

FASCINATING FACTS

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THE MEMORIAL WHICH BROKE TRADITION

Fascinating Facts is a free subscription monthly private circulation e- magazine of personal , historic and military interest.

To obtain your free copy please email ray@scarletman.co.uk

Welcome to this issue of Fascinating Facts. Now retired, with a background of journalism, literature production, international public relations, and ex editor of a leading industry publications, I now have the time to combine my abilities and share my interests in historic facts, especially in connection with military matters. While I have written most of the articles in the Scarletman I am happy to accept ideas and contributions from readers; giving them credit for their work. The Scarletman is free issue e-magazine therefore if you would like to circulate copies further then I am happy for you to create a wider readership of those with a similar interest to mine.

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IN SUPPORT OF UKRAINE	

JUST A FEW RANDOM THOUGHTS

1. When one door closes and another door opens, you are probably in prison.
2. To me, "drink responsibly" means don't spill it.
3. Age 60 might be the new 40, but 9:00 pm is the new midnight.
4. It's the start of a brand new day, and I'm off like a herd of turtles.
5. The older I get, the earlier it gets late.
6. When I say, "The other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago. You work it out
7. I remember being able to get up without making sound effects.
8. As I age I think I grow taller as when I drop things the ground seems further away.
9. If you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any of your containers.
10. If you're sitting in public and a stranger takes the seat next to you, just stare straight ahead and say, "Did you bring the money?"
11. When you ask me what I am doing today, and I say "nothing," it does not mean I am free. It means I am doing nothing.
12. I finally got eight hours of sleep. It took me three days, but whatever.
13. I run like the winded.
14. I hate when a couple argue in public, and I missed the beginning and don't know whose side I'm on.
15. When someone asks what I did over the weekend, I squint and ask, "Why, what did you hear?"
16. When you do squats, are your knees supposed to sound like a goat chewing on an aluminium can stuffed with celery?
17. I don't mean to interrupt people. I just randomly remember things and get really excited.
18. When I ask for directions, please don't use words like "east."
19. Don't bother walking a mile in my shoes. That would be boring. Spend 30 seconds in my head. That'll freak you right out.
20. Sometimes, someone unexpected comes into your life out of nowhere, makes your heart race, and changes you forever. We call those people cops.
21. My luck is like a bald guy who just won a comb."
22. I am not forgetful. and return to collect because I forget. Its just God adding to my exercise routine.

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COCKADES & HACKLES PLUMES

COCKADE

The earliest documented use of cockade was in 1709 and referred to a knot of ribbons, or other circular- or oval-shaped symbol of distinctive colours which usually worn on a hat or cap. It derives from the French cocarde, from Old French coquarde, feminine of coquard (vain, arrogant), from coc (cock), of imitative origin.

POLITICAL ALLEGIANCE

In the 18th and 19th centuries, coloured cockades were used to show allegiance to a political faction, or indicate rank or a servant's livery. Also individual armies might wear differing regimental uniforms the cockades were an effective means of national identification.

In the 1780 Gordon Riots a blue cockade became a symbol of anti-government feelings. Jacobite supporters wore white cockades, while the Hanoverian monarchy used a black cockade which tends to continue in the UK today. The cockade was pinned on the side of the hat, or on a lapel. Women also wore it on their hat or in their hair.

COCKADE REGISTER

Its design typically consists of a disc or fan of (often simulated) crimped, black or coloured ribbon. The British cockade has been black since the early 18th century. There is also a register of national coloured cockade designs for forage caps shakos, tricorns, and helmets. Always worn on the right hand side, a black silk cockade has a loop of ½ in lace fastened by a button;



This article was particularly difficult to research as there were no clear definitions of Cockade, Hackle or Plume so I referred to the UK Army Dress Regulations (All Ranks) which state the following. Plume: White swan feathers, drooping outwards, 10 inches long. this may include hair as well in both upright and falling styles. Hackle; a form of plume, generally short, made of cut feathers. Cockade; typically consists of a disc or fan of (often simulated) crimped, coloured ribbon

HACKLE

The hackle was inherited from the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers who as the 5th of Foot adapted the white plumes from dead French Grenadiers after defeating them at St Lucia in 1778. In 1829 they were awarded the red top as a mark of distinction by King William IVth. In the British Army and in some Commonwealth countries, the hackle is worn by infantry regiments, especially those designated as fusilier regiments with Scottish and Northern Irish origins.

LONG PLUME ORIGIN

The modern hackle has its origins in the much longer plume, originally referred to by its Scottish name heckle, which was commonly attached to the feather bonnet worn by Highland regiments, but now only worn by drummers, pipers and bandsmen.

The smaller version originated from a regimental emblem adopted by the 42nd Royal Highland Regiment worn in the sun helmet issued in hot weather postings from the 1870s. Six inch long hackles are worn with beret.

