



Newsletter for February 2025

The Ontario Model Soldier Society

Founded 1962



Brig. Gen. Darrell Dean (Ret'd)
Honorary President

2025 Executive

Duncan Johnstone
President

David Dorward
1st Vice-President

Janet MacKay
2nd Vice-President

Gary Lenius
Secretary/Treasurer

Andy Traverse
Past President

Steve Alexander
Ottawa Chapter Chair

Jim Qualtrough
Annual Show Chair

Andy Traverse
Program Chair

VACANT
Technical Committee Chair

Next Toronto chapter meeting

Sunday, February 9th, 2025

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

This months speaker is Andy Traverse who will be speaking about his recent European trip and tours of Colditz Castle Prison and Dambusters sites



Next Ottawa chapter meeting

Tuesday February 25, 2025 @ 7pm

at The Barley Mow, 1541 Merivale Road.
The meeting topic is to be announced



Next OMSS Virtual meeting

Tuesday February 18, 2025 @ 7pm

Virtual meetings are open to all OMSS and BMSS members.
The show and tell topic is 'Civilians'



contact Bob Thompson at thompson_robort@rogers.com
for an email invitation to the meeting or more details

BMSS Monthly Virtual meeting

Friday February 7th, 2025 @ 7pm GMT

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

The topic will be the Russo-Japanese War
for those interested in attending;

Contact James Opie at jamesopie@yahoo.co.uk



Time to renew your membership and support your club

The cost remains the same as last year: \$40 for regular members
and \$25 for family or junior members.



Gary has made it easy to renew and offers several methods of payment;

- Pay in person at the monthly meeting
- Mail a cheque to : **OMSS at 43 Saugeen Cres., Toronto ON, M1K 3M8**
- ETransfer: Send it to the email address: treasurer@omss.ca
- PayPal: send it to the club email address: omss@bell.net



President's Message

Greetings to all as we bid goodbye to the first month of 2025.

At our January meeting we were entertained by David Dorward and his well received presentation on the Red Baron complete with audio as well as visual material. Good show, David.

For our February meeting we look forward to Andy Traverse's presentation on his visits to the sites of the Dam Busters raid, to Colditz Castle and the Berlin flak towers. Sadly, I will not be able to attend this month as I will be out of the country. In my absence the February meeting will be chaired by our First Vice President David Dorward.

A word to the vendors at the monthly meetings;

The executive has decided that going forward, each vendor at the Toronto monthly meetings will be limited to one or two tables maximum. This is in order that as many members as possible who want a table will be able to have one and that we do not run out of tables or space. Moreover, since some vendors have a great distance to travel to make their products available to the members, your Executive encourages all vendors to treat each other with consideration. Also, it is suggested that the prices of the items be displayed.

For myself, the monthly meeting flea market has always been one of the highlights of the meeting and a not insignificant part of my own collection is made up of treasures obtained from my fellow members.

Warmest regards,
Duncan Johnstone
OMSS President 2025

Coming Soon

ON PARADE 2025

Get working on those competition pieces. June isn't very far away!

For more details about the show visit the Society's website for the latest information.

WWW.OMSS.CA

ON PARADE 2025

presented by the
Ontario Model Soldier Society

Saturday June 7, 2025

9 am to 3 pm

Admission \$10
(children under 12 free)

**Massed displays of
Model Soldiers in
Military Parades,
Bands and
Dioramas**

Highly detailed
connoisseur figures

1/6 scale action
figures

Large vendor area

Show includes our
open modelling
competition.



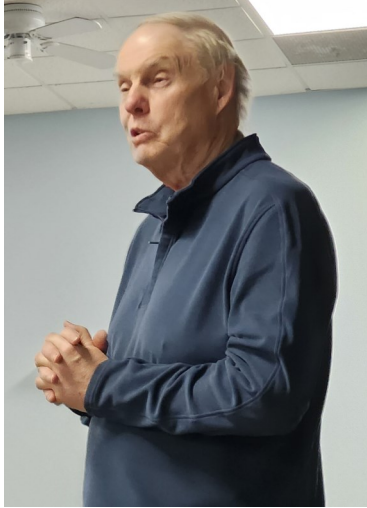
Canada's Largest Model Soldier Show

Franklin Horner Community Centre
432 Horner Avenue, Toronto (Etobicoke)
M8W 2B2

Show details at www.omss.ca
Show contact: Jim Qualtrough 416-543-0873
email omss@bell.net

Toronto Chapter's January Meeting

The Society kicked off the New Year with a well attended meeting. Our new president Duncan Johnstone welcomed everyone and reminded attendees we are looking for volunteers to help out the Society. The OMSS is looking for someone to chair the Technical Committee to help the club leverage technology to keep members better informed, preserve our history and attract new members.



