

Minutes

OMSS OTTAWA Meeting

Tuesday, 24 February 2026

OIC – Bob T

Minute Man – Doug C

Photographers – Alan M and Bob T

List of Attendees: Francois Brisebois, Doug Cope, Kelly Hayes, Steve Hammond, Michael Canivet, Juan and Solez Lopez, Morley Verdier, Bob Thompson, Julian Bomford, Sylvain Allaire, Mark Hilash, John Shrives, Alan Macdonald, Steve Alexander

INTRODUCTIONS

- **New Attendee introductions:** - none

- **How are our other regulars?** - **Denis D** still down south - **Brendan H**, our artillery expert, has just returned from a military exercise and could not attend

OMSS CLUB BUSINESS & SPECIAL PROJECTS

OMSS Executive Update – Sadly OMSS President **Dave Dorward** has died and **Victor Rudik** the club VP will take over the job of President

OMSS Ottawa in 2026 –

OMSS Membership renewals for 2026 from the OMSS Ottawa Chapter were sent by **Bob T** to OMSS Toronto for processing.

Proposed OMSS Ottawa Toy Soldier Show - see Upcoming Shows below

Bob T suggests a Trunk Sale – **Juan L** will coordinate. Likely date will be in the summer of 2026

Bob T also proposes a War Gaming night with 54 mm figures – stay tuned

WHAT'S NEW? – ANNOUNCEMENTS, & SHOWS

HOBBY NEWS, COLLECTIONS FOR SALE

- **Michael C** (former Toy Soldier Market) – He brought some new items for sale including 3 x 88 mm Canons – **[See A Below]**





- **Scott's Soldiers on YouTube** – nothing new

- **Replica Miniatures from England** – the owner and operator, Andrew, is moving, ergo no new commissions but In stock items are still available. See <https://www.replicametalsoldiers.co.uk/about>

- **Scott Dummitt** – reports on the new items from Britain's (King Charles, Pedlar "Opie", Civil War "Stuart Hessney", Personality figures); Thomas Gunn ("Camp" Romans that are non-war action figures, Arabs) & John Jenkins (more refugee series); **Airfix** play sets re-released after 40 years [**See B Below**].
- **Toy Soldier Club (Quebec)** – nothing new to report

Steve H gave us a great report from his recent attendance at the Heart of the South Toy Soldier Show in Virginia on 21 February. He reports there were GI Joe figures, plastic models, lots of Britain's plus King and Country [**See C Below**]

- He also reports that Canadian border authorities are being very strict about enforcing the import rules.

Other Toy Soldier News -

- **Large collection out of Toronto for sale** – Frank Barrett Collection - 10 partnership shares available at \$700 each for 10% share – **Bob T** bought the collection and will send email to interested parties on how collection will be processed & divided among partners.
- **General Dean Collection** – Victoria BC – Honorary Colonel of OMSS – no news
- **Bob T** reports a new collection of 6000+ figures out of London Ontario – see Facebook for details all kinds of figures both plastic and metal Britain's

EVENT REPORTS:

OMSS Ottawa 27 January Meeting – See **Doug C's** minutes that were attached to this meeting's email announcement along with excellent photos by **Julian B**, and **Alan M**

OMSS Toronto January Meeting – featured a talk by **Andy Traverse** on 'Helmets'

International Toy Soldier Club 13 February Video Meeting – 1 hour later start (3pm Toronto/Ottawa) – 10 participants (UK vs Canada) - topic "Desert Island Figures" – **Bob T** reports too many photos

BMSS 6 February Zoom Meeting – James Opie host – "Napoleonics" – 11 attendees – Sneak peek at Queen Victoria Funeral Diorama – Sailors pull funeral caisson – impromptu discussion on historical movies