HACKLE A CLIPPED PLUME

The hackle is a clipped plume or short spray of coloured feathers that is attached to a military headdress, with different colours being associated with particular regiments. In the British Army and the armies of some Commonwealth countries, the hackle is worn by infantry regiments-designated as fusilier and those with Scottish and Northern Irish origins.



Caubeen at English Wikipedia, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

PLUME

The plume is made from a special type of bird feather, usually from egrets, ostriches, birds of paradise, quetzals, pheasants, peacocks and quails, often for a decorative or ornamental purposes. Commonly used among marching bands and the military, they are worn on the hat or helmet of the wearer.

HAIR OR FEATHER PLUME

The term plume came to include hair as well as the feather variety in both upright and falling styles. Mainly for headdress, hair plumes also extend to a horse's bridle as a throat plume. a coloured hair plume 18 in. long, suspended beneath the horses neck. Sometimes referred to as a "beard". The drooping swan's feather plumes of Generals and Staff 5 Part 1 – Section 2 states officers continue to wear basic colouring.

COLOURED PLUMES

Other conventional colours have included white for artillery and grenadiers with green for light infantry and, at one period, black for heavy cavalry.

Special uniform for musicians largely waned but smaller features such as plumes of distinctive colour etc. are historically appropriate, particularly for cavalry musicians and trumpeters. Drummers' distinctions are in a slightly different category as these long ago ceased to involve wearing different colour. A wide variety of plume colours was adopted by units but the nearest to a national colouring would possibly be white over red.



Sgt Donah C Todd RLC, OGL 3, via Wikimedia Common

INVENTORS – KILLED BY THEIR OWN INVENTIONS.

AUTOMOTIVE

Sylvester H. Roper inventor of the Roper steam velocipede, died in 1896 of a crash and heart attack during a public speed trial. It is unknown if the crash caused the heart attack, or the heart attack the crash.

William Nelson a General Electric employee, invented a new way to motorise bicycles. He then fell off his prototype bike during a test run.

Francis Edgar Stanley was killed while driving a Stanley Steamer automobile. He drove his car into a woodpile while attempting to avoid farm wagons travelling side by side on the road.

AVIATION

Franz Reichelt died in 1912, 1 minute and 46 seconds after he jumped off the Eiffel Tower expecting his new invention to act as a parachute.

Ismail ibn Hammad al-Jawharl a Kazakh Turkic scholar from Farab, died on 1003 when he attempted to fly using two wooden wings and a rope. He leapt from a mosque roof in Nishapur and fell to his death.

Jean-François Pilâtre de Rozier was the first known fatality in an air crash when his Rozière balloon crashed on 15 June 1785 while he and Pierre Romain attempted to cross the English Channel.

Robert Cocking died when his homemade parachute failed. Cocking failed to include the weight of the parachute in his calculations.

Franz Reichelt a tailor, fell to his death from the first deck of the Eiffel Tower during the initial test of a coat parachute which he invented. He promised the authorities he would use a dummy, but instead he confidently strapped himself into the garment at the last moment and made his leap in front of a camera crew.

Michael Dacre died in 2009 after a crash that occurred while testing his flying taxi device.

Daedalus, in Greek mythology, built wings of feathers to escape the labyrinth of Crete with his son Icarus, who died by ignoring his father's advice not to "fly too close to the sun".

Henry Smolinski was killed during a test flight of the AVE Mizar, a flying car based on the Ford Pinto and the sole product of the company he founded.

Charles Ligeti died in 1987 when testing modifications to his Ligeti Stratos aircraft of novel closed wing design.

CHEMISTRY

Marie Curie was a Polish-French physicist and chemist who conducted pioneering research on radioactivity and is credited for discovering radioactive polonium. On 4 July 1934 she died from aplastic anaemia believed to have been contracted from her long-term exposure to radiation, some of which was from the devices she created.

INDUSTRIAL

William Bullock who invented the web rotary printing press died in 1867 several years after getting his foot, which developed gangrene, crushed during the installation of a new machine in Philadelphia. He died during the amputation.

Dr. Sabin Arnold von Sochocky an inventor of luminescent paint-used for clocks in early 20th century– and based on radioactive radium - died in 1928 from radium poisoning and aplastic anaemia.

MARITIME

Julius H. Kroehl was a German-American inventor and Union Navy contractor who died in 1867 of decompression sickness after experimental dives with the Sub Marine Explorer.

William Pitt a Canadian ferryman designed the underwater cable ferry as means of improving the ferry connection between the Kingston Peninsula and Kennebecasis Valley. He died in 1909, after sustaining injuries caused by falling into his ferries' machinery.

Henry Winstanley designed and built the world's first offshore lighthouse on Eddystone Rocks. Boast-

ing of its safety he decided to shelter in it during the great storm of 1703. The lighthouse was completely destroyed and Winstanley and five other men inside were never found

John Day an English carpenter and wheelwright who died in 1774 during a test of his experimental diving chamber.

MEDICAL

Alexander Bogdanov Bolshevik revolutionary and pioneer haematologist who founded the first Institute of Blood Transfusion in 1926. died in 1928 from acute hemolytic transfusion reaction after carrying out an experimental mutual blood transfusion between himself and a 21-year-old student with inactive tuberculosis.

