

So Many Secrets: Supplement Two

One time in London about 1950, when I was emerging from the Knightsbridge tube station entrance; there was a man sitting in a wheelchair without legs from the thighs down, playing a ukulele and looking for donations in his army hat placed on the ground in front of him. I gave him some money and said how sorry I was to see his condition and asked if it had happened during the war? He replied, “Yes, you see I was involved in the Battle of Anzio beachhead in Italy about 60 miles south of Rome” and, he continued: “When they carried me across the beach to the waiting hospital ship, I saw on the shore, piles of soldier corpses twelve high: so, you see, I was one of the lucky ones, because I am alive, can play my ukulele and entertain people.”

Note: Out of 50,000 Allied soldiers who attacked at Anzio during the first few days, about 7000 were killed and 25,000 wounded. This was probably another of Winston Churchill’s heavy handed diversionary attack strategies that usually resulted in exceptional casualties.