

Christmas In The Trenches

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Explore the poignant history of Christmas in the trenches during World War One. Discover the remarkable Christmas Truce of 1914, where enemy soldiers briefly laid down arms to share moments of peace amidst brutal trench warfare. This powerful narrative highlights shared humanity and the enduring spirit of Christmas even in the darkest of times.

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Christmas in the Trenches

The outbreak of war in 1914 was greeted with euphoria by many in Europe, and it was widely believed that the conflict would be 'over by Christmas'. In the event, millions of men were destined to spend the first of four seasons away from their families and loved ones. Amid the shortages, tedium and dangers of life in the trenches, those at 'the sharp end' remained determined to celebrate Christmas as a time of comradeship and community, a time when war could be set aside, if only for a day. Unlike the famous Christmas truce of 1914, the Christmas experiences in other years of the war and on other fronts have received scant attention. Alan Wakefield has trawled the archives of the Imperial War Museum, National Archives and National Army Museum to provide a fascinating selection of first-hand accounts of the six wartime Christmases of the First World War.

Christmas in the Trenches

This moving book about peace, understanding, and unity is based on the real-life World War I event known as the Christmas Truce. It is cold and clear on Christmas Eve night in 1914. Suddenly, a strange sound pierces the darkness. Someone is singing a Christmas carol in German. Francis Tolliver and his fellow British soldiers are holed up in muddy trenches along the Western Front. Their enemies—German soldiers—lie in wait just across a field known as "No Man's Land." As the Germans' carol ends, Tolliver and the other British soldiers sing "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen." Soon carols are being sung back and forth. Then a figure emerges in the dark, carrying a small Christmas tree with lighted candles. The British and German soldiers slowly leave their trenches—and the war—behind to stand together in the open field. This haunting story is adapted by award-winning songwriter John McCutcheon from his song of the same name. Henri Sørensen's traditional, full-color oil paintings reinforce the emotional power and dignity of the story. Back matter provides more information about the historical event, and a CD featuring readings of the story and recordings of "Silent Night" and "Christmas in the Trenches" is included.

The Christmas Truce

Front cover -- Copyright -- Contents -- List of Illustrations -- Foreword -- 1 "A Candle Lit in the Darkness" -- 2 "Absolute Hell" -- 3 "A Great Day with Our Enemies" -- 4 "No War Today" -- 5 "One Day of Peace at the Front" -- 6 "That Unique and Weird Christmas" -- 7 The Curious Christmas Truce" -- 8 "The Famous Christmas Truce" -- 9 "The Legendary Christmas Truce" -- 10 "Memories of Christmas 1914 Persist" -- 11 "It Was Peace That Won" -- Acknowledgments -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Permissions -- Index.

Christmas Truce

'Just you think,' wrote one soldier to his family, 'that while you were eating your turkey I was out talking with the very men I had been trying to kill a few hours before!' Christmas, 1914. The first winter of the First World War. In a conflict infamous for its horror and brutality, enemy shook hands with enemy. Soldiers shared rations, exchanged souvenirs, and even played football on a frost-covered No Man's Land. This Christmas truce was not just a brief interlude in one place. The ceasefire between the trenches extended over at least two-thirds of the British line and there were similar ceasefires in the French and Belgian sectors of the Western Front. In some areas the peaceable mood lingered well into 1915. But behind the festive cheer and acceptance of shared experience, the inevitable renewal of hostilities loomed large. Malcolm Brown and Shirley Seaton have combed war diaries, talked to participants and consulted a wide range of contemporary letters, diaries and newspapers to produce this unique account.

Christmas in the Trenches, 1914

December 1914. As families across Europe gather to celebrate Christmas, a generation of young men find themselves far away from their loved ones in the trenches of the Western Front. There they face a world seemingly devoid of any peace or goodwill. But on Christmas Eve 1914, as the men of the Warwickshire Regiment shelter in their trenches, something astonishing happens. Across no-man's land they hear music. The German soldiers are singing Christmas carols; the same carols their families are listening to, hundreds of miles away in Birmingham, Warwick and Stratford-upon-Avon. Leaving their trenches, carrying only their courage and their humanity, they go to meet their enemies; not to fight, but talk, to exchange gifts, to celebrate Christmas. And the next day, together, they play an unforgettable game of football.

Christmas in the Trenches

Describes the spontaneous celebration that occurred in the trenches on Christmas Eve in 1914 during World War I, when participants on both sides briefly put aside their differences to exchange gifts, share food, and enjoy a brief moment of peace.