Thomas Midgley Jr. (1889–1944) an American engineer and chemist who contracted polio at 51, leaving him severely disabled. He devised an elaborate system of ropes and pulleys to help others lift him from bed. He became entangled in the ropes and died of strangulation at the age of 55.

ENTERTAINMENT

Karel Soucek was a professional Czech stuntman who developed a shock-absorbent barrel. He died in 1985 following a demonstration where the barrel was dropped from the roof of the Houston Astrodome.

RAILWAY

Henri Thuile inventor of the large high-speed Thuile steam locomotive, died during a 1900 test run between Chartres and Orléans. He was either thrown from the derailing locomotive, hitting a telegraph pole, or leaned too far out and struck his head on a piece of bridge scaffolding.

Valerian Abakovsky constructed the Aerowagon, an experimental high-speed railcar fitted with an aircraft engine and propeller for tractions. On a trial on 24 July 1921, it derailed at high speed, killing Abakovsky.

ROCKETRY

Max Valier invented liquid-fuelled rocket engines. On 17 May 1930, an alcohol-fuelled engine exploded on his test bench in Berlin, killing him.

Mike Hughes was killed in 2020 when his parachute failed to deploy on a crash landing while piloting his homemade steam-powered rocket.

THE FOLDING CONUNDRUM

Can You Really Fold Paper 42 Times To Reach The Moon?

In short, yes. If it were possible to fold a massive piece of thin paper 42 times it would stretch all the way up to the moon. But the number of time varies with the thickness of the paper. Also one doubts the massive size of the piece of paper to start with which would be equal to 384,400,000,000,000 sheets of A4 paper. Folding forty two times doesn't sound like a lot of folds. But basically try folding a sheet of paper and it is near impossible to get to more than seven times then you have done well. So how the heck will it possibly reach the moon? That is where the power of exponential function comes in. What's exponential function, you ask? It's a mind bending mathematical theory based on the power of exponential function (repeated multiplication).

EXPONENTIAL FUNCTION

The exponential function originated from the notion of exponentiation and helps to explain how 42 folds of a paper can take you to the moon. While you cannot actually fold the paper the required number of times the principle is if you could stack up paper in the required format based on doubling the thickness of paper with each fold but after 34 folds the numbers stack up. On fold 40 one still has 96,100 kilometres to go but just one more and you reach the moon.

On the first fold in half, it becomes 150 mm long and 0.1 mm thick. The second fold takes it to 75 mm long and 0.2 mm thick. By the eighth fold you have a blob of paper 1.25 mm long, but 12.8 mm thick. It's now thicker than it is long, and, if you're trying to bend it, seems to have the structural integrity of steel.

BECOME MIND-BLOWING.

In fact, if one takes paper-folding to hypothetically great heights, the expanses we could cover become mind-blowing. For instance 30 folds will get you to space, because your paper will be now 100 km high. 42 folds will get you to the Moon. 81 folds and your paper will be 127,786 light-years, almost as thick as the Andromeda Galaxy. At 103 folds, you will get outside of the observable Universe, which is estimated at 93 billion light-years in diameter.

The calculation of 42 times depends on the thickness of the original piece of paper. The 42 times here is based on 0.08 centimetres thick piece of 60 grams per sq metre paper. Therefore the following doubling table using thicker paper would only require fewer folds to reach the moon.

You have landed.

Kilometres

Fold 42-384,400

Half way there

Fold 41-192,200

Fold 40-96,100

Fold 39-48,050

Fold 38-24,025

Fold 37-12,012

Fold 36-6,006

Fold 35-3,003

Fold 34-1,501

Fold 33-75,781

Fold 32-37,390

Fold 31-18,695

Fold 30-9,847

Fold 29-4,673

Fold 28-2,336

Fold 27-1,168

metres

Fold 26- 584

Fold 25 -292

Fold 24-146

Fold 23-73

Fold 22-36

Fold 21-18.25

Fold 20-9.12

Fold 19-4.56

Fold 18-2.18

Fold 17-1.14

Fold 16-0.57

Fold 15-0.28

Fold 14-0.14

Fold 13-71

Fold 12-35.5

Fold 11-17.75

Fold 10-8.87

millimetres

Fold 9-4.43

Fold 8-2.21

Fold 7-1.01

Fold 6-0.55

Fold 5-0.27

Fold 4-0.13

Fold 3-0.065

Fold 2-0.032

Fold 1-0.016

Paper thickness 0.08

60 gram per square metre

After 20, 30, and 40 folds, the paper becomes over a million, a billion, and then a trillion times thicker than the original. By time one gets to 20 folds, it is more than 10 kilometres high/thick, which surpasses Mt. Everest. If you keep going, you would be in outer space after 24 folds, you could catch the Hubble Space telescope after 28, and after 41 folds, you'd finally be closer to the Moon than the Earth.

