

ABOUT INTLANG (Gloria ZHANG, MD)

Intlang Consulting Group offers cross cultural marketing and business solutions to Australian businesses, helps them identify new opportunities in overseas markets, breaks down cultural barriers, creating optimised investment or joint venture operations, ultimately bringing different values, strength and business practice together.



The Multicultural ANZAC

When I migrated to Australia 20 years ago, an Aussie friend invited me to attend the “Dawn Service”. He said every Australian should attend the service each year and at least once in a lifetime visit Gallipoli. At the time it only reminded me of the “Dawn of a new era with changing of the guard for Beijing’s sunrise flag-raising service” we attended as a child in China. Over the years, my connection to ANZAC history has grown deeper.

History has a way of showing us:

An estimated 30 per cent of ANZAC soldiers were born overseas. The majority were British-born, while others were from China, South East Asia, Germany and France. There were an unknown number of people from China or with Chinese ancestry who served as soldiers in the First World War. The White Australian Policy had made their enlistment very difficult, but eventually they found their way to serve the country as much as anyone else. “If Australia’s good enough to live in, it’s good enough to fight for”.

- Billy Sing whose father migrated from Shanghai was the most outstanding sniper of Gallipoli;
- Charlie Shang, found his mark in the AIF as a runner, a message runner, a very brave signaller, and as a sniper on the Western Front.
- Victorian man Benjamin Moy Ling tried to enlist twice, before he was finally accepted in 1917 at the age of 31.
- Kevin Hughes only learned of his Chinese heritage over the past few years and has discovered he had three Chinese-Australian great-uncles (Tom, David and John) who fought on the Western Front in France.

Interestingly, first generation Chinese are trying hard to keep our next generation from not forgetting their heritage and Chinese language skills. Given the opportunity, we would like our Children to demonstrate their patriotic heart as these ancestors did (23 April 2018).



Sources: <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/a-look-at-the-multicultural-anzacs>

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-04-23/chinese-anzacs-not-white-enough-to-fight/6313928>

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