OMSS February 17 Zoom Meeting

- 12 Participants - 5 Ottawa (1 in Quebec, 1 in USA), 3 Toronto, 2 Quebec, 1 Montreal, 1 England
- Show & Tell topic: "Opposites Attract" (Valentine's theme, but most made it combative)
- Interesting conversation on Quebec Militia toque colours used from French & Indian wars
[According to Wikipedia]:
During the French and Indian War (Seven Years' War), Quebec militia (or miliciens) commonly wore knitted wool toques or stocking caps to identify their brigade/region of origin, particularly during the 1759 campaign.
Red Toques: Represented the Quebec brigade.
Blue Toques: Represented the Montreal brigade.
White Toques: Represented the Trois-Rivières brigade.
- Zoom meeting ended at 9:05 (2 hours)

UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS:

OMSS Toronto Meeting – **Steve A.** looking for companions for Toronto trip – **Alan M** and **Morley V** volunteered

International Toy Soldier Club March Video Meeting – Topic?

BMSS Zoom March Meeting – James Opie – Show & Tell topic "honourable & dishonourable" – largely 54 mm

OMSS Zoom March Meeting – March topic is "Your Canadian Collection" – runner up was "Marching"

OMSS OTTAWA TOY SOLDIER SHOW – postponed - likely until the fall of 2026. **Doug C** suggests 2027
Alan M suggests a special group meeting to discuss

Ottawa Nostalgia Show 2026 - Sunday 15 March - 9am to 3pm. Nepean Sportsplex
- **Doug C & Bob T.** vendors

OMSS Ottawa 31 March – the Show and Tell Topics are “Dioramas and Flame Throwers’

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.
Bob T and **Steve A** to be vendors

Arnprior 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 A and **Bob T** will be vendors – Conflicts with FIFA World Cup game in Toronto
– Hotels & transport for Ottawa attendees: **Tom W, Alan M, Morley V** and **Sylvan A**

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

SHOW & TELL PRESENTATIONS

– This month Show & Tell topic – **Artillery** –
[I may have assigned some of the displays to the wrong owner – sorry but enjoy the photos regardless]

Julian B – a 1/6 scale model of an a River Boat and a half-track with gun



Alan M – brought out some big canons

A homemade canon and a Britain's 18 inch howitzer

Watch these 2 videos of the big canon

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

<https://www.bigbangcannons.com/>





Morley V – several HO scale large WW2 rail guns [See D Below]

- A 1/72 scale tank in 2 pieces
- Viking long ships
-



- Doug C** – displayed several Britain's canons plus the 3 piece gun from Britain's mountain gun set and the gun team from the more recent Britain's Crimean War Russian artillery set
- One canon, patent 34218/30 is Britain's but also displayed is an identical 'knockoff' that was made in Japan in the 1950s – both were designed to ignite cap pistol caps when fired.



Made in Japan 1950's

Britain's 34218/30



John S – brought at Union Artillery set from the American Civil war made by WALL Miniatures



Mark H – brought out a slew of canons

Including a late Britain's howitzer, a 155 mm Britain's, an M7 self-propelled gun **[See E Below]**, Solido canon, a 105mm canon, several 25 pounders, a 3.7 AA gun, Crescent canon with limber, and a magazine of Dieppe 1942 with uniforms







Steve Hammond – continued with his WW2 German tank manufacturing facility and brought out a very detailed artillery boring machine also a metal lathe in 1/35 scale Wagner Dortmund made 16 inch guns
[However one wonders about letting dogs onto the shop floor?]