RECORD BREAKERS

A group of students put the theory to the test, and used a 13,000 foot-long roll of toilet paper. Smart right? It's nice and thin, so you'd think it could fold easily. They managed to achieve an incredible 13 folds, which made a world record, but If they'd been able to fold it 29 times more, they could have made it to the moon!

In 2002, Britney Gallivan, then a junior in high school in Pomona, California, folded a single piece of paper in half 12 times. She currently holds the Guinness World Record for the most times to fold a sheet of paper in half. Mt Everest is just over 8.8km tall which equals folded 20 times

Many people have played with the concept. Once a piece of paper is folded a third time, it's eight sheets thick. So, if you fold it a fourth time, it will be 16 pages thick. A fifth fold will double the number of sheets. On the seventh fold you would have 128 sheets of paper between your fingers, on the twelfth, you would have 4,096 sheets and so on.

IMPOSSIBLE TO CREASE

It becomes so thick that you can't create a crease, and of course a crumpled ball of paper doesn't count... nor will it ever reach the moon.

When it comes to folding regular paper, it's hard to tell the true limits with just your hands. Because of this, some people attempted to fold a piece of paper more than seven times with a hydraulic press. To be honest, the result is really strange.



THREE TRADITIONAL MILITARY HATS

THE TRICORNE



The origin of the tricorn hat originated in Spain as a consequence of the 1668 War of Devolution when soldiers, wearing broad-rimmed hats. Because the wide floppy brim of their hats interfered with cocking their muskets they pledged or pinned the front and then sides up.

ROYAL PATRONAGE

Pinning the sides up was favoured by Spanish soldiers, as when standing at arms it allowed them to carry their muskets on either their right or left shoulder without hitting the brim of their hat. During subsequent confrontations its military use, with the sides pinned up, spread in the French armies. This was copied by the French population and eventually the royal court of King Louis XIV, who made it fashionable throughout Europe for both civilian and military wear, remaining the predominant European styles of hat during the 18th century.

Tricornes ranged from the cheap to extravagant, often incorporating gold or silver lace trimming and feathers. Military and naval versions usually bore a cockade of a knot of ribbons, or other symbols at the side. This style of hat remains for military ceremonial dress and naval uniform.

PEPYS £1,000 TRICORN!

At the turn of the 19th century, as the fashionable hat for civilian men, the tricorn was overtaken by the top hat and for enlisted soldiers, the tricorn was replaced by the shako which had become the new dominant style of military headgear. It evolved into the bicorne, widely used by military officers not fading out of style until World War II.

In the 1600's Samuel Pepys tricorn blew into a puddle. A new one cost him £4.10s (£1,129 in 2024) Some tricorn!!

THE SHAKO



Madeley, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

There were several design of the Shako. Its original design is based on the style of hat worn by the Hungarian Hussar. From 1801-1806 it was initially made of leather but in 1806, it was made of felt to make it lighter to wear. The cylindrical shape was important in the fog of gunpowder smoke making it easier to detect the enemy.

THE ALBERT SHAKO

The English shako was known as the Albert shako worn in the British Army between 1844 and 1855. A development of the original hat proposed by Prince Albert in 1843 as a replacement for the bell—top shako.

In 1843 the Duke of Wellington, Commander-in-Chief of the British Army, altered Alberts design by reducing the all round brim to a front and rear only with a star for line infantry regiments, and various designs for other units.

LOCK AND COMPANY

The public response to the proposed bell shako was generally negative, it being considered similar to the caps worn by Hessians and other German soldiers. A chin strap was added and the height was similar to that of the stovepipe shako, in use in the British Army from around 1800.

The final design was similar to the shako then worn by the Austrian army. Prototype examples of the new shako were produced by Lock and Company of St James's Street (the company is still in business in the same premises) by the end of the year. The officers' shako was made of black beaver on a felt base.

The other ranks' shako was heavier being made of napped felt with adornments of brass rather than gilt.

THE BEARSKIN



IbeX73, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

The earliest record of a bearskin-like cap being worn by soldiers in Europe was during the mid-17th century. But its widespread use did not take place until French grenadiers began to wear tall fur caps resembling the Prussian mitre cap in 1761. Its use was to add height and present a more impressive appearance of troops on parade and the battlefield. British Grenadier Guards adopted the headdress after the Battle of Waterloo in 1815, with other British and European militaries adopting the headdress in the years after.

USED UNTIL 1902

The headdress saw military service until the mid 19th century, when cost of acquiring and difficulty maintaining them in good condition led to some military units only using them for specific occasions. The British continued using them until 1902. Prior to the outbreak of World War I bearskins were worn by British, Belgian, Danish, German, American, Kenyan, Russian, Swedish forces.

WORN IN 14 COUNTRIES

In 2020, there were 14 countries whose militaries used bearskin as a part of their ceremonial uniforms. Some wear bearskins made out of real bear fur, while other units use caps made out of synthetic fibres. In addition to military units, several civilian marching bands have also incorporated the bearskin as a part of their uniforms. Some bearskins also feature cockades and other insignia.

