

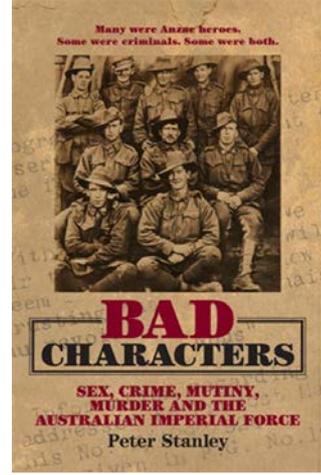
SCHOLARS DISCUSS THE “JOHNNIES AND THE MEHMETS” INSCRIBED ON THE ATATÜRK MONUMENTS

Cengiz Özakıncı

The two articles titled *The Words “There Is No Difference Between The Mehmeets And The Johnnies ” Graved On The 1915 Gallipoli Monuments Do Not Belong To Atatürk* that were published in the March-April 2015 issues of our magazine drew the attention of the Honest History Association, whose chairperson is the prominent Australian historian **Prof. Dr. Peter Stanley**.¹

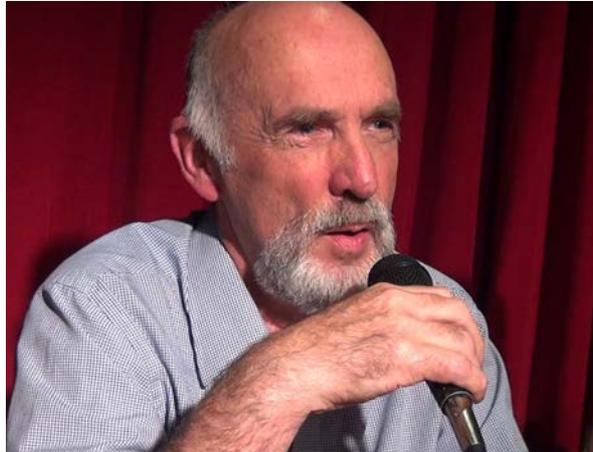


Chairperson of the Honest History Foundation Prof. Dr. Peter Stanley, who was the director of the Australian War Monuments Museum for 27 years between 1980 and 2007, and Head of the Australian National Museum Historical Research Center for 6 years between 2007 and 2013.



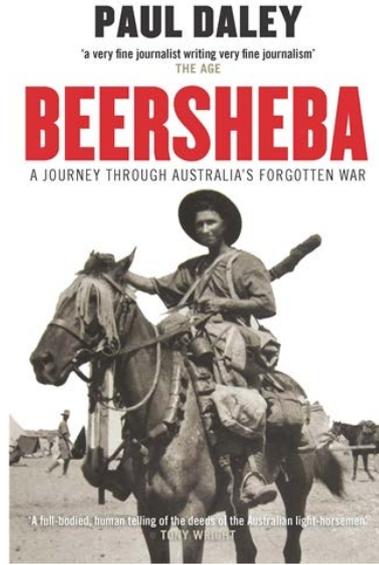
Peter Stanley's book was awarded the Australian Prime Ministry History Prize.

Association secretary **Dr. David Stephens**, published the English translations of our two articles on the *Honest History* website.



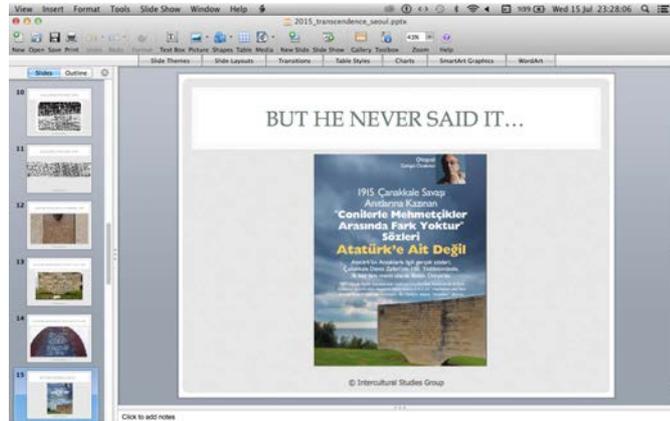
Dr. David Stephens - Honest History Association Secretary

At the same time, writer **Paul Daley** referred to our articles while reporting them on the **The Guardian** website.