Sylvain A – 8 standing gunners from different nations





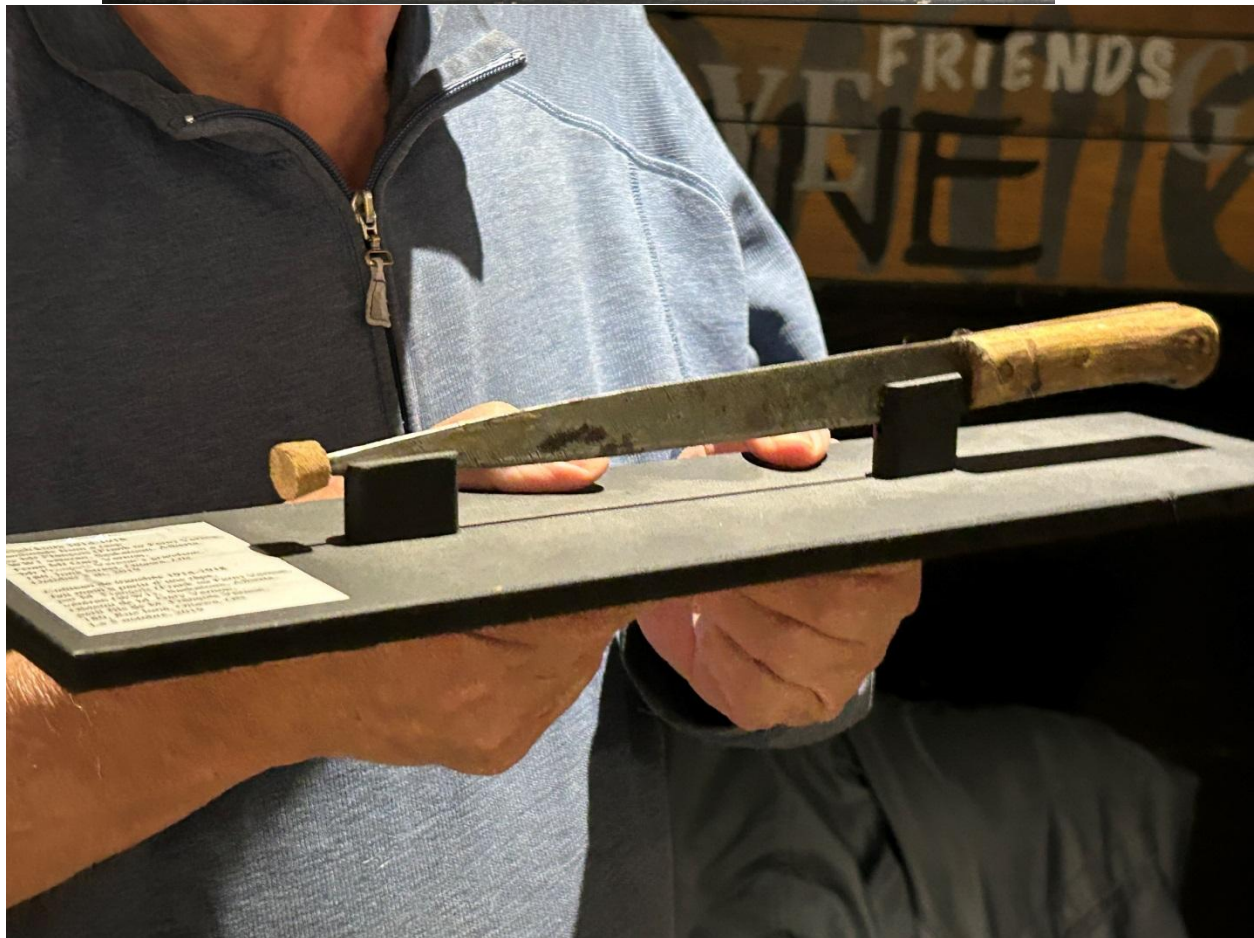
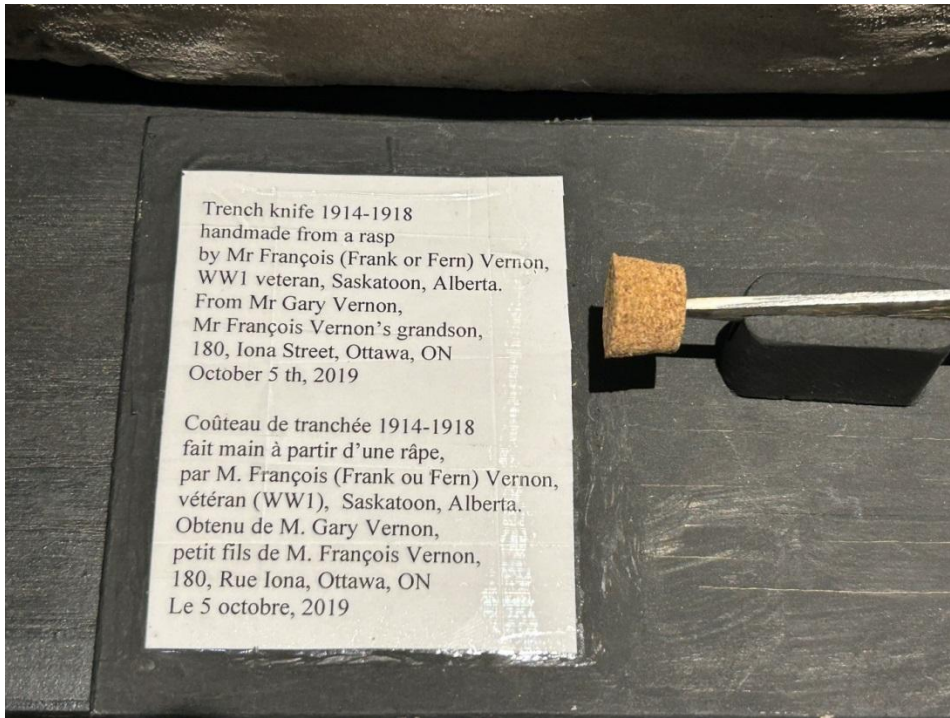
Kelly H – American civil war Britain's canons. A Britain's 155 in the box, 3 x 4.7 inch naval guns