BEARS NOT HUNTED

In 1997, due to opposition to using real bear fur Defence Procurement Minister Lord Gilbert said he wanted to phase out real bearskins as soon as possible due to ethical concerns. The MoD, states bears are not hunted but the pelts are a product of legal and licensed hunting authorised in Canada by provincial and territorial governments.

GRINLING GIBBONS THE PEA POD CARVER

Widely regarded as the finest wood carver working in England very little is known about his early life except that he was an Anglo-Dutch sculptor and wood carver Gibbons born in Rotterdam, where he was educated, to English parents. In 1667, one year after the Great Fire of London and two years after the outbreak of the plague. The son of an English draper who had been admitted to the freedom of the Drapers' Company in London in 1638, and Elizabeth (née Grinling – hence her son's unusual first name) the daughter of an English tobacco merchant living in Rotterdam. It is thought that Gibbons was either apprenticed to Artus Quellinus the Elder who had a workshop in Amsterdam or to his cousin, Artus Quellinus the Younger in Antwerp. Grinling certainly had a close connection with the Antwerp cousin, as his son, also Artus worked with Gibbons in England from 1680 until his death in 1686.

DISCOVERED BY CHANCE

When 19-years old Grinling Gibbons, left the Netherlands to continue his career as a journeyman craftsman in England. It is thought that his father may have worked with Inigo Jones. It is said that the diarist Evelyn discovered Gibbons' talent by chance



Richard Croft, creative commons

Detail of the overmantel carving by Grinling Gibbons at Belton House

Grinling Gibbons was a carver of wood and stone mason extraordinaire who is reputed to have perfected his own trade mark and financial receipt on his work. A closed pea pod carved into the wood but when he had been paid the peas.



The open pea pod carved on the choir stalls in the Royal Hospital Chelsea

in 1671. Evelyn, from whom Gibbons rented a cottage near Sayes Court, Deptford wrote the following: "I saw the young man at his carving, by the light of a candle. I saw him to be engaged on a carved representation of Tintoretto's "Crucifixion", which he had in a frame of his own making."

MASTER & KINGS CARVER

Later he described what he had seen to Sir Christopher Wren and they were so taken with his work introduced him to King Charles II. By 1693 he had accepted commissions from the royal family and been appointed as a master carver. William III commissioned Gibbons to redecorate his State Apartments. He was so impressed by the result that in 1693 he gave Gibbons permission to use the title "Master Carver". and became known as the "King's Carver". This was important in those days as a craftsman needed to be recognised and promoted by patrons to make his work widely known.

SYMPATHETIC CARVING

His carvings are filled with symbolism apparent to educated observers of the day. Very often each object in the carving would have a particular meaning or reference to a classical Greek or Roman ideal or story. Some of his best work outside Hampton Court, survives at Petworth House in Sussex, in particular a ceiling he designed for the Duke of Devonshire, and at Lyme Park and Dunham Massey in Cheshire, Belton House in Lincolnshire and Sudbury Hall in Derbyshire.



John Smith, CC0, via Wikimedia Commons

Other examples of his work can be seen at Windsor, and St Paul's. His work had an enormous influence on interior design and decor in the Golden Age of the English country house. Later craftsmen such as Thomas Chippendale were influenced by his work.

WORK IN STONE & METAL

He also produced furniture and figurative relief plaques as well as working in stone and metal mostly for churches. He eventually led a large workshop, He died at his home in Bow Street on 3 August 1721 and is buried in St Paul's, Covent Garden, in an unmarked grave where his wife, Elizabeth, had been interred in 1719. He died intestate and his goods, including carvings etc were sold on 15 November 1722.

A gilded bronze statue by Grinling Gibbons of King Charles II at the Royal Hospital Chelsea.



Matt Brown, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons

CHILIANWALLA MEMORIAL — BREAKING TRADITION

Standing proudly in the south grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea is an impressive military memorial commemorating members of the 24th Regiment of the Foot killed at the 1849 Battle of Chillianwalla to which officers of the regiment contributed £600 (£62,700 in 2024) towards its erection. The memorial broke the established world tradition that only officers names plus the number of other ranks were include on a memorial.. The Chilianwalla memorial contains the names of 255 officers and other ranks who were killed.

R. O. P. Y.

EXTRACTS FROM SPECIAL BOARD PAPERS - January to June 1852.

CHILIANWALLAH MONUMENT.

Special Board - 1st November 1851.

My dear Sir Andrew,

I saw Lord Seymour the other day upon the subject of the Pillar the 24th Regt are anxious to raise to the memory of their Comrades who fell at Chillianwallah and mentioned to him that I had spoken to you on the subject of its being erected at Chelsea Hospital - Nothing could be more kind than he was about it, and said he would make no objection but would be glad to have a letter from the Military Authorities there stating that they had no objection to it - I am quite sorry to give you the trouble of writing at all, but if you would kindly write half a dozen lines to that effect it would indeed be most kind of you. Nothing can exceed the kind interest Mr Cookerell has taken in this matter - He has made a small Model of the Pillar which I have not yet seen but from what I know he intended it to be approved by all who see it and I am sure he will take an early opportunity of showing it to you

Believe me Dear Sir Andrew
Very truly yours,
(sd) J. Sidney North.