Walkley Award, Paul Lyneham Award and Kennedy Award receiving writer Paul Daley and his book on the Birrussebi War fought on the not much known Palestina front during WW I.

Following this, **Prof. Dr. Anthony Pym** published a *counter* article which he described it *against "Özakıncı's Argument adopted by Prof. Dr. Peter Stanley, Dr. David Stephens and Paul Daley"* and opened a discussion on the *academia.edu* website.



Prof. Dr. Anthony Pym. [Chairperson of the European Society for Translation Studies - EST, Vienna University Walter Benjamin Chair holder, Sociologist, Translation Scientist, Intercultural Research Group coordinator]² and the view of our article pages, **Prof. Dr. A. Pym** during his Power Point presentation titled *Transcendence and Translation* at the Intercultural Research Group of which he is the Coordinator.

As **Prof. Dr. A. Pym's** article³ titled the *On the passage of transcendent messages: Johnnies and Mehments*, which he opens with the statement "I want to broach a discussion", is just allocated to scrutinizing and refuting **Özakıncı's Argument**, it is to me to be the first to accept the invitation for discussion and respond to his article before anyone else. However, his article contains so many material mistakes that the pages of our magazine would not suffice to illustrate and correct each. Therefore, we will publish our detailed response –in Turkish and English- on our internet site.

In his article, **Prof. Dr. A. Pym** repeats two scholars' arguments published years ago. One of these is **Asst.Prof.Dr. Adrian Jones'** article titled *A Note on Atatürk's Words about Gallipoli* published in 2004⁴. The other is **Dr. George Friedrich Davis'** 359 pages long doctoral dissertation titled *Anzac Day Meanings and Memories* dated 2008.



Order of Australia medal awarded
Asst. Prof. Dr. Adrian Jones



Dr. George Frederick Davis
(23.05.2009, Otago Daily Times)

Asst.Prof. Dr. Adrian Jones, the writer of the first foreign academic article focusing on the **“Johnnies and Mehmetts”** statement inscribed on the Atatürk monuments and on which Prof. Dr. A. Pym bases his article against *Özakıncı's Argument*, in summary states the following:

(...) This article looks again at the words which Mustafa Kemal Atatürk addressed in 1934 to the Europeans against whom he had fought in Gallipoli, words now set in stone beside Anzac Cove. It offers a historical explanation of the extraordinarily generous terms in which he spoke. (...)

“Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives are now lying in the soil of a friendly country. Therefore rest in peace. There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmetts to us where they lie side by side here in this country of ours. You, the mothers, who sent their sons from far away countries, wipe away your tears. Your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace. After having lost their lives on this land, they have become our sons as well.”(1) The words are Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's (3). They were written by him in 1934 to be spoken about foreigners who **invaded** the European shores of the Dardanelles in 1915.

Modern Turkey was late to recognize the defenders of the Gallipoli side of the Dardanelles Campaign, only building monuments in the 1960s and 1970s that balanced those erected by the Allied War Graves Commission after 1934.

Atatürk's words were therefore **exceptional** in 1934: the founder of a Turkish republic, a victor in one of the first successful post-colonial struggles, the Turkish war of independence of 1919–22, had oddly troubled himself **to equate Turkey's Mehmetts, dead heroes of the Dardanelles campaigns of 1915, with the dead of the imperialist invaders.**

(...) Şükrü Kaya, Interior Minister in Atatürk's government in 1934, (...) **Atatürk had been ailing since 1933.** He died in 1938. (...)