Francois B – a French handmade knife that was used to kill 4 German WW2 artillery personnel







Steve A – Trophy French howitzer

- Box of loose French artillery
- Cossack artillery
- Grenadier band
- WW2 Italians – half paints
- All wooden canon with metal barrel
- Fort Henry artillery in 1/44 scale
- And a group of 1/77 figures: Bavarian, Saxon, Westfallian, Wertenburg, Americans, Australians and Polish
- Priority Work Shop – WW1 in Palestine









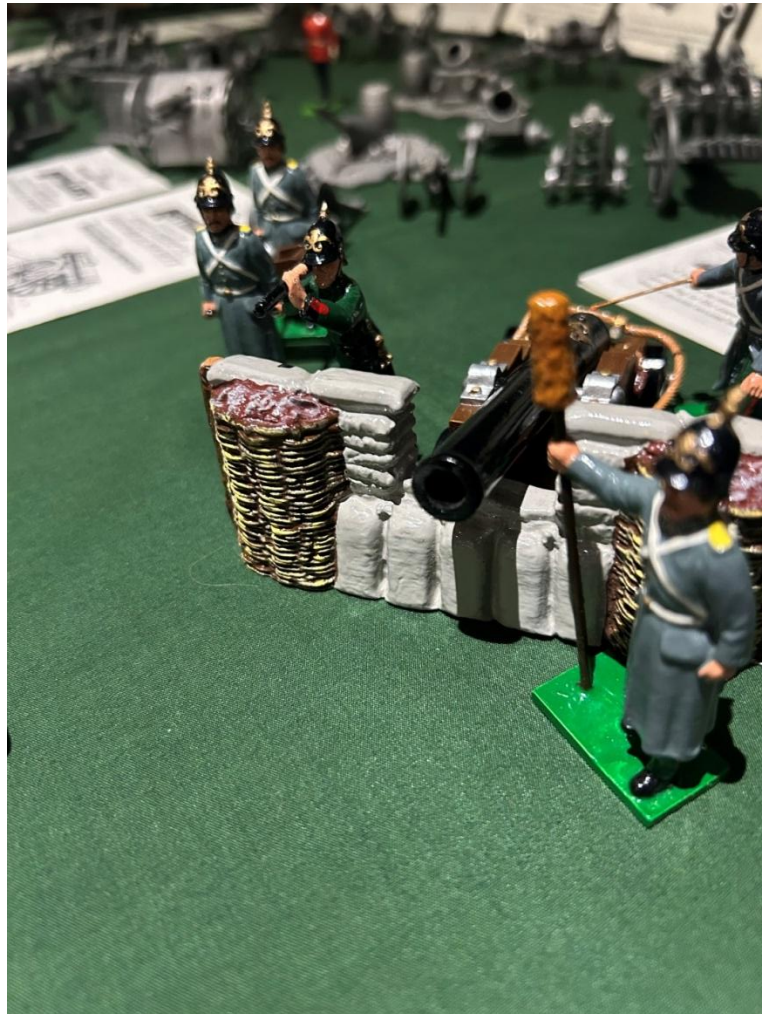


Bob T - 24 pieces of 1/32 scale pewter artillery of the world offered in the 1980's by subscription only, and Britain's WW1 Artillery set #17869 (limited edition of 450).
A Crimean war siege canon by Trophy a W. R. Irvine late 1980s canon
- A book 'Glory of the Empires – 1880 to 1914'





Limited Edition Britains WW1 artillery set #17869.







The Glory of the Empires 1880-1914

The Illustrated History of the Uniforms and Traditions of Britain, France, Germany, Russia and the United States by Wendell Schollander

During the period 1880–1914, the soldiers of the great empires of Britain, France, Germany, Russia and the United States were bedecked in elaborate helmets, with ornate weapons and finery. Their colourful uniforms represented centuries of regimental history and tradition, and often bore reminders of famous victories and heroic last stands. In *Glory of the Empires*, Wendell Schollander presents the definitive study of every regimental uniform across the five empires, including those of the colonies of India, the Philippines and North Africa. He explains the history behind sartorial peculiarities – such as why the Russian 15th Hussars wore a mermaid pink uniform, or why the Wiltshire Regiment had dents on their buttons – and reveals the experiences of the men who served. Complemented by over 800 rare, black-and-white and colour illustrations, this book fulfils a need not only as a one-stop reference work but also as a narrative history of the period.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT & LAST POST

For the next meeting on 31 March 2026

