

Hodgson, Alex (SEN)

From: WILLIAM SELLARS [wsellars@usa.net]
Sent: Monday, 27 June 2005 6:09 AM
To: FPA, Committee (SEN)
Subject: Gallipoli inquiry supplementary evidence



01660011.JPG (181 KB)

Committee Secretary
Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee
Inquiry into matters relating to the Gallipoli Peninsula

Please find below some of the supplementary material requested by the Committee inquiring into matters relating to the Gallipoli Peninsula.

List of persons who were with me when human remains were found just to the north of Ariburnu on March 10, 2005.

Mr Ilhami Gezici
Tour operator, hotel manager and guide
TJ's Tours
C/o Eceabat Hotel
Cumhurriyet Medayni
Eceabat
Turkey
Ph: 90 286 814 3121

Mrs Bernina Gezici
Australian citizen and wife of Mr Gezici and co-operator of TJ's Tours TJ's Tours
C/o Eceabat Hotel
Cumhurriyet Medayni
Eceabat
Turkey
Ph: 90 286 814 3121

Mr Russel Skelton
Senior reporter with the Fairfax media group and the Age newspaper 250 Spencer St
Melbourne, Vic Australia
Ph: (03) 9601 2866

Mr Skelton also reported the uncovering of human remains in an article he wrote that appeared in the Age and I believe the Sydney Morning Herald on March 12.

Ms Serpil Karacan Sellars
Turkish journalist and television producer, and accredited to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. It should be noted by the committee that Ms Karacan Sellars is also my wife.
Miralay Sokak No 2
Eceabat, Canakkale
Turkey
Ph: ++ 90 286 814 2042

Also present was a tour guide whose first name is Baris, who was working with Mr Skelton as a translator and guide. I am afraid I only know him by his first name, however, he works with the Hassle Free tour agency, address below.

Hasssle Free
Cumhurriyet Medani No 61
Canakkale
Turkey

Ph: ++ 90 286 213 5969

It should also be noted that Mr Anil Dinc, an English speaking taxi driver and long term resident on the Peninsula, who comments have been quoted in the Australian and New Zealand media was present with myself, Mr Skelton and Baris on March 11, when further human remains were found just above the road works near ANZAC Cove.

Anil Dinc
Taxi driver
Eceabat
Turkey
Moble Ph: ++90 542 2170 059

Question of credentials and qualifications, clarifications requested

While it may not be appropriate to raise this issue here, regarding the matter of my qualifications as a historian, queried by some members of the committee due to not having academic credentials in this field, I would like to register that one of the dictionary definitions of a of historian is "... (2) a person learned in or studying history".

I believe that this definition would be applicable to myself.

In relation to another point raised by the committee, I have checked and can confirm that, as I stated in the hearing on June 17, I never appeared on Australian television, or on television of any other country, carrying human remains.

I have also attached a photo requested by the committee that appeared in the Daily Telegraph. Please note that the date given for the picture is February 13, 2004, not 2005 as referred to in your list of required material.

Additional material sent by fax.

The committee also requested that I send extracts of two pieces of Turkish legislation referring to the authorisation to charge an admission fee to the Gallipoli Peninsula Historical National Park.

The first of these, Law no. 4533, was passed by the Turkish parliament on February 17, 2000 and came into effect on February 21, 2000 when published in the Turkish Official Gazette.

In article 5/b (Madde 5/b), setting out the sources for funding of the National Park, it is stated that income can be generated through admission fees to the National Park, as well as admission fees admission fees to museums and the information centre.

The second extract comes from amendments made to Law no. 4533, when the funding arrangements for the National Park were changed. These changes, published in the Turkish official Gazette on March 5, 2004, also specify that admission charges can be levied. This information appears in Article 13/b (Madde 13/b), where it sets out that funds can be generated from admission fees to the National Park, as well as admission fees to museums and the information centre.

As I have these documents in hard copy, I have faxed them to your office to be passed on to the committee.

I have also faxed through a signed statement from Turkish historian Mr Sahin Aldogan, who has acted as a voluntary consultant to the National Park, declaring that the comments and quotes I used from him in an article I wrote for the Daily Telegraph that was published on 12 March, were true and accurate.

I have also faxed through the notes from an interview with Professor Mustafa Yalinkilic, the head of Turkey's National Parks Directorate, stating that Australian officials had not raised any objections to the road works above and around ANZAC Cove and that they had been made aware

of the scope of the developments. This interview was conducted on March 16.

As I said in my evidence to the hearing, not all of my interviews were taped, some of them were in written note form. I hope they can be deciphered as they were written as the interview took place.

I hope that this information is of use to the committee.

Yours sincerely,

William Sellars
Miralay Sokak No. 2
Eceabat
Canakkale
Turkey
Ph: ++ 90 286 814 2042