Then the Father of the Turks – the title ‘Atatürk’ was bestowed in **1933**"

(...) Atatürk went on to tell him that his speech must also **honour the dead of the invaders**. (...) He had just superintended the suppression of Şeyh Said’s Kurdish revolt seeking to undo Atatürk’s secularism. Kaya must have been perplexed, if not vexed. Why **honour external invaders and aggressors**?

(...) Atatürk knew that the **invaders** (...) **They were agents of foreign powers** out to turn Turkey into a **patchwork of colonies**. Yet Atatürk still went out of his way **in 1934 to honour these imperialist invaders** (...) the **ailing Atatürk** wrote a short speech for him to give. He handed it to the bemused Minister to deliver at the Gallipoli site (İğdemir 1978 pp. 6, 39). Atatürk (...) **addressed to invaders whom he honoured un-named** (...)

(...) Atatürk was **honouring an enemy**. (...) Yet **Atatürk blessed un-named invaders** of his homeland. (...) **Atatürk seems to have honoured the invaders in 1934** because **they unknowingly prompted Atatürk and the Turks to shape the kind of nation that the Turks came to know that they wanted**, (...)

(...) He wrote and said little about the Gallipoli landings. And the few things he did say and write differed. My thesis is that **Atatürk’s views changed** (...) My evidence is that **Atatürk’s words about Anzac deeds differed** in revealing ways according to whether they were uttered in 1915 – mid-battle, in 1918 – after battle, but before independence, and in 1934 (...)

(...) His **noble words of 1934** were about deeds of 1915 that had **not seemed noble** to him in **1918**. (...)

(...) Atatürk’s initial response had been **far less generous**. Speaking to a journalist in 1918 he had noted **dismissively**:

*When Ottoman soldiers attacked ferociously, supported by accurate **shrapnel** fire from mountain batteries, the **English soldiers could only think of escaping to the sea**. I was surprised to hear that even **General Ian Hamilton came on location and could not have his commands obeyed** and there was much discussion and procrastination amongst the senior officers. This allowed us to win... We captured many machine guns and prisoners.(10)*

*(...) **The English brag about the soldiers and officers who fought gallantly and bravely at Arı Burnu landings and at this front**. But think about [how] the enemy... equipped with the most advanced war machinery and determination by and large were forced to remain on these shores. Our officers and soldiers [whose] love for their motherland and religion and heroism protected the doors of their capital **İstanbul** against such a proud enemy won the right to a status [of which] we can be proud. I congratulate all the members of the fighting units under my command. I remember with deep and eternal respect all the ones who sacrificed their lives and became martyrs for this great objective. (11)*

These words of Atatürk’s in 1918 about 1915 seem **standard patriot puffs**. Or rather: not quite. Consider Atatürk’s backhander of 1918, typical of Young Turks like he, about winning ‘the right to a status of which we can be proud’.

Still we ask the question, why did **Atatürk go out of his way to honour these invaders** who had **brought so much death and anguish**? (...) Atatürk admired European values.

(...) anti-Ottoman fabric of Kemalist Turkish nationalism. (...) applying European norms of nationhood, republicanism and secularism. (...) The new Kemalist nationalism which was trumpeted in 1919 emerged implicitly at Gallipoli between April and November 1915. (...)

So, I suspect this is how and why 1915 looked different by 1934. (...) Turkey was born there and then at Gallipoli, as Johnnies who knew nothing about Mehmeets **re-made those Mehmeets as masters of their fate.**

