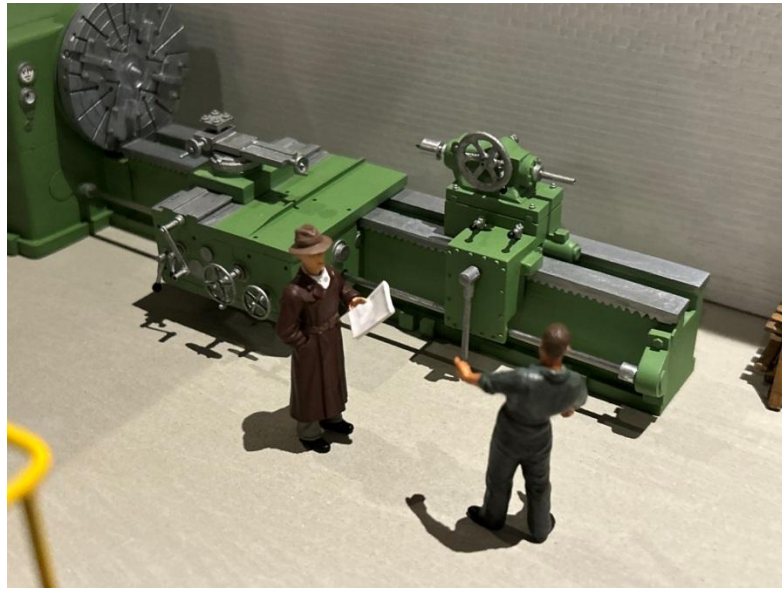
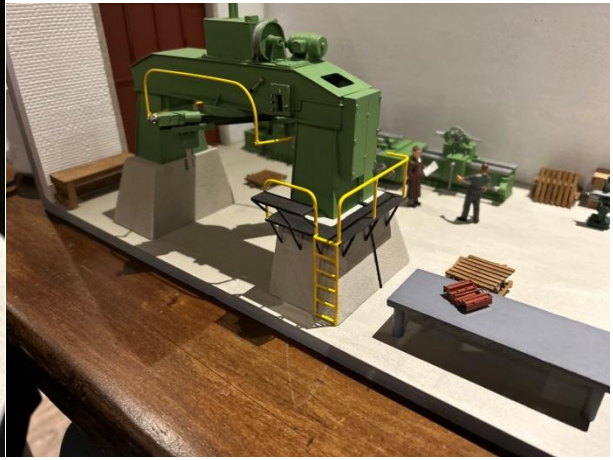
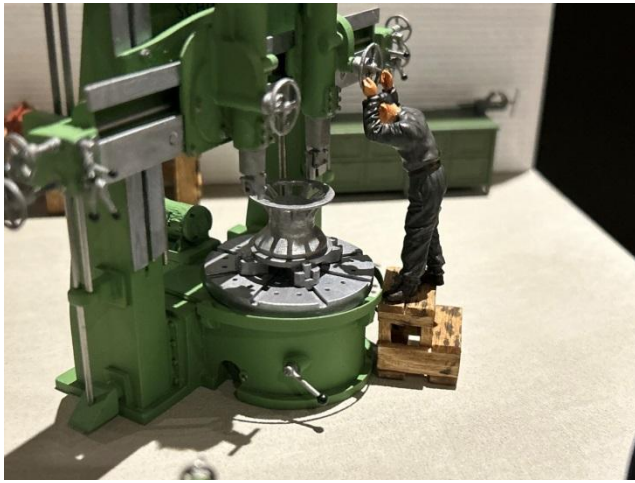


**Juan L** - gave a talk on an amazing array of WW2 1/6 scale flamethrowers - most designed and 3D printed by **Juan L**



**Steve H** - showed us the latest evolution of his custom make, astonishingly detailed 1/32 scale model machine tools that are part of his German WW2 tank production factory. He told us of making brick wall patterns using a roller plus how he got the cement texture on the floor. He is looking for details of well sprocket making machine. Henschel & Son tiger tank factories [See E Below]





**Sylvain A** – several single figure “Vignettes” including a Canadian Voltigeur 1812 to 1815



2 French Napoleonic figures



A farrier from the Dragon Regimen 1750 to 1758



17 light dragoon from American Revolution



British Horse Grenadier 1701



Kelly H – a Lego flame thrower soldier

Francois B – had a number of interesting sets and figures









## DIORAMA

At the end of presentations there was a lively discussion of the definition of “vignettes” vs “dioramas” vs “exhibits” and temporary tabletop battlefield setups. [Lively, yes. Lively – yawn]

A Google search produced the following:

A **diorama** is a three-dimensional, miniature, or life-sized scene, often encased for display, representing historical events, nature scenes, or cityscapes. They combine detailed figures, backgrounds, and lighting to create depth. Popular in modeling, they span themes like war-torn cities, railways, and fantasy.