The result of the vote for Show & Tell Topic was a narrow first for **'Dioramas'** and a close second for **'Flame Throwers'** – maybe we will use the flame throwers to burn the dioramas?

Meeting Adjourned at: 2130

ADDITIONS

A] German 8.8 cm Flak Canon (88mm)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/8.8_cm_Flak_18/36/37/41#:~:text=The%208.8%20cm%20Flak%2018%2F36%2F37%2F41,German%20weapons%20of%20the%20conflict.



The German 8.8 cm Flak 18/36/37/41 (88mm) was a highly feared, versatile WWII cannon used primarily as an anti-aircraft gun, but also devastatingly effective against tanks. Known as the "eighty-eight" or *Acht-acht*, this ~7-ton weapon had a 20-round-per-minute rate of fire, 15,150 m range, and could penetrate 105 mm of armor at 1 km.

Originally designed for anti-aircraft duty, its high muzzle velocity made it an ideal, improvised anti-tank gun starting in 1940. Produced by Krupp and Rheinmetall, with over 21,000 units built throughout the war. It was mounted on a cruciform carriage that could be fully deployed in under 2.5 minutes.

The 8.8 cm Flak is a German 88 mm anti-aircraft and anti-tank artillery gun, developed in the 1930s. It was widely used by Nazi Germany throughout World War II and is one of the most recognized German weapons of the conflict. The gun was universally known as the *Acht-acht* ("eight-eight") by the Germans and the "eighty-eight" by the Allies. Due to its lethality, especially as a tank killer, the eighty-eight was greatly feared by Allied soldiers.

Development of the original model led to a wide variety of guns. The name of the gun applies to a series of related guns, the first one officially called the 8.8 cm Flak 18, the improved 8.8 cm Flak 36, and later the 8.8 cm Flak 37. Flak is a contraction of German *Flugabwehrkanone* (also referred to as *Fliegerabwehrkanone*) meaning "aircraft-defense cannon", the original purpose of the weapon. In English, "flak" became a generic term for ground anti-aircraft fire. Air defense units were usually deployed with either a *Kommandogerät* ("command device") fire control computer or a portable Würzburg radar, which were responsible for its high level of accuracy against aircraft.

