



The **BULLETIN**

Newsletter of British Model Soldier Society **Extra**

No. 2

2015

Presidency of the BMSS



Stephen Dance writes: "Pretty much since I joined the Society, I have served on the National Committee, a good deal of that as Vice-President and then President. Throughout that time I have also been Society Archivist, trying (as Morry Miles and Richard Hyne had done before me) to organise a wide range of material. In order to devote more time to writing and research, I have decided that I will not be seeking re-election at the next AGM and will stand down from the Committee. I do not personally believe in a form of Presidential succession, ie I will not be nominating my successor. I am announcing this now so people can start to consider ahead of the February AGM who they would like to have as President.

If it is helpful to the Society for me to continue working on the Archives, I am prepared to do so but it will not be as a member of the Committee."



For they are jolly good Fellows

One of the highlights of this year's very successful Annual Show was the announcement by President Stephen Dance of the Award of Fellowships to three members, Aldershot Area Rep and Chairman of the Aldershot Branch, Andrew Dunstan, Northern (Manchester) Branch member Max Hundleby and Northants Area Rep, Terry O'Neill. The Fellowship is the BMSS's highest award for outstanding and sustained efforts on behalf of the Society, and this year's presentation, of course, has particular significance, being the 80th Anniversary Year of the BMSS. Pictured above are (left to right) Terry, Andrew and Tom Cunningham, the Northern Area Rep who accepted the Fellowship on behalf of Max (*inset right*) who, unfortunately, was unable to be with us at this year's show.



Max



A chip off the old block?

Another event, very much in keeping with the above celebrations, was the presentation of a Gold and Silver medal, in Class 10 - the Junior Class - to Terry's grandson, seven-year-old Michael. He seems to be getting quite a taste for this modelling lark, having previously picked up a second place for Northants in last September's Inter-Branch competitions.

John Ruddle



Having served on the National Committee for much of his adult life, Life Vice-President and Fellow John Ruddle has decided to step down from continuing as a

Committee member, after some forty years' involvement. During his time on the Committee, John has made a major contribution to the management of the Society's affairs, right from the early seventies when he took on the duties of Hon Secretary, and of the creation and installation of the National Collection in its original location at Dodington Park, Gloucestershire. Subsequently, as Hon Curator, he lovingly nursed the ever-expanding Collection through a number of prestigious venues, as he recounted in a series of articles in *The Bulletin* in 2010 and 2011. The other major function John performed was, of course, that of Auctioneer when he built the auctions into an important and eagerly awaited element of the BMSS calendar. He assures us he will still be an active member of the Society and we, of course, welcome that continuing commitment. John's departure creates a vacancy on the Committee so, if you fancy helping to steer the Society in the coming years, please do consider joining. If you are interested, please contact the Hon. Secretary, Julie Newman.

For Zulu War buffs

The Editor writes that his son recently loaned him a magnificent 5-CD Collection. It is entitled "*The Day of the Dead Moon – The Story of the Anglo-Zulu War 1879*" and, as the name implies, covers the entire campaign, from the background history of the British, the Boers and the Zulus that lead to the invasion of Zululand right through to the

final Battle of Ulundi and the consequences that flowed from the British intervention. Both written and narrated by the late and legendary David Rattray, it is absolutely riveting from the very first moment.