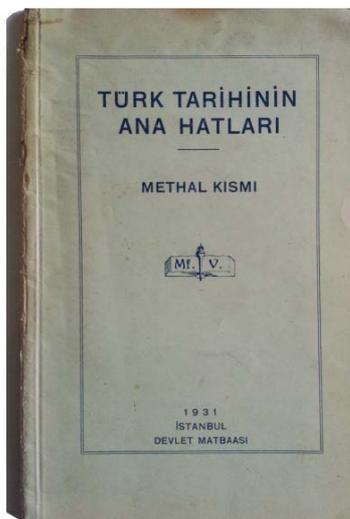
* * *

According to Jones: imperialist invaders fought in the 1915 Dardanelles War as **anti-Ottomans** in order to destroy the Ottomans; and then, well, Atatürk established New Turkey on an **anti-Ottoman** foundation **by destroying** the Ottomans; the 1915 Dardanelles invaders' **European values** like Republican Secularism and Nationalism became the foundation of the Turkey that Atatürk established after 1919; the 1915 Dardanelles invaders the Johnnies turned out to, unknowingly, have encouraged Atatürk and the Turks to organize as a nation; and that would be the reason for Atatürk, who had looked down on the invader soldiers in 1915-1918, to do the opposite and bless and honor them in 1934 by equating them with the Mehmeets.

* * *

Jones don't know that:

According to the "*Turkish History Thesis*" which was formulated in the years between 1930-1938 by Atatürk: *The civilization was born in Central Asia and spread to the West and Europe through migration. "Secular State" was firstly established by Seljuk Turks in the year 1058. A "Turkish Republic" was firstly established in Ankara in the year 1302-1340 by Seljuk Turks. Pant, jacket, hate, etc. was firstly created thousand years ago by Turks in Central Asia. The origine of Latin letters was Turkic Runic Inscriptions. "Democracy" was known by ancient Turks as "Kurultay". Turks don't owe the Europeans anything...* These are Atatürk's own views. Atatürk didn't change his these views throughout his life.



The book "Guidelines of Turkish History" (1931) was dictated by Atatürk and in the year 1937, Atatürk tells his own "Turkish History Thesis" in a school.

Jones' article, which we very briefly summarized above, contains historical mistakes, such as **Mustafa Kemal's ailing in 1933** (real date: 1937) and **Atatürk's**

name being bestowed in 1933 (real date: 24 November 1934); however, the most important mistake is his presumption that the **invader blessing, honouring, and Mehmet equating** words inscribed on the monuments belong to Atatürk without questioning whether they actually do. In our articles titled ***The Words "There Is No Difference Between The Mehments And The Johnnies " Graved On The 1915 Gallipoli Monuments Do Not Belong To Atatürk*** and that were published in the March-April 2015 issues of our magazine, we proved with concrete documents that the words inscribed on the monuments **do not belong to Atatürk. The claim that Atatürk changed his view of 1918 in 1934 is contrary to fact because Atatürk spread his 1918 discourse by having it identically printed as a book in the 1930s.**



Ruşen Eşref's "Interview with Anafartalar Commander Mustafa Kemal", which appeared in the 1918 *Yeni Mecmua* and was published in the book printed by the State Printing Office in 1930, and its publication announcement published in 1931.

In our detailed response to Prof. Dr. A. Pym, who depends on Jones' article in question, we will publish the **documents that prove that Şükrü Kaya did not come together with the foreign veteran soldiers who visited Gallipoli in 1934 and that he did not give them any speech**; thus, all the arguments that the **Anzac Descendant** scholars use in order to make these words inscribed on the monuments appear to belong to Atatürk will be refuted.

* * *

Repeating Atatürk's words published in the *Yeni Mecmua* in 1918, which he never changed until he died, with my deepest love and respect for all our Martyrs, Mehments, and Veterans that rendered the Dardanelles impassable in 1915, drove the invaders into the sea in 1922, and sacrificed their lives for Independent Turkey.

¹ <http://peterstanley.net/about-me/>

² <http://www.est-translationstudies.org/committees/committees.htm>

³ Anthony Pym, "On the passage of transcendent messages: Johnnies and Mehments" Version 1.6. May19, 2015. http://usuaris.tinet.cat/apym/on-line/translation/2015_transcendent.pdf

⁴ Jones, Adrian. 2004. "A note on Atatürk's words about Gallipoli", *History of Australia* 2(1): 10-1 – 10-9