David Dorward delivered a very interesting presentation on the Red Baron covering his funeral and explaining how his plane was stripped by souvenir hunters after crashing.

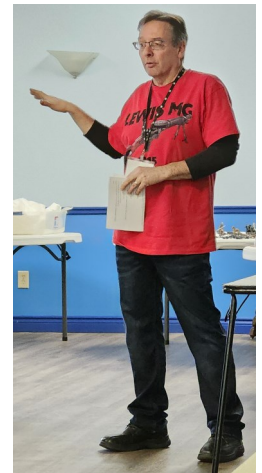


Frank Mackay provided an update on behalf of the calendar committee. He mentioned the OMSS is one of few clubs that still print an annual calendar and it is a major expense for the club. Frank recommended the executive committee review options to address the cost of calendar printing and mailing as it is one of the largest expenses the club incurs. The calendar committee will now stand down until April, and at that time Frank will be looking for new members to join the committee to help in creating the 2026 calendar.

Our treasurer, Gary Lenius provided an update on the club's financials which remain solid and basically unchanged from his report at the AGM. Despite the added expenses in 2024 resulting from lawyers fees to complete the provincial governments new non-profit reporting rules, it is forecasted the club will be able to cover expected expenditures for 2025.

Jeff Duncan provided an update on the 'club table' sales and thanks to donations from club members, he raised a record amount of money in 2024 which helps cover club expenses and keep membership costs down.

An interesting show and tell was held with Keith Richie demonstrating how confusing and inconsistent the temporary GST tax rules are and how it applies to some model kits, but not others.



Jeff Duncan showed off his recently acquired metal toy tank to add to his collection and spoke about how he made a box to replace a missing one from his collection (which is covered later in the newsletter).

Ottawa Chapter's January Meeting



The room at the Barley Mow was full with around 20 enthusiastic attendees. The guest host was Julian Bomford and the show and tell topic was *"Battle of the Bulge/Ardennes Offensive December 1944"*.

The following updates were shared with attendees;

OMSS Executive Rep Update – Steve Alexander is taking over from Scott Paget as the Ottawa Chapter Chair for 2025, but the transition is only starting.

OMSS History Book

The bulk Ottawa submission of purchasers of the book has gone forward, books should be in printing now.

Annual OMSS membership dues - \$40 – Tonight is the last chance to submit cash or cheque to Bob who will submit all renewal payments to the OMSS Treasurer as a bulk OMSS Ottawa group submission. Any further renewals will have to be made direct (refer to the OMSS web site or OMSS newsletter for addresses & payment options.)

OMSS Calendars – The OMSS 2025 calendars have been shipped to us and are partway between Toronto and Ottawa. The calendars will be distributed to all paid up 2024 OMSS members.

OMSS Zoom Meetings – Bob still needs help to run the OMSS Zoom meetings

- Bob is looking for volunteer and backup hosts to help with the monthly Zoom meeting process.
- *Any volunteers?*

Ottawa Attendees at On Parade – June 07 – This year we are on our own to find hotel accommodations. We're looking for a volunteer who could research local accommodations, and secure a block of rooms for OMSS participants. (Each participant would still be required to reserve and pay for their room directly with the hotel.) – *Any volunteers?*

Ottawa Chapter Help – Bob is still Looking for volunteers to help organize OMSS Ottawa Meetings, and other aspects of running the Ottawa Chapter. We need to establish a roster of Meeting Hosts (*Julian volunteered to host tonight, Steve Hammond volunteered to host February meeting*) – *Any further volunteers?*



