

Another Sad: Pilot Whales Beached in Tasmania

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There has been another Sudden Animal Death event, this time with the beaching of hundreds of pilot whales in Tasmania, according to the following article sent along by P.A.I.:

[Tragedy in Tasmania: what are pilot whales, and why do they strand themselves?](#)

There is, as one might have guessed, something in this article that caught my eye, an inaccuracy in fact, and it's a significant one. That said, however, it's not the kind of inaccuracy that one can fault either the article, nor the experts it consults, for, because the inaccuracy concerns a very little-known, very obscure fact about World War One that few people indeed know about it. That significant though very obscure thing in its turn may have a direct bearing on the Sudden Animal Death event involving pilot whale beachings in Tasmania, and an earlier event:

Pilot whales are the most susceptible of any of the cetaceans – that's whales, dolphins and porpoises – to mass strandings.

The five largest stranding events in Tasmania have all involved pilot whales. Australia's previous biggest stranding event also involved pilot whales – 320 of them got stuck in Western Australia in 1996.

There is no global database of cetacean strandings, but Betty

says the 470 at Macquarie Harbour may be the third largest on record.

Still considered to be the biggest was a 1918 stranding of about 1,000 pilot whales at Chatham Islands in New Zealand.

In 2017, about 600 long-finned pilot whales stranded in Golden Bay on New Zealand's South Island. (Emphasis added)

Note that the largest beaching occurred in 1918, the final year of World War One. Then, almost as if the article anticipates a possible hypothesis that maybe something electromagnetic might be interfering with the pilot whales' echolocation methods of navigating the oceanic depths, a little further on we read this:

The 1918 stranding off New Zealand occurred before sonar or seismic exploration was being used.

Indeed.

But... after the American entry into World War One and after American troops began to arrive in France in early 1918, something had the other two main Western Allied powers baffled: how was it that the commanding officer of the American Expeditionary Force, General John Pershing, was getting his orders from Washington? He clearly was, but how? Note, this means the French and British were monitoring, or at least, *attempting* to monitor American communications. Yet Pershing appeared to possess some channel of direct communications unknown to them and to their attempts to eavesdrop on the wireless communications of the day. And the Marconi telegraph company was, at that time, largely a British concern. The armies both of the Allied and of the Central Powers were much more like the armies of 1939 than they were the armies of 1914, when the war broke out; telephones and radios and signal detection had become staples of military

doctrine and equipment. The British, French, and German armies had all developed large dishes, much like a modern radio telescope dish, for *sonic* detection and primitive ranging of opposing artillery batteries.

But the AEF and Pershing had something else...

The truth is that the American Expeditionary Force's commander may have had access to a radio technology in a primitive form that would become a staple of post World War Two and Cold War military communications technology: large radio antennae buried in the earth itself for extremely low frequency – long waves – that moved through the Earth itself. Such equipment had been experimented on before the war in America, and had had some success. And a decision was apparently taken very secretly upon American's entry to use the technology to bypass the more well-known radio transmission through the air. The French themselves conducted experiments in 1917 with the technology. This is such an obscure little fact that one has to dig and dig to find it. But here's a start:

[An Introduction to the Mysteries of Ground Radio](#)

The bottom line is, people were experimenting with through-the-ground broadcasting systems long before World War One broke out. And that casts a pall of suspicion over the Sudden Animal Deaths of pilot whales in New Zealand in 1918...

See you on the flip side...