The versatile carriage allowed the 8.8 cm Flak to be fired in a limited anti-tank mode when still on its wheels; it could be completely emplaced in only two and a half minutes. Its successful use as an improvised anti-tank gun led to the development of a tank gun based upon it: the 8.8 cm KwK 36, with the "KwK" abbreviation standing for *Kampfwagen-Kanone* (literally "battle vehicle cannon", or "fighting vehicle cannon"), meant to be placed in a gun turret as the tank's primary armament. This gun served as the main armament of the Tiger I heavy tank.

In addition to these Krupp designs, Rheinmetall later created a more powerful anti-aircraft gun, the 8.8 cm Flak 41, which was produced in relatively small numbers. Krupp responded with another prototype of the long-barreled 8.8 cm gun, which was further developed into the anti-tank and tank destroyer 8.8 cm PaK 43 gun used for the *Elefant* and *Jagdpanther*, and turret-mounted 8.8 cm KwK 43 heavy tank gun of the Tiger II.

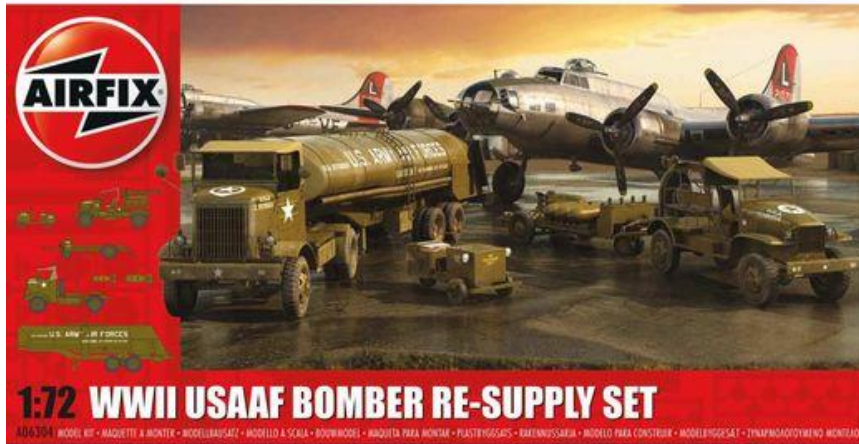
Technical Specifications (Flak 36)

Caliber: 88 mm (3.46 in) Weight: 7,407 kg (16,330 lb) in firing position

Maximum Firing Range: 15,150 m Rate of Fire: Up to 20 rounds per minute

B] Airfix Play Sets

<https://www.replicametalsoldiers.co.uk/about>



C] Heart Of The South Toy Soldier Show

<https://www.facebook.com/heartofthesouthshow/>

The Heart Of The South Toy Soldier Show is show featuring a variety of Miniature Figures, Toy Soldiers, Models, Books, And Militaria Collectibles!



**The 87th VIRGINIA
TOY SOLDIER
MILITARY &
MINIATURE FIGURE
MILITARIA COLLECTIBLES
EXHIBITION AND SALE
SATURDAY**

February 21, 2026 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
**AT THE ANNANDALE
VFD COMMUNITY CENTER**
7128 COLUMBIA PIKE ANNANDALE, VIRGINIA 22003
70+ TABLES