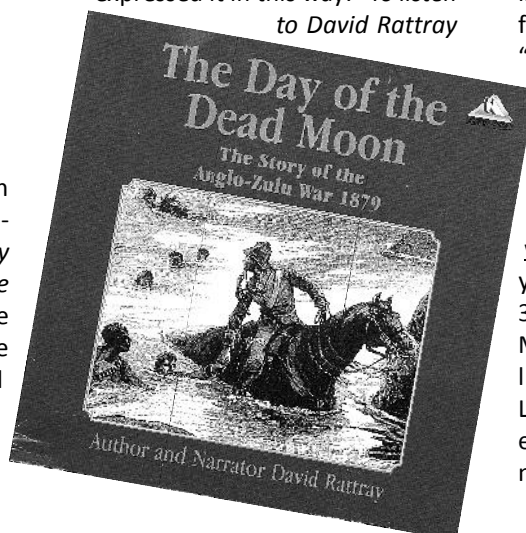
David Rattray was a leading historian of the Zulu people. Born in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 1958, David's interest in the Anglo-Zulu conflicts was initially stimulated when, as a young boy, he accompanied his father, an amateur historian, to the battlefields and collected stories from local Zulus, some of whose forebears had fought in the battles and whose exploits had been handed down through the oral tradition of the Zulus. A fluent speaker of their language, he invariably travelled on his research trips with a lifelong friend, Mzongani Mpanza.

With his wife, he established a Lodge and Guest House at Fugitives' Drift, from where he conducted hugely popular tours around the battlefields, enthraling his listeners with such graphic and moving accounts of the conflict that, evidently, they were frequently moved to tears, including members of the military. Sadly, in 2007 and at the early age of 48, David Rattray was shot dead at his home in tragic circumstances

Rattray was a supremely good storyteller but also tremendously even handed with his assessment of the two sides and of the major players. One South African journalist expressed it in this way: "*To listen to David Rattray*

narrate the story of Isandlwana was akin to watching the best-scripted, best-directed and best-produced movie Hollywood's finest studios could put out." The Editor can certainly vouch for this as he has never heard any account that anywhere near matches the authenticity and drama of these CDs. Rattray has the rare ability to conjure up the events of this terrible campaign with absolutely the right words, phrases and pauses, so that one is, almost literally, transported back in time. As he recounts the heroics of Rorke's Drift, one has a very real sense of terror as the occupants of the hospital feverishly tear at the internal walls to retreat from room to room as the Zulu warriors slash at them with their assegais amid the heat and smoke from the burning thatch. The ghosts of so many childhood heroes are conjured up – Durnford, Coghill, Melville, Younghusband, Hook and Hitch, the Prince Imperial and Smith Dorrien – the list is almost endless, and, throughout the narrative, Rattray introduces so many fascinating anecdotes and illuminating facts. He also, in equal measure, pays tribute to the Zulus, their bravery, discipline and almost unbelievable physical prowess and interprets Isandlwana as a Zulu victory rather than as an imperial disaster. His admiration and respect for both the Zulus and the British Army shines through again and again.

These recordings, in fact, made such an impression on the Editor that he is determined to own his own set and is most grateful to his son, Dominic, for bringing the CDs to his attention. "*The Day Of The Dead Moon*" - David Rattray's 5-Part Audio Series of the Anglo-Zulu War of 1879 can be purchased as a CD set for £55 or as downloadable MP3 files for £45. Orders can be placed on line at www.dayofthedeadmoon.com or you can also order by calling 01526 352919. Independent Web Marketing, who fulfil the orders, are located at Yew, Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire, LN10 6UY, while their email address is info@web-marketing.co.uk.





BMSS BHUTAN BRANCH?

We would hastily re-assure members that our Society has not decided to diversify into worldwide mass transport. No, it is just that, during a recent trip to the tiny mountain kingdom of Bhutan, Debra Dance spotted and took this photograph. It was, in fact, a school bus and BMSS evidently stood for "Bhutan Middle Secondary School"!

Early Members of the Society

MAURICE ELVEY

One name that crops up in early accounts of the Society is that of Maurice Elvey (1887-1967). Having run away from home as a child, he took on various jobs including stagehand and actor. He went on to direct plays before moving into the then young film industry, directing his first film in 1913. Elvey is credited as being the most prolific British director in history, directing over 200 films before retiring in 1957. He also produced a number and collaborated with other directors. His work spanned the key transition between

silent films and talking pictures. Many of his films have historical themes, eg *"The Loss of the Birkenhead"* (1914). His *"Hound of the Baskervilles"* (1921) featured Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes, the actor known to have been Conan Doyle's own favourite in the role.