Isleworth,
Bury St Edmunds
7th Octr 1851.

15, Arlington Street,
Piccadilly,
27th Octr 1851.

My Lord,

As Chief Commissioner of the Chelsea Board I take the liberty of addressing you on the following subject:-

The Officers of the 24th Regt have subscribed the sum of £600 to erect a Monument to the memory of 300 of their Comrades who fell in the Battle of Chillianwallah - The selection of a Monument is left to a Committee with the understanding that the name of every officer N.C. Officer and Soldier who fell on that occasion should be inscribed upon it. It is also considered that no Site can be more appropriate for it than Chelsea Hospital.

On consulting Mr Cookerell R.A. he recommended that the Monument should be an Obelisk of Granite and suggested that the magnificent Granite Pillar which was exhibited and has gained a Prize at the Great Exhibition should be purchased and used as the Shaft of it and that the 300 names should be placed on 3 sides of it and upon the 4th any inscription which may hereafter be decided upon - He also was so good as to make a Model of what the Obelisk will be when finished and which I have left with Sir A. Bernardin order that it may be laid before your Lordship, and the other Commissioners.

The height of it will be 37 f 6 in and I trust the Commissioners will think it worthy of occupying a place in Chelsea Hospital where it will be seen not only by the Survivors of the 24th Regt who fought in that Battle, but by all the inmates of the Hospital who cannot but feel gratified that the names of those who fell, no matter how inferior in Rank, are thus honorably recorded.

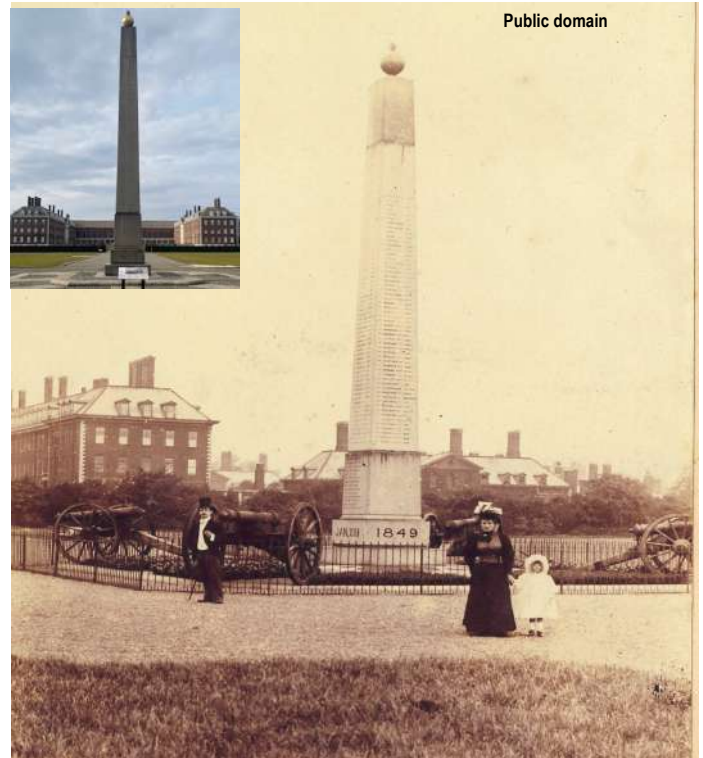
I think it right to acquaint your Lordship and the other Commissioners that I waited upon Lord Seymour and mentioned the subject to him and he was so good as to say that no opposition should be made on his part but that he was desirous to receive a communication from the Commissioners of Chelsea Hospital stating that no objection existed on their part to the Monument being placed there - I therefore trust that the anxious wish of the Officers of the 24th Regt may be favorably considered and supported by your Lordship and the other Commissioners -

It is perhaps right that I should state that the Committee, with the exception of myself, is composed of Officers who served for many years in the 24th Regt, but being at present all absent in the performance of their Military Duties it has devolved upon me to make this application to your Lordship -

I have the Honor to be,
My Lord,
Your obt Servant,
(sd) J. Sidney North

The Right Honble
Earl Granville.

Above a copy of a letter in 1852 discussing location of the memorial regarding the Battle of Chilianwalla between the forces of the Sikh Khalsa army and the British East India Company in the grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea. It was erected in 1853 by the British Army. It is interesting to note that the granite obelisk was previously a granite pillar that had gained a prize at the 1851 Great Exhibition. Thanks to Tina Kilnan Heritage Manager at the Royal Hospital for permission to publish the letter and photograph



The monochrome picture was taken about 1860 the coloured insert picture was taken 2024 with the obelisk re-sited to the centre of the Southern Grounds of the Royal Hospital.