ADMISSION
ADULTS \$6.00
Children Under 10
Free with Adult
\$5.00 with this card

**FREE
PARKING**

**RAFFLE
DRAWINGS FOR
FREE PRIZES
EVERY HOUR
10am - 1pm**

D] Large Rail Guns

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Railway_gun

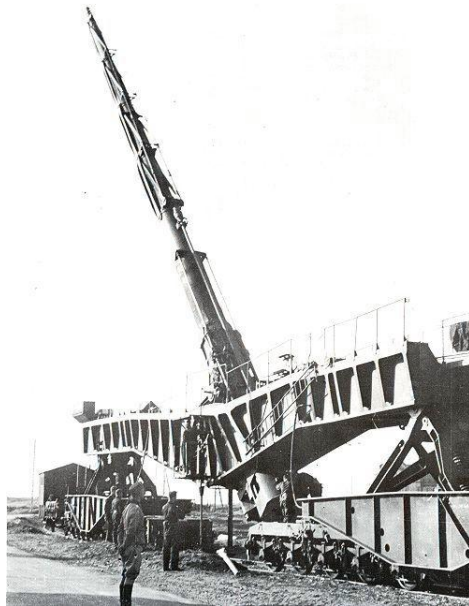
In April 1915 the Germans placed extreme-range naval guns on railway mountings. These were named *Lange Max* (Tall Max) in honor of Vice Admiral Max Rogge, who had supervised the adaptation of naval guns for land use. With a bore of 37.99 cm (14.96 inches), these guns could loft a shell 30 miles. Firing from Lugenboom, shells were reaching Dunkerque, 23.5 miles away.

The guns were difficult to serve because the loading of a projectile and propellant, with an overall length of eight feet, could only be done from the horizontal position. Loading and relaying the guns for each firing was a labor-intensive, time-consuming project limiting the rate of fire. On the plus side, the guns were immune from direct retaliation. The Allied forces had no ability to deliver counter-battery fire, because the German guns were far out of range.

The Shelling of Paris

The first shell burst without warning at 7:20 am at #6 Quai de Seine. With no hostile aircraft evident, the explosion was a mystery. At 7:40 am, a second explosion rumbled the Boulevard de Strasbourg a few feet from the Metro (subway system) in front of the Gare d'Este. This hit killed 8 persons and injured 13. The mysterious explosions continued with a hit at 8:05 am on Rue du Chateau Landon. The next hit at 8:17 on #5 Rue Charles Cinq. Number five landed at 8:35 at #24 Rue des Ardennes. By 2:45 pm 25 shells had landed. Experts gathered shell fragments and found some with steel more than 2 inches thick. Also found were fragments of copper, which were the obturation bands, displaying engraved rifling grooves. At 4 pm, authorities announced that Paris was being shelled by artillery of 24.0 cm caliber (actual size was 21.0 cm).

At the time of the first firing, ordinary German artillery went into action in order to mask the sound of the "Paris Gun" from the very adept French sound-ranging system. Nevertheless the French soon determined that the monster cannon was coming from along a line connecting Paris to Laon. With the source predictably located in a forest, but with no precise location, spotting aircraft were immediately detailed to find the gun's hideout. The size of the weapon made it obvious that this piece of artillery was practically stationary.



The Paris Gun, also known as the "Kaiser Wilhelm Geschütz" (Emperor William Gun), was the largest artillery piece in World War I.

The first firing had developed a chamber pressure of only 53,800 psi, which required an adjustment to the propellant charge. Initial calculations had predicted a target distance of 67.1 miles, but this figure had been based on a straight line moving through the Earth. The actual distance along the curved surface was 67.6 miles. Adjustments were made.

The actual distance traveled by the projectile was 92 miles in a flight time of 176 seconds. The shell reached a height of 12 miles in 25 seconds with a velocity of 3,000 feet per second (fps). Degradation of the muzzle velocity was caused by the friction of the atmosphere and gravity so that at the apogee of the trajectory, which was at 24 miles into space, the shell was moving at a speed of 2,250 fps as it "went over the top." Coming down on the reflective angle, speed increased, and at a height of 12 miles the projectile was again moving at 3,000 fps. In the final leg of its journey the projectile reached a terminal velocity of 3,075 mph. Its approach was soundless because it was traveling at more than the speed of sound, Mach 3.5 actually. Its travel sound would not arrive until well after the explosion. The French government hastily implemented countermeasures. Within 12 hours of the first hit, a battery of 12-inch railway guns was sent to Vailly, the nearest point to the firing site suitable for counter-battery fire. But not surprisingly, French aircraft reported a heavy smoke screen over the entire Laon corner to mask activity on the ground.