Some of his films would be classed as science fiction today. *"High Treason"* (1929) was set in the future (a very advanced 1940!) and charted violent tensions between the Federated Atlantic States and the

United States of Europe, with a Peace League trying to avert war. His 1935 film *"The Tunnel"* features a giant radium drill boring into the earth mid-Atlantic.

I have yet to find details of what precisely Elvey collected. But it seems likely that, as a successful director, he had the funds to buy the cream of commercial toy and model soldier output by **Britains** and others. His work would have taken him to America and Europe, and thus one might expect manufacturers such as **Mignot** and **Heyde** to be represented in his personal collection. It is possible to speculate that his interest in figures was stirred by the extensive use of miniatures (scale models) in films of those far off pre-CGI days.

Stephen Dance, Archivist

The Editor's Prize

It was announced at the AGM that the runners-up for the Editor's Prize (for articles appearing in *The Bulletin*) were: **Kevin Peart** for his figure reviews *"Fire*

and Brimstone" and *"The Billman"* and **John Ruddle** for his *"Memories of a young collector – now pushing 82"*. The winner was: **Andrew Dunstan** for his reports on the Annual Show and Inter-Branch which have really captured the flavour of both events. The book token prizes were presented at the Annual Show.

I have been informed that this gentleman was not a B.M.S.S. member but the collection certainly looked typical of one the emphasis being on Britains products with much repairing repainting and conversion the figures needing careful scrutiny. If you are still building a collection this is a good type of sale, useful for filling gaps and getting a few add-ons. Because very few items were in perfect condition it did present the opportunity to buy something at a reasonable price but it was rather annoying to find myself always bidding against fellow B.M.S.S. members and having to pay 18% on top of the purchase price though better than the 30 % at Bonhams it still puts a brake on ones bidding. With Britains it is the early figures that hold the most interest for me, they maybe less accurate but reflect their time and to

Toy Soldier Column

The John Cecil Cloake Collection

at the Special Auction Services sale

By Alex Riches

my eye they have more charm. . That's enough philosophising let's have a look at what might be regarded as bargains. Twelve York and Lancaster regiment looked to be in that category but on inspection I could not find one in complete original condition even so £150 for 14 figures can't be bad. By ignoring the fact that the box had been rather crudely repaired I was pleased to get a set of first version 6th Dragoon guards for a sensible price. It is nice if you can afford to buy mint boxed and although box labels can be attractive and provide useful information or even form a collection in their own right I am happy if I can get the figures that bit cheaper. An early boxed set of Matelots was one figure short probably the reason that it sold under estimate for £190 and it might have

been condition that kept one of the prize lots in the sale, a boxed set 72 Diamond Jubilee, Queens Souvenir, Life Guards 1837 and 1897 from making more than the £850 hammer price and a boxed set of 1898 version 2nd Life Guards wasn't too bad either at £160. I was interested in set 36 the Sussex Regiment 11 figures including mounted officer £90 seemed a moderate price but I somehow let this one get away.

Then there were the Austro-Hungarian figures, first an unboxed set 175 Lancers at a mid-estimate £140, a boxed set 177 Infantry below estimate at £80 and another set of Lancers in less good condition than the first also that went for £80 set 178.

Foot Guards almost reached mid estimate at £170 then an unboxed set



These Heyde 48mm Chinese Infantry made £1,000

Commemorating Waterloo

As the 200th Anniversary of one of the most decisive events in British and European military history approaches, there are a great many attractions planned both here and abroad. Here are just a few we are aware of. If you know of any others that fellow members might be interested in, do get in touch

The National Army Museum

has announced that it has joined with museums across the country to mount a series of temporary exhibitions (under the overall title of “*Waterloo Lives*”), and displays which look at how the Battle of Waterloo was fought and won. Objects and paintings from the NAM will feature alongside each museum’s permanent collections, telling the stories of the regiments, the soldiers, their families and the legacy they left behind.