OMSS Ottawa Special Projects – 4 potential special projects are on the go – each needs a volunteer to champion the project

1. Dave Waddell mini show concept
2. Juan's Summer Open House
3. OMSS Online auction? (*volunteer?*)
4. Spring Trunk Sale (*volunteer?*)

OMSS Ottawa Membership List was distributed in December

OMSS Technical Capacities – OMSS is looking for volunteers to help with the OMSS Technical Committee. - *Any volunteers*

UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS:

- **BMSS Zoom Meeting** – Friday February 07 – Show & Tell Topic is *"Russo-Japanese War"*
- **OMSS February Zoom Meeting** – Feb. 18 – Show & Tell topic is *"Civilians"*
- **Ottawa Nostalgia Show** – March 16 (*Doug Cope vendor?*)
- **Prescott 2nd Annual Model Train Show** – April 12
- **Ottawa Military Heritage Show** – Nepean Sportsplex – Saturday April 26 (*Michael Canivet, Bob Thompson & Steve Alexander vendors?*)
- **Aylmer Hobby Show** – April 26/27
- **OMSS On Parade** – Toronto – June 07



Tech Tip of the Month—How to make a replacement box

Are you missing a box for that special piece?

Jeff Duncan explains how to manufacture a replacement box at home using an existing box as a template.

You really only need pretty basic software, for example I used Microsoft Word and a colour printer.

Take the photos of the original box flattened out



Insert the photos into your software program

Use the rotate, enlargement, mirror image etc. tools to format the layout

Print test copies using regular printer paper to adjust the formatting to get the size you wish

Cut out a test 'final' version using regular paper again to know what and where to cut

Print the finished box using some type of card stock paper. (I used ivory colour to give an older look)

This was a fun project and is pretty simple after you do the first one.





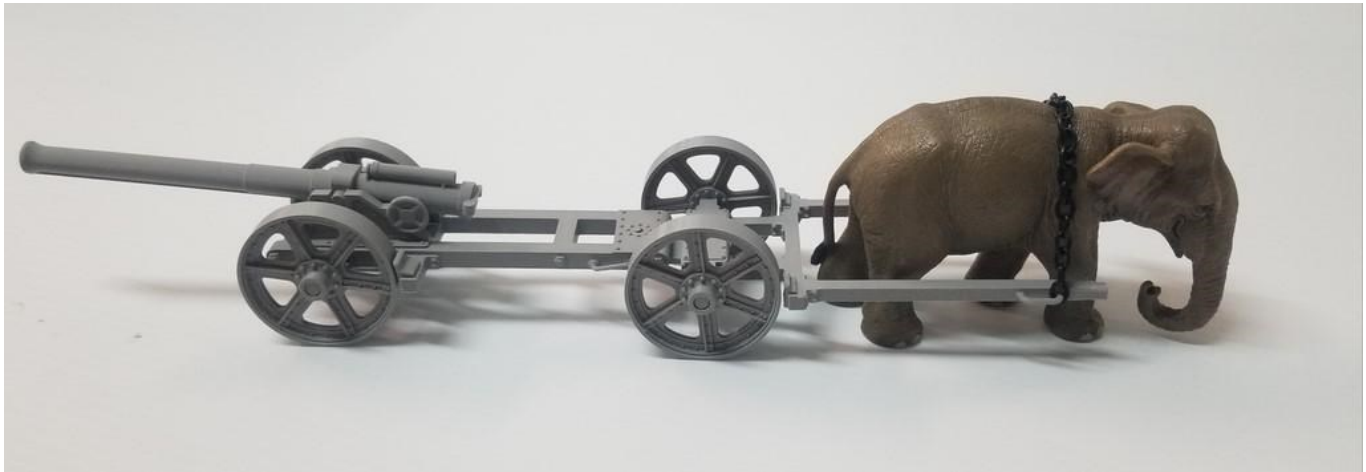
What's New in the Hobby – February 2025

By Scott Dummitt

Wow! Has Armies in Plastic ever been busy. They have recently released several new artillery sets featured around garrison artillery, Civil War mortars and their new 4.7 Naval Gun. The 4.7 Naval Gun was used in the Boer War and the First World War by Artillery units of the Empire. AIP is offering the gun separately moulded in various colours including Green, Tan and Grey. They have also introduced a number that can be purchased separately and a version featur-



British Royal Artillery – American Revolution with Fortress Guns by Armies



Armies in Plastic: Set #5984 - 4.7 Naval Gun with Limber pulled by One Elephant - Boer War/WWI

ing an Indian Elephant. The separate gun sells for \$28.50 Cdn while the Limber is around \$15.75 Cdn. The first batch of sets with the elephant sold out quickly however there are more on the way. They will retail at approximately \$58.00 Cdn.