The Germans resumed firing the next day, Palm Sunday. They continued on Monday and then stopped for three days. They took it up again on Good Friday. At 4:30 pm, in Ste. Gervais Church opposite the Hotel de Ville several hundred were at prayer. A direct hit on one of the stone pillars supporting the vault of the nave brought the structure down onto the worshipers. Eighty-eight persons were killed, including 67 women and two children. One hour later, a subsequent shell landed in a nearby cemetery.

By April 6, 1918, counter-battery fire was beginning to approach the first "Paris Gun." In addition, wear was becoming evident. After 48 rounds the gun was declared worn out and in need of being rebuilt. A second gun went on line, but by May 1, after firing 64 rounds, it, too, was declared worn to the point of necessitating repair. In addition, the French artillery had landed over 3,000 shells in increasingly close proximity to the firing site and it was only a matter of time before a direct hit would register.

A third gun was installed and inspected by the Kaiser. After a lunch at the site and after expressing his satisfaction, he ordered firing to commence the following day. It did, all through that Sunday and part of Monday. Then a hidden flaw surfaced. The gun exploded and killed most of its crew.

On May 27, the Germans installed a newer, larger gun at Beaumont, about nine miles closer to Paris. This gun proved more durable and fired 104 shells before being declared in need of repair. Then a French offensive threatened it and it was withdrawn.

By July 15 the Beaumont gun was back in the fray after being rebored and refurbished. After firing only 14 rounds, it had to be withdrawn again from the advancing French. Resited again, it shelled Paris from August 5 to 12 with 64 rounds. Again it had to be withdrawn in the face of being overrun.

World War II

<https://warfarehistorynetwork.com/article/world-war-i-weapons-germanys-big-guns/#:~:text=In%20April%201915%20the%20Germans,were%20far%20out%20of%20range.>

World War II saw the final use of the railway gun. This included the massive 80 cm (31 in) *Schwerer Gustav* gun,[34] the largest artillery piece to be used in combat, deployed by Nazi Germany. After the Fall of France Germany added 58 captured French guns to its inventory while Italy was given 19 French guns with many of these being captured by the Germans after the Italian capitulation.[18]



Boche Buster, seen from Bourne Park Tunnel on the Elham Valley line, at Bishopsbourne in Kent, England, on 21 March 1941

Both Nazi Germany and Great Britain deployed railway guns that were capable of firing across the English Channel in the areas around Dover and Calais.[35] The Wehrmacht deployed three 40.6-cm (16-inch) guns.[36] The British Army deployed three 13.5-inch (34.3-cm) railway guns on the East Kent Light Railway, locating them around Lydden and Shepherdswell.[35][37][38] These were codenamed the "Gladiator", the "Sceneshifter", and the "Peacemaker".[35] 9.2-inch Mark 13 guns were located near Canterbury and Hythe, Kent; and 12-inch howitzers, Mk 3 and 5, located around Guston,[35] north of Dover on the Southern Railway line to Deal and Ramsgate.

The 18-inch howitzer "Boche Buster" was sited on the Elham Valley Railway, between Bridge, Kent, and Lyminge, and was intended for coastal defense against invasion. It was not capable of cross-channel firing, having a maximum range of only about 20 km (12 miles).

The IJA (Imperial Japanese Army) employed one railway gun, the Type 90 240 mm railway gun, which served as a coastal battery in the Tokyo bay, and was then stationed in Manchukuo, in the area of Heilongjiang. It was destroyed by the retreating Kwantung Army when the Soviets invaded Manchuria in late 1945.

E] M7 Priest https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M7_Priest

The **105 mm howitzer motor carriage M7** was an American self-propelled artillery vehicle produced during World War II. It was given the service name **105 mm self-propelled, Priest** by the British Army, due to the pulpit-like machine gun ring, and following on from the Bishop and the contemporary Deacon self-propelled guns.

