

O) War? What War?

Doctor Ball divided the war into two day periods. There was absolutely no psychological reason why people are only affected for two days, or four, after a battle or bombing. Why not one week? Or two weeks after witnessing a battle? In the news we often hear of US soldiers suffering severe PTS years after the fighting but Doctor Ball's analysis talks of a princely four days effect.

He didn't provide any evidence that ethnic Albanians or indeed anyone has a four day cut off memory. Doctor Ball admitted that he couldn't find any "documentation or literature from psychiatry or psychology (as a) base for such calculations." He chose the four day (two two-day intervals) time frame "because that seemed to us a reasonable period of time for people to react to a specific event".



A shell shocked Allied soldier in WW1. Ethnic Albanians are only affected by war for at most four days. By day five, the bombing and vicious battles are but a distant, "dissipated" memory.

P) Early Arrivals

Many refugees made it out of Kosovo from the 20th and the 21st of March. Dr Ball didn't include them into the research for the simple reason that the border guards didn't count them and HRW etc weren't well organised either. Verifiers noted no Yugoslav activity around the time so what caused the refugees to flee Kosovo? The fact that there were many refugees before any bombing simply confirms the power of fear. Perhaps they left because of the fear that their village could become a NATO target,

just as the defence claimed.

Q) Houston We Have A Problem

Dr Fruits noted that a very serious statistical error was made, and it's called "omitted variable error". There was absolutely no research done on Yugoslav Government activity. "These three hypothesised causes are KLA activity, NATO air-strikes, or a systematic campaign conducted by Yugoslav forces. Because of available data, we're only able to consider directly the first two." testified Doctor Ball.

By not calculating the third variable Doctor Ball essentially makes this whole exercise worthless.

"Without any sort of reliable data on Serb and Yugoslav forces' activities, one cannot draw any statistically reliable conclusions about those activities and whether or not they affected deaths and migration. (Omitted variable error) generates biases, not just in the data that's missing, but it also causes your estimates of the impacts of the KLA and the NATO activities to also be unreliable; in other words, they may not reflect reality. If you exclude the relevant explanatory variable, you've committed what's known as an omitted variable bias."

R) Reported Missing. Yugoslav Activity. Reward if Found

So why had Doctor Ball not bothered with an analysis of Yugoslav action and so made all this effort a grand waste of everybody's time? Well, he'd claimed that there was simply no data to find.

However, he'd previously admitted that "We were unable, however, to obtain data on Yugoslav Army activity independent of interactions with the KLA" which is not quite the same thing at all and also very telling. The OTP and Dr Ball could find no Yugoslav Army activity that was independent of KLA activity.

In essence, KLA activity was almost always alongside Yugoslav activity. Ethnic Albanians are killed during these firefights and the ethnic Albanian refugees leave during these clashes.

Defence Counsel: "And given the dynamic that we've been talking about, isn't it fair to conclude that the most that can be said is that ethnic Albanians fled the area where combat was occurring between the army or between Serb forces and the KLA? Do you accept

it as one reasonable alternative?"

Doctor Ball: "Not necessarily. I think we would need a lot more information about Yugoslav force activity before such a thing could be said."

Defence Counsel: "Which you never looked into"

Now if there had indeed been Yugoslav Army activity independent of the KLA, then the ICTY with their vast budget would surely have found it and passed it onto Doctor Ball and his team. The fact that he got no such data suggests very strongly that the ICTY simply couldn't find any evidence.

In addition, Doctor Ball agreed that if both forces - KLA and Yugoslav - were of comparative sizes then this was indeed a valid alternative - "If the two forces were in some way similar in size, then the proposition just made might be reasonable", but he said the KLA was far smaller than their opposing forces.

This is certainly not true.

By the Spring of 1999 the KLA had introduced a full mobilisation of their forces, and they could deploy about 20,000 combat soldiers. In addition, they'd been armed with mortars, anti tank missiles, howitzers, the latest sniper rifles and perhaps just as importantly had "established a cohesive fighting force and fighting command". The two forces were indeed comparative in size.

S) Bar Brawl = Battle Of The Bulge

When analysing KLA actions, he made no differentiation between a single round being fired at a Yugoslav checkpoint and a full bloodied assault involving many 100's of KLA terrorists. As Dr Fruits pointed out "There was absolutely no weighting given to the seriousness of KLA activity. This is extremely unrealistic research and a World away from reality."



A US Main Battle Tank and a man with an old musket, a floppy hat and a pair of plus fours.

Dr. Ball's analysis would give both the same weighting. Realistic?

T) B 52 = Bi-Plane

This exact same error was made with regards to NATO bombing raids. All NATO strikes were also regarded as being equally important regardless of payload, type of ordnance, etc. Yet again, Doctor Ball and his colleagues didn't think that any kind of even rudimentary weighting was necessary.



Being carpet bombed by a B 52 bomber and being strafed by a bi-plane would be given the same weighting. Realistic?

A good analogy is a farmer wants to know how rainfall affects crop yields but makes no distinction between a day which had a very light five minute drizzle and a day that was engulfed by Hurricane Katrina. He just notes that both days had rainfall and so give both days a tick under the "did it rain?" column.