The exhibitions are as follows:

The Gordon Highlanders’ Museum, Aberdeen
From 24th February to 28th November.

The Guards Museum, London

From 24th February to 28th November.

Somerset Military Museum, Taunton

From 21st April to 4th July.

Duke of Wellington’s Regimental Museum, Halifax

From 2nd May to 25th July.

The Black Watch Castle and Museum, Perth

From 15th May to 30th October 2015.

Cardiff Castle Museum of the Welsh Soldier

From 1st June to 30th November.

The Victoria Gallery, Liverpool.

From 6th June to 24th October.

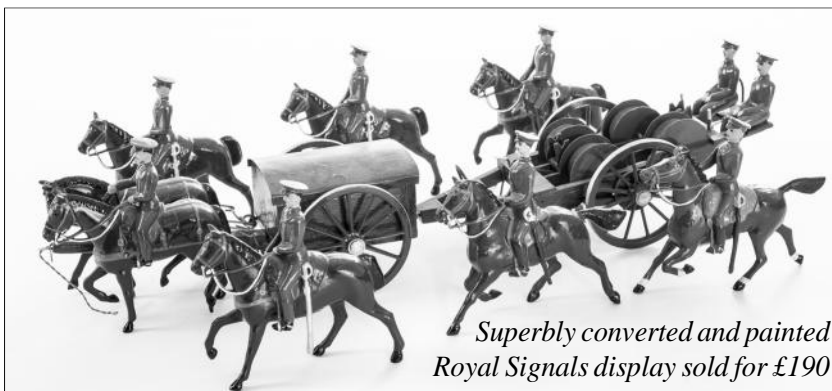
The Williamson Art Gallery and Museum, Birkenhead.

From 6th June to 24th October.



Another lot was Britains unboxed set 176: Austro-Hungarian Dragoons

(Right) Britains unboxed set 175: Austro-Hungarian Lancers, 1902 horses



Superbly converted and painted Royal Signals display sold for £190

of dragoons managed to double what I thought was a low estimate to get to £220. Prices reflected a slide in

popularity for South American figures as a boxed set of Uruguayan Military Cadets only got to £90, and Argentine

Cavalry just £75, What about those ever popular Indian Army Cavalry well a boxed set of Bombay Lancers made just £100 and madras Light Cavalry only £110. Later I had to think twice before letting a boxed set of Bulgarian Infantry go at £320 that looked a good buy for somebody. Prices like these make these genuine old toy soldiers compare favourably with those of modern manufacture when you remember you are buying a little piece of toy history.

Jim Woodley Collection Sale

As well as being a superlative painter of flat figures, Jim Woodley also built up a fascinating collection of toy soldiers. His main areas of interest were cowboys, indians and knights and it is these figures that will be up for sale as part of an auction of Fine Toys & Soldiers in Bonhams Oxford Salerooms on Wednesday, 10th June. A catalogue should be available approximately a month before the sale.

Rod Johnson

And **the displays** are as follows:

Graves Art Gallery, Sheffield.

From 3rd June to 1st September.

Museum of Liverpool.

From 6th June to 24th October.

Surgeon's Hall Museum, Edinburgh.

From 14th September to 14th December.

Apsley House

The magnificent London home of the Duke of Wellington, together with the neighbouring **Wellington Arch**, both managed by English Heritage, re-opened to the public on 18th April after refurbishment. A new exhibition will include some of the Duke's personal items including the handwritten battle orders that have never been shown in public before. The glittering interior of the house includes nearly 3,000 paintings, sculptures and other works of art, while the views from the two viewing balconies of Wellington Arch provide spectacular views over Buckingham Palace Gardens and of Big Ben, the London Eye and the Shard.