AIP has also released several sets featuring their new 1/32 Fortress guns. The two fortress guns released are an 18 pounder and a 24 pounder. The carriage was designed to be used on ships and in garrison emplacements and the AIP releases offer so many possibilities to collectors. As well as the new guns AIP has combined them with various artillerymen covering the French & Indian War, American Revolution, Napoleonic Wars, War of 1812 and the Civil War. The two calibers of artillery are available in sets of three or a set with five artillery crew and one cannon of each caliber. All the Fortress Gun sets retail for \$19.00 Cdn.



War of 1812 U.S. Artillery crew with 18 & 24 pounder cannons

What's New in the Hobby – February 2025 (conclusion)



AIP'S Confederate Mortar Crew in Greatcoats Set # 5978

AIP has also added US Civil War mortar sets to their selection. Available are sets depicting Union and Confederate gun crews wearing greatcoats and slouch hats or Kepis and Frock coats. Each set has a 5 man crew and one siege mortar. These are available at \$21.50 Cdn while the separate mortars retail at \$19.00 Cdn each.



William Britain Ltd's – 10th Royal Veteran Battalion, 1814



Britains' French Imperial Guard Grenadier Eagle #2

William Britain Limited has released several new figures recently but the ones that caught my eye were The 10th Royal Veteran Battalion Private from the War of 1812 and the new French Imperial Guard Grenadier Officer with the Eagle Standard. The 10th Veteran Battalion was distributed to several garrisons during the War of 1812. It was made up of older and less fit soldiers who had served in other units. At the start of the war the garrison at Fort St. Joseph went on the offensive and helped capture the American Fort Mackinac on the upper great lakes. They also participated at River Raisin and Fort St. Stephenson. This figure will retail at approximately \$69.00 Cdn. The Eagle on the French Regimental Standard was touched by Napoleon himself, thus when an Eagle was lost in action it was extremely humiliating to a Regiment. There are several new figures that are available to support the new Imperial Grenadier Guard in the defense of the Regimental Eagle including a Drummer and two other Grenadiers. The Eagle Bearer is approximately \$98.00 Cdn while the Drummer is \$75.00 and the Grenadiers are \$69.00 Cdn each.



Daring SAS raid to liberate hundreds from concentration camp revealed after 80 years

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ChPmOmNB3Yw>

<https://www.forcesnews.com/services/special-forces/sass-most-daring-unknown-concentration-camp-liberation-raid-revealed>

One of the SAS' most daring and outlandish missions of the Second World War has finally been revealed after 80 years. The raid deep behind enemy lines on a concentration camp in Nazi Germany-occupied southern Italy to free almost 200 Jews and other prisoners was pulled off by the Special Air Service in September 1943. It had largely been forgotten about, but thanks to research by historian Damien Lewis the audacious prison break has come to light at last.

The raid occurred on the night of 13 September 1943, days after the Allies landed in Italy. At that time, the plight of those held in concentration camps across Europe was largely unknown to Allied commanders.

But that all changed when an escapee from a camp managed to find the Allied headquarters in southern Italy, informing the officers that the prisoners were about to be transferred to another camp in Germany.

Within hours, a plan was hatched to mount an operation to liberate the camp, freeing those being held by the Italians.

'There is no other mission like it'

Incredibly, the operation had been unknown until now, omitted from the commonly understood history of the Second World War. That's all changed thanks to author and historian Damien Lewis, who has written about the raid in his new book *SAS: Forged In Hell*.

Speaking to Forces News, Mr Lewis said: "To discover a mission of this unprecedented scope - there's nothing else like it during the war. There is no other mission like it."