TWO OTHER CHILIANWALLA MEMORIALS



The British, in memory of the victory and to honour the fallen soldiers, erected this obelisk at the battle field just outside Chillianwala village located in Mandi Bahauddin district.



The 70 ft high sandstone-cross was installed in 1871 by the Viceroy and Govern-or General of India. It is inscribed in English, Urdu Persian and Gurmukhi,

THREE OF THE WORLD'S MOST ARTISTIC UNDERGROUND STATIONS

London Underground was the World's first. Opened in 1863 it was electrified

in 1890. The Beijing 507 mile subway is the world's longest while the Shanghai Metro with 2.83 billion annual trips is the most passengers. The New York City Subway has the greatest number of stations with 472. China has the

most metro systems with 46 in operation. The shortest is Armenia with 7.5 miles. Two hundred cities in 62 countries have a metro system. Twenty four countries are planning and 4 countries under construction .

FORMOSA'S DOME OF LIGHT STATION

The Dome of Light is the largest glass work in the worlds designed by Italian artist Narcissus Quagliata. It is 30 metres in diameter covers 2,180 square metres and is made up of 4,500 glass panels and took over 4 and a half years. Opened in 2008 it is made of glass, coloured paint and lights and represents the story of human life in four different themes: Water: The Womb of Life Earth: Prosperity and Growth; Light: The Creative Spirit; and Fire: Destruction and Rebirth, with a message of love and tolerance and commemoration of heroes.



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STOCKHOLM T CENTRALEN STATION

Started in 1966 and taking 9 years to build the station cost 1.4 billion kr (£1,394,912,662 in 2024) in 1970.

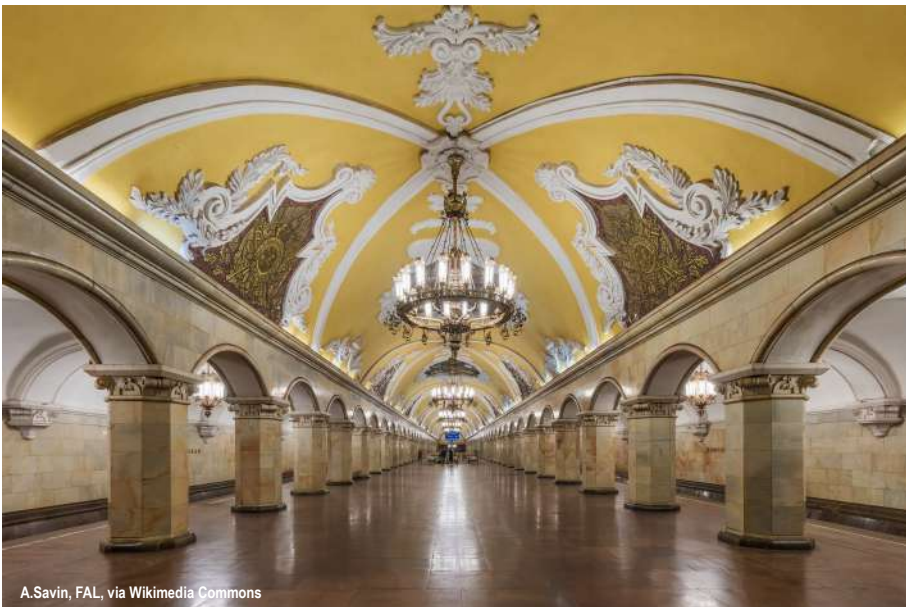
It was the first station to feature artwork making it one of the public transport system's most recognisable places. Painting a subway platform almost entirely blue might seem over the top. But artist Per Olof Ultvedt chose blue shades based on their aesthetic values and relaxing effect. It creates a calming atmosphere where people are in a hurry, changing trains. Together with the simple motifs – stylised flowers and leaf creepers it gives passengers chance to pause and a chance to clear their mind".



Tony Webster from Portland, Oregon, United States, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Common

KOMSOMOLSKAYA STATION MOSCOW

This station brings back memories of the time I worked in Moscow on the late 1970's behind the Iron Curtain. The architecture of this and all stations are propaganda for the socialism with hammer and sickle symbols and statues of socialist figures. Opened in 1952 the theme of this design is their historic fight for freedom and independence, expressed by eight ceiling mosaics by Pavel Korin inspired by Stalin's speech at the Moscow Parade of 1941. Supporting the barrel vault ceiling are 68 white marble faced octagonal columns topped with baroque pilasters. The platform is lit by chandeliers and concealed lighting.