Commemorative Concert

The Poppy Factory in Richmond, Surrey, has been making poppies, crosses and wreathes for the Royal British Legion's Annual Appeal for over 90 years. And it, now, not only provides work for disabled veterans but also uses its unique expertise to help injured, wounded and sick ex-service personnel find employment with many businesses across the country.

As a Bicentenary Celebration of the Battle of Waterloo and to raise much-needed funds for the Factory, the Band and Bugles of the Rifles will be performing music of the time including some rousing marches. The concert, hosted by the well-known classical music broadcaster Jamie Crick, will take place in St Mary Magdelene Church, Church Walk, Richmond TW9 1SN, from 7 to 10 pm on Tuesday 16th June 2015. Tickets cost £15 (plus a small booking fee) and are available from www.waterloo2015.bpt.me or phone 0208 939 1829.

Note: *It is advisable to check with all venues before travelling to events.*

The Crisis of Waterloo

Member Ralph Weaver spotted this historic letter in the *United Service Journal*, 1836 Part 1, while the equally fascinating photo came from the internet

Rochdale, Sept. 3, 1835.

Dear Colonel, On looking over an old Number of the *United Service Journal*, containing Sir Hussey Vivian's reply to the "Crisis of Waterloo," also published in that Journal, I find allusion made to a body of the 23rd Dragoons, which passed along the front of Sir Hussey's Brigade, while forming lines; and as Sir Hussey states that he could not speak as to where that party of Dragoons had come from, or what brought them there, I trouble you with the following explanation to communicate to him, should you think it would afford him any satisfaction.

The 23rd Dragoons, to which I had the honour of belonging, were posted toward the right of the British line at the battle of Waterloo. When Major Cutcliffe left the field wounded, between four and five o'clock in the afternoon of that day, the command of the regiment devolved on Major Latour, who received an order between five and six o'clock to send part of it towards the centre, to the relief of a brigade of guns, which was considerably annoyed by the repeated charges of the French Cavalry; and, in obedience with that order, a squadron to which I belonged was dispatched under the command of Capt. Cox, who was soon afterwards obliged to leave the field, in consequence of having been previously severely stunned in a charge, by his horse falling upon him. The French Cavalry that made the last effort to silence the guns above mentioned were repulsed and driven back by this squadron of the 23rd Dragoons to a square of French Infantry, which was found considerably to the front, and behind which the French Cavalry took refuge. This square opened a heavy fire on the 23rd



Dragoons on their retiring; and in consequence of their experiencing a similar annoyance on approaching the British line, they were induced to move to its flanks, which movement brought the greater part of this squadron of the 23rd Dragoons along the front of Sir Hussey Vivian's brigade. After clearing this brigade, I re-formed the men belonging to the 23rd Dragoons, and proceeded in the direction of Sir Hussey's brigade, which had just before advanced; and on my coming up with the 18th Hussars, on the summit of the French position, I went to the Hon. Col. Murray, who commanded that corps, and informed him of my having brought up a division of the 23rd Dragoons, which had been separated from its squadron in a previous charge, and requested to be allowed to advance with his regiment, upon which he replied that he had no control over me. I therefore continued to march with the 18th Hussars until

we halted to bivouac for the night, when Capt. M'Neil and Lieut. Dodwell, with a few men, reunited with my division. The other Officers of the squadron were Cornet Blythwayt, and, I believe, Cornet Heminings: Cornet Blythwayt was with my division.

I have not the honour of Colonel Murray's acquaintance, but I presume he will remember, even at this distance of time, the circumstance of my having spoken to him on the occasion alluded to. Having been in the West Indies when the "Crisis of Waterloo," and Sir Hussey Vivian's reply, were published, I did not meet with them until lately by accident, or I should sooner have troubled you with the foregoing particulars.

I am, dear Colonel,
Your's very faithfully,
John Banner,
Capt. of 93rd Highlanders.