The commander of the raid, which was carried out by SAS operatives including a contingent from the French Foreign Legion, was Major Oswald Carey-Elwes, who had been recruited to the SAS by the regiment's founder, David Stirling.

His plan for the prison break involved the hijacking of a train. "The idea comes to the fore that they should hijack a train," Mr Lewis said. "Steam the train through 100 kilometres of enemy territory. Get to the concentration camp, overcome the defences, load the train with all the inmates from the concentration camp and steam the train back again."

After killing the guards, the SAS captured the camp commandant, described by Mr Lewis as a "die-hard Italian fascist".

He added: "They see an Italian train steaming up to the camp. What's there to be suspicious of?"

"It's only when they burst off that train and storm into the camp, guns blazing, that the enemy guards realise that this is an assault. "It's inconceivable to them that this is really happening.

"And they take the camp by such surprise that they manage to capture the camp commandant, too, before steaming the train back again."

Too far-fetched?

This incredible story has been - at least until now - unknown beyond those who took part in the operation and the Allied commanders who ordered it be carried out.

Asked why there had been so much secrecy around the operation, Mr Lewis said a mission of such daring and success was almost "unprecedented". He said: "My theory is that if you publicise the concentration camps to the British, American and wider Allied publics, it would demonise the enemy. "That would make them less likely to surrender, and the war would go on longer."

(source: Wikipedia and YouTube)



Toronto Meeting Vendors Reminder

Vendors at the Toronto monthly meetings are limited to two tables maximum.

This is in order to accommodate as many members as possible who want a table and so that we do not run out of tables or space. Some vendors travel a great distance to make their products available to the members, as a result we encourage all vendors to treat each other with consideration.

Also, it is suggested that the prices of the items be displayed.

The monthly meeting flea market is one of the highlights of our meetings and for many, a significant part of their collections is made up of treasures obtained from fellow Society members at these sales.



**Advertise your business
in the
Journal or the Newsletter**

Advertising space is now available!

**Reach members of the Toy soldier collecting community by
advertising in an OMSS publication**

We can accommodate virtually any size of advertisement up to a full page

Contact the newsletter editor for pricing and more information

scottm33@live.ca



The Quartermaster's Store



Napoleonic era items for sale

I have been an avid Napoleonic era, model soldiers, a Scot living in Australia, Queensland for 60 yrs. Sadly my age and health dictates I need to sell.

My collection includes :**First Legion, King and Country, Britains , Collectors Showcase** plus buildings, forests, trees Majority of models have not been taken from their boxes and are in "Pristine " condition

My aim is to sell to likeminded collectors

Happy to pass on my list to interested parties.

Hope to hear from you

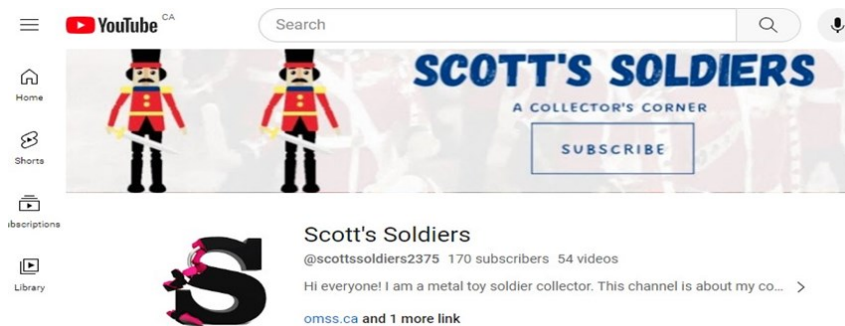
Howard Riach .

riachhoward@gmail.com



For the latest Society and hobby news and information;
Follow the Ontario Model Soldier Society on Facebook

If you like watching videos, don't forget to check out; **Scott's Soldiers on YouTube** hosted by our very own **Scott Paget (OMSS Ottawa)**



<https://www.youtube.com/@scottssoldiers2375>



the last word

"Champions never complain, they are too busy getting better"

John Wooden (NCAA Basketball Coach)

The newsletter is edited by Scott Milburn.

News items, notices and upcoming events can be submitted to scottm33@live.ca.