Note there is no mention of the size of the diorama or the number of figures involved.

## MEETING ADJOURNMENT & LAST POST

### Next meeting on 28 April 2026

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

- Anti-tank weapons 9;
- Unidentified Soldiers 8 and Horses 7
- So **Anti-tank weapons** it is with unidentified soldiers riding horses as a second

**Meeting Adjourned at: 2118**

[you non-Navy types can try to figure what time that was]

# ADDITIONS

## A] Reeves

– from Wikipedia

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Border\\_reivers#:~:text=Amidst%20centuries%20of%20lawlessness%2C%20poverty,in%20shaping%20Anglo%2DScottish%20relations.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Border_reivers#:~:text=Amidst%20centuries%20of%20lawlessness%2C%20poverty,in%20shaping%20Anglo%2DScottish%20relations.)

"Reevers" most commonly refers to a variation of "Reivers" (specifically Border Reivers, 14th-16th century Anglo-Scottish raiders

Raiding clans active between 1350–1600 on the Anglo-Scottish border (e.g., Armstrongs, Scotts, Nixons). They lived in a culture of violence, robbery, and blood feuds.

Border reivers were raiders along the Anglo-Scottish border. They included both English and Scottish people, and they raided the entire border country without regard to their victims' nationality. They operated in a culture of legalised raiding and feuding. Their heyday was in the last hundred years of their existence, during the time of the House of Stuart in the Kingdom of Scotland and the House of Tudor in the Kingdom of England.

Amidst centuries of lawlessness, poverty and low-intensity conflict, compounded by significant invasions along the Anglo-Scottish frontier, familial groups gradually coalesced into organised units of common defence and offence based on kinship, giving rise to what would later be formalised as the 'Surnames.' The reivers emerged between 1350 and 1450, with their activities reaching their height in the 16th century during the Tudor period in England and the late Stewart period in Scotland. Reiving was a matter of subsistence for the borderer. They were infamous for raiding, blood feuds, eliciting protection money or taking hostages for blackmail, where justice was frequently negotiated through arbitration at Truce Days rather than enforced and mandated by state law.

Many crimes, such as theft and feuding, were treated with less severity due to the ancient customs and culture of the Borderlands, which had evolved over centuries to tolerate and codify such practices in the March law.

Although less well-known than Highlanders in Scotland, whom they met and defeated in battle on occasion, the border reivers played a significant role in shaping Anglo-Scottish relations. Their activities were a major factor in ongoing tensions between the two kingdoms, and their raids often had international repercussions. There is debate over how great their threat and the extent to which their raids were state-directed rather than purely opportunistic.

The culture of the border reivers, characterised by honour, close family bonds and self-defence, has been said to influence the culture of the Upland South in the United States. Many Borderers migrated as families to America, where their values are thought to have contributed significantly to the region's social structure and political ideologies, with echoes of their influence persisting even today.

## B] Canadian Toy Soldier Manufacturers

As discussed at the meeting there seems to be very little information on companies that truly manufactured toy soldiers in Canada. Not to be confused with toy soldiers exclusively distributed in Canada such as the Fort Henry Guard sets.