Waterloo Day Lecture

On the actual 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo, 18th June 2015, at 6 pm in the Museum of London, you can attend an illustrated lecture entitled: "*Waterloo: Causes, Courses and Consequences*". Given by the eminent historian, Professor Sir Richard Evans FBA, it will explore what the battle was about, the

participants, why it took place and what the consequences were. It is not necessary to register for this free public event. It will be run on a "first come, first served" basis, and it is suggested that you arrive a little early to ensure that you can get a seat. Doors will be opened half an hour before the start of the event.

Cavalry Seminar

The Victorian Military Society

(www.victorianmilitarysociety.org.uk) will be holding a one-day seminar on "The Cavalry" on Saturday 24th October 2015 at The Civil Service Club, 13-15 Great Scotland Yard, London SW1A 2HJ. The Club is close to Charing Cross Mainline Station as well as Charing Cross and Embankment Underground Stations.

The 3 principal speakers will be Rodney Atwood, Alan Mallinson and Andrew Winrow. A ticket for the seminar costs £15 per person. The price includes coffee or tea on arrival.

After the seminar ends, there will then be an opportunity for a group visit to the nearby Household Cavalry Museum for an additional £6.30 per person.

(The normal Museum admission price is £7.)

THE PROGRAMME

- 11.00 - 11.30 Registration, coffee/tea
- 11.30 - 11.45 Introduction
- 11.45 - 12.45 Alan Mallinson - *Topic to be confirmed*
- 12.45 - 13.45 Lunch Break

Hot and cold lunches are available at the Club but are not included in the ticket price.

- 13.45 - 14.45 Andrew Winrow -
"Regular Mounted Infantry – the cavalry of poverty"
- 14.45 - 15.45 Rodney Atwood -
"War Horse revisited – the cavalry on the Western Front"
- 15.45 - 16.00 Wind-up session & seminar closes

16.00 - 18.00

Optional visit to the Household Cavalry Museum

Principal Speakers

Dr Rodney Atwood is a graduate of McMaster University, Canada and Churchill College, Cambridge from where he obtained his PhD. Before pursuing an academic career, he served in the Royal Tank Regiment. He is the author of "*Roberts & Kitchener in South Africa*" and "*The March to Kandahar*". His latest book is "*The Life of Field Marshal Lord Roberts*". He is a regular contributor to historical journals and a frequent lecturer.

Brigadier Allan Mallinson joined the Army in 1969 from the University of Durham. He served in the 13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own) and commanded the Regiment from 1988 to 1991. His last Army appointment was as Military Attaché in Rome. He retired from the Army in 2004 and became a writer and military historian. Among his books are "*1914 - Fight the Good Fight*", about the origins and opening weeks of the First World War, and the series of novels about Matthew Hervey, an officer serving in the 6th Light Dragoons during the Napoleonic Wars. He is a Vice-President of the Victorian Military Society.

Dr Andrew Winrow holds an MA in Military History. His dissertation was written on the dismissal of the British cavalry commanders during the Anglo-Boer War. He subsequently obtained a DPhil in Military History from the University of Buckingham with a thesis on the British regular Mounted Infantry. He is a regular contributor to *Soldiers of the Queen* as well as to a number of other history journals. His research interests are the mounted troops in the Victorian and Edwardian periods, and officer leadership and command in the British Army during the Victorian era. He works full time as an NHS Consultant Paediatrician in Surrey.

For tickets please contact:

BY POST: The Victorian Military Society, 3 Selbourne Road, Gillingham, Kent ME7 1QN. Cheques payable to "*The Victorian Military Society*".

BY EMAIL: vmsdan@msn.com and details of how to pay by card using PayPal will be sent to you.



SENSATION

Viking seen in London!

The Editor can confirm that he came eyeball to eyeball with this Nordic warrior in a hotel room in London. However, no rape or pillage took place, just some very healthy and exciting competitions. To read and see more about this year's BMSS Annual Show and to study the competition results, look out for *BMSS Bulletin No. 2*, which is due out to members at the end of June.