A.Savin, FAL, via Wikimedia Commons

DID YOU KNOW

PEOPLE

11% of people are left handed.
August has the highest percentage of births.
The average person falls asleep in 7 minutes.
8 per cent of people have an extra rib
The smallest bones in the human body are found in your ear.
Switzerland eats the most chocolate equating to 10 kilos per person per year.
About 90% of the worlds population kisses.
Twenty-five percent of your bones are in your feet.
Your tongue is the fastest healing part of your body.
You share your birthday with 9 million other people.
A one minute kiss burns 26 calories.
You burn more calories sleeping than watching TV.
The average person will spend 25 years asleep.
The most common mental illnesses are anxiety and depression.
Your skin is the largest organ making up the human body.
The most commonly forgotten item for travellers is their toothbrush.
The hyoid bone in your throat is the only bone in your body not attached to any other bone.
Monopoly is the most played board game in the world.
Women blink twice as much as men.
Scotland has the most redheads.
The average person takes over 23,000 breaths everyday.
The opposite sides of a die always adds up to 7.
More people are allergic to cows milk than any other food.
Wearing headphones for just an hour will increase the bacteria in your ear by 700 times.
Eighty per cent of burglaries are committed by people aged 13-21 and half of all crimes are committed by people under the age of 18.
New born babies have 350 bones. By the age of 5 the amount of bones merges to 206.
More people are killed by bees than by snakes.
You use 72 different muscles when speaking.
Men have 10 per cent more red blood cells than woman
Over a 4 week period you shed a complete layer of skin.
The average person will consume 100 tons of food and 12,000 gallons of water in their lifetime.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Toilets use 35 per cent of indoor water use.
The Amazon rainforest produces half the world's oxygen supply.
Brazil covers 50 per cent of the South American continent.
If you filled a matchbox with gold it could be flattened into a sheet the size of a tennis court.
Rice is the staple food for 50% of the worlds population.
Bali has the worlds largest variety of flora.
A piece of paper cannot be folded in half more than 7 times.
Buckingham Palace has over 600 rooms.
Americans throw away 44 million newspapers a day.
More people die from falling coconuts then from shark attacks.
There is 200 times more gold in the world's oceans than has been mined.
The cheetah is the only cat that can't retract it's claws.
Each year one ton of cement is poured for each man, woman, and child.
The USA shreds 7,000 tons of worn out currency each year.
Artificial Christmas trees have outsold real ones every year since 1991.
Seventy per cent of all Irish barley grown goes towards the production of Guinness beer.
Thirty two percent of all land in the USA is owned by the government
The weight of the Earth is a staggering 6,588,000,000,000,000,000 tons
Ice skating rinks always go counter clock wise as the majority of people that are right handed needing to hang onto the rail.
The Atlantic Ocean is saltier than the Pacific Ocean.
Carrots do not contain any fat while a banana contains 75 per cent water and cucumbers are 96 per cent water.
One billion snails are served in restaurants each year.
In developed countries 27 per cent of food is thrown away.
Enough water flows over Niagara Falls every second to fill 4,000 bathtubs.

LANGUAGE

The Hawaiian alphabet has 13 letters.
The most commonly used letter in the alphabet is E.
The three most common languages in the world are Mandarin Chinese, Spanish and English.
There are only 4 words in the English language which end in 'dous' (they are: hazardous, horrendous, stupendous and tremendous).
'Bookkeeper' and 'bookkeeping' are the only 2 words in the English language with three consecutive double letters.
The word 'underground' is the only word that begins and ends with the letters 'und'.

ANIMALS

Cats spend 66% of their life asleep.
Honey is the only natural food which never spoils.
Koalas sleep around 18 hours a day
Elephants are the only mammal that can't jump.
Hummingbirds are the only bird that can fly backwards.
Hummingbird's heart beats at over a 1,000 times a minute.
Dragonflies have 6 legs but can't walk.
Hippopotamuses have killed more people in Africa than any other animal.
Giraffes and rats can last longer without water than camels.
An egg contains every vitamin except vitamin C.
There are twice as many chickens in the world than people.
For every human there are 200. million insects with the average bed contains over 6 billion dust mites.
New Zealand with a population of 4 million people has 70 million sheep that is 17.5 sheep each.
The average hen lays 228 eggs a year
It is estimated that there are a million ants for every person on Earth.
A moth has no stomach.
Most birds eat twice their body weight each day.
The bones of a pigeon weigh less than the total weight of its feathers.
Giraffes have the highest blood pressure of any animal.
The shell of an egg is 12% of its weight
The average American eats 263 eggs a year.
The odds of being stuck by lighting is 280,000 to 1.
A flea jump is 350 times its body length
India has over 50 million monkeys.
You are more likely to get stung by a bee on a windy day than any other.
A chameleons tongue is twice the length of its body.

PLANT LIFE

Lemons contain more sugar than strawberries.
Eighty five per cent of plant life is found in the ocean.
You burn more calories eating celery than it contains (the more you eat the thinner you become).
Avocados have the most calories of any other fruit.

THE WORLD

The only continent with no active volcanoes is Australia.
Lightning strikes the Earth 6,000 times every minute.
India has the most post offices than any other country (over 100,000).
Peru has more pyramids than Egypt
The Eifel Tower has 2,500,000 rivets and 1792 steps
China manufacturers 70 per cent of the worlds toys
Iceland consumes more Coca Cola than any other country