The only 2 found in this search were:

### 1] **Pride of the Nation** soldiers by Scott J. Dummitt

1754 Carmel Line, Bailieboro, Ontario, CANADA, K0L 1B0

(705) 939-1028 [scottjdummittpresents.info@gmail.com](mailto:scottjdummittpresents.info@gmail.com)

<https://www.gijoe canada.com> > ... > Pride of the Nation

## 2] Spirit of the Empire

<https://forum.treefrogtreasures.com/threads/spirit-of-the-empire-canada-i-think.23303/>

This company was in existence some years ago producing RCMP figures. They stated at the time that they were the only company to be allowed to produce RCMP figures as they had a licence from Disney who had made some deal with the RCMP!! They produced a marching band with a rather peculiar bent knee position but I don't know whether they produced any others. They dropped off the radar some time ago but I don't know the reason why. They were operating around Lethbridge, Alberta.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/651838872296984/posts/1749347459212781/>

They used to be distributed by D'Artagnan after they reached a deal with the original manufacturer ( a mom and pop company) . Subjects included Compagnies Franches, 78th Fraser Highlanders, RCMP (glossy & Matte) as well as the Acadians. By the time I started working there, the stock was almost gone but we still had order sheets. I think that is as close to a catalogue the company ever had.



## C] Prince August <https://shop.princeaugust.ie/about-us/>

Prince August, 1 Kilnamartyra, MACROOM, Co. Cork, P12 FN79, Ireland. E.U. VAT No.: IE 826 948 4W  
U.K. VAT No.: GB302220183 EORI No.: IE8269484W



Lars Edman, owner, recalls the early days of Prince August in Kilnamartyra Village, near Macroom town, County Cork, P12 FN79, Ireland.

In early January 1976 my newlywed wife and I came to Ireland from Sweden. We had bought a factory building in the small village of Kilnamartyra in late 1975 and now it was to time to get started. After a few days of recruiting a couple of local people we started the factory on the 8th of January. We had brought 2 mould making machines from Sweden and the first thing we did, was install them. It did not take long and after a week production of moulds started.

Our first employees were Joe McCarthy and Tony Nott. I particularly remember Tony as he came into the factory, said nothing but hello, grabbed a hammer and started to work. We had no interview and formal agreement. He just floated in and became an employee. Both of them have left us but the next employee is still with us, Dan Golden.

In the first year we sent back all our production to Sweden for packing and sale. We had a good market in Germany and we produced as much as we could. In 1977 we started packing all the products and employment increased to 15 people.

The facilities at the factory were very basic at the start. We had no heating but we were kept warm by mould making machines. At the breaks everybody was gathering in the only office in the building. It gave us a good chance to get to know the local people and practice the local accent.

## D] Wolseley pattern helmet

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

The khaki Wolseley pattern helmet (named after General Sir Garnet Wolseley) was first used by some regimental officers during Kitchener's Sudan campaign of 1898; it's wide brim being more efficient than the earlier universal pattern.

Wolseley pattern pith helmets were introduced for officers in the late 1890s and was standard tropical issue for all ranks by WW1 and passed out of service during WW11. Made from cork and covered in Kharki drill material with a leather sweat band and chin strap. The officers version also has a leather brim.



# E] Henschel & Son

<https://www.google.com/search?q=Henschel+WW2+tank+building&rls=com.microsoft:en-US:&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&sourceid=ie7>

Henschel & Son, based in Kassel, Germany, was the primary manufacturer of Germany's Tiger I and Tiger II (King Tiger) tanks during WW2, operating as a massive, high-security industrial complex. Converting from locomotive production, the factory utilized forced labor and a vast network of suppliers to produce hundreds of heavy tanks, alongside other AFVs, until the plant was largely destroyed by Allied bombing.

**Factory Location:** The main production occurred at the Henschel factory in Kassel, central Germany. It was divided into several works, with Werk III (Mittelfeld) serving as the primary hub for assembly and component manufacturing.

**Primary Products:** While initially building Panzer I and III tanks, Henschel became the sole manufacturer of the Tiger I and, along with Porsche, the Tiger II.

**Production Process:** The factory was heavily retooled in 1944 for the complex requirements of the Tiger II. Components were brought in from a wide network of suppliers: armor from Krupp, engines from Maybach, and transmissions from Adler.

**Forced Labor:** By 1945, the factory utilized thousands of workers operating on 12-hour shifts, including extensive use of forced labor.

**Allied Attacks:** Due to its critical role, the plant was a major target for Allied bombers, with devastating raids in 1943-1945 resulting in significant production delays.

Henschel operated a secret tank testing ground near Paderborn, covering 120 square kilometers. This site was vital for testing and improving the suspension, transmission, and armor of the Tiger tanks before final production.

Key Personnel: Dr. Erwin Aders was the head of Henschel's Panzer program and the chief designer of the Tiger.