BMSS Diary 2015

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| May | 15th | BMSS Military Pageant Trophy. Pimlico Room, St Saviour's, St George's Square, Lupus Street, Pimlico, London SW1V 3QW. 5 pm to 7 pm.
Contact Arthur Smith 020 8856 0064. |
| | 23rd | The 30th Plastic Warrior Show. The Harlequin Suite, Chertsey Road, Whitton, Twickenham TW2 6LS. Doors open at 10.30 am. For travel details go to http://plasticwarrioreditor.blogspot.co.uk . All enquiries telephone: 01483 722 778 or email: pweditor@ntlworld.com |
| June | 19th | Please note change to programme from membership card: Open Evening. Pimlico Room, St Saviour's, St George's Square, Lupus Street, Pimlico, London SW1V 3QW. 5 pm to 7 pm. Contact Arthur Smith 020 8856 0064. |
| | 27th | Bugle Call 2015. The BMSS Bristol Branch and South West Figure Modellers' Annual Show. The Pavilion, North Parade Road, Bath BA2 4EU. Model & trade stands, modelling & painting demonstrations, refreshments. Admissions: Adults £4, Children (under 12) £2, OAPs £3, Families £8. |
| July | 17th | Militaria Night. Pimlico Room, St Saviour's, St George's Square, Lupus Street, Pimlico, London SW1V 3QW. 5 pm to 7 pm. Contact Arthur Smith 020 8856 0064. |
| | 25th | Figure World 2015. Great Hall, Oundle School, New Street, Oundle, Northants, PE8 4GH. |
| August | 21st | Open Evening. Pimlico Room, St Saviour's, St George's Square, Lupus Street, Pimlico, London SW1V 3QW. 5 pm to 7 pm. Contact Arthur Smith 020 8856 0064. |
| September | 5th | BMSS Inter-Branch Competitions. The Knowle Masonic Centre, 1621 Warwick Road, Knowle, Solihull, Birmingham B93 9LF. |
| | 18th | Indian Army Army Night. Pimlico Room, St Saviour's, St George's Square, Lupus Street, Pimlico, London SW1V 3QW. 5 pm to 7 pm. Contact Arthur Smith 020 8856 0064 |
| | 19th | Euro Militaire 2015 (<i>the 30th year of one of the largest and, arguably, most famous military modelling shows in the world</i>). Leas Cliff Hall, The Leas, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2DZ. The 2015 show is open from 10.00 until 1800 on the Saturday (early birds could get in from 09.30) and from 10.00 until 1600 on the Sunday. Please note that there have been revisions to the classes in the competitions, as new ones have led to an update in the numbering of them all for 2015. There are now 32 classes in total. |
| October | 16th | The subject of this meeting is to be confirmed. Pimlico Room, St Saviour's, St George's Square, Lupus Street, Pimlico, London SW1V 3QW. 5 pm to 7 pm. Contact Arthur Smith 020 8856 0064. |
| November | 20th | World War II. Pimlico Room, St Saviour's, St George's Square, Lupus Street, Pimlico, London SW1V 3QW. 5 pm to 7 pm. Contact Arthur Smith 020 8856 0064. |
| December | 18th | Please note change to programme from membership card: Old Toy Soldier Competition. Pimlico Room, St Saviour's, St George's Square, Lupus Street, Pimlico, London SW1V 3QW. 5 pm to 7 pm. Contact Arthur Smith 020 8856 0064. |

"Bulletin" Schedule - 2015

Bulletin no. 2	5th May	End June
Bulletin no. 3	20th July	Early September
Bulletin no. 4	5th October	End of November

BMSS Bulletin Extra schedule - 2015 (produced electronically)

Extra no. 3	22nd June	End of July
Extra no. 4	7th September	Early October