The Christmas Truce

- Includes revealing first-person accounts of how the truce unfolded and the amazing interaction between enemies
- An exhaustive work of comprehensive research and study in various files and paperwork
- Beautifully illustrated with many rare and unpublished photographs
- A must-have for military historians, enthusiasts, academics, students, scholars and those interested in the First World War

The Christmas Truce of 1914 remains a moment of enduring fascination more than a century after the day the First World War guns fell silent. Now for the first time, hundreds of first-person accounts of this most extraordinary period of history have been gathered together telling the story in their own words of the soldiers who met in peace in No Man's Land. The stories of men from English, Irish, Scottish and Welsh regiments who played and joked, sang and danced, swapped gifts and shared food and drink with the enemy before returning to war on the Western Front. Christmas Truce by the Men Who Took Part: Letters from the 1914 Ceasefire on the Western Front is the largest collection ever drawn together of letters sent home by the officers and soldiers who laid down their guns and shook hands with their foes. The eye-opening accounts of the unofficial armistice between German and British forces capture the trepidation and exhilaration, the curiosity, anger, joy and despair of that first Christmas on the unforgiving battlegrounds of the Great War.

Silent Night

'One of them shouted "A Merry Christmas English. We're not shooting tonight." . . . [then] they stuck up a light. Not to be outdone, so did we. Then up went another. So, we shoved up another. Soon the lines looked like an illuminated fete.' Rifleman Leslie Walkington On Christmas Eve 1914, a group of German

soldiers laid down their arms, lit lanterns and started to sing Christmas carols. The British troops in nearby trenches responded by singing songs of their own. The next day, men from both sides met in No Man's Land. They shook hands, took photos and exchanged food and souvenirs. Some even played improvised football games, kicking around empty bully-beef cans and using helmets for goalposts. Both sides also saw the lull in fighting as a chance to bury the bodies of their comrades. In some parts of the front, the truce lasted a few hours. In others, it continued to the New Year. But everywhere, sooner or later, the fighting resumed. Today, the Christmas Truce is seen as a poignant symbol of hope in a war that many people regard as unnecessary and futile. But what was the real story of those remarkable few days? In this fascinating new book, historian Anthony Richards has brought together hundreds of first-hand reminiscences from those who were there - including previously unpublished German accounts - to cast fresh light on this extraordinary episode.

Christmas Truce by the Men Who Took Part

SILENT NIGHT brings to life one of the most unlikely and touching events in the annals of war. In the early months of WWI, on Christmas Eve, men on both sides left their trenches, laid down their arms, and joined in a spontaneous celebration with their new friends, the enemy. For a brief, blissful time, remembered since in song and story, a world war stopped. Even the participants found what they were doing incredible. Germans placed candle-lit Christmas trees on trench parapets and warring soldiers sang carols. In the spirit of the season they ventured out beyond their barbed wire to meet in No Man's Land, where they buried the dead in moving ceremonies, exchanged gifts, ate and drank together, and joyously played football, often with improvised balls. The truce spread as men defied orders and fired harmlessly into the air. But, reluctantly, they were forced to re-start history's most bloody war. SILENT NIGHT vividly recovers a dreamlike event, one of the most extraordinary of Christmas stories.

The True Story of the Christmas Truce

The spirit of Christmas was strong between the soldiers fighting in 1914. They voluntarily stopped fighting to celebrate Christmas. They shared a good laugh and a cigarette or two, too! How we wish that agreement lasted until war was resolved! Are you interested to find out more about The Unofficial Christmas Truce of 1914? Then read this book today!

Silent Night

Shooting at the Stars is the moving story of a young British soldier on the front lines during World War I who experiences an unforgettable Christmas Eve. In a letter to his mother, he describes how, despite fierce fighting earlier from both sides, Allied and German soldiers ceased firing that evening and came together on the battlefield to celebrate the holiday. They sang carols, exchanged gifts, and even lit Christmas trees. But as the holiday came to a close, they returned to their separate trenches to await orders for the war to begin again. Award-winning creator John Hendrix wonderfully brings the story of the Christmas Truce of 1914 to life with his signature style, interweaving detailed illustrations and hand-lettered text. His telling of the story celebrates the humanity that can persist during even the darkest periods of our history.

The Unofficial Christmas Truce of 1914 - History of the World | Children's Military Books

*Includes pictures *Includes accounts of the truce written by soldiers *Includes a bibliography for further reading "It was absolutely astounding, and if I had seen it on a cinematograph film I should have sworn that it was faked!" - Captain Sir Edward Hulse of the Scots Guards on the Christmas Truce (Groom, 2002, 85). On Christmas Day 1914, amid the bloodily stalemated trenches of Flanders just five months into World War I, a memorable event dubbed the Christmas Truce occurred. In place of the rattle of gunfire and the crash of bursting artillery shells, familiar German and English Christmas carols floated through the frosty air. In a number of sectors, officers and men on both sides emerged from their trenches to mingle, exchange Yuletide greetings, give one another small gifts and mementos, and discuss the fighting as language allowed. The Truce also provided practical advantages in addition to the emotional and perhaps spiritual relief of a pleasant, peaceful day after months of brutal combat. Many men took advantage of the temporary ceasefire to improve their trenches and dugouts, while others brought up firewood and supplies in large quantities, since the "armistice" enabled carrying these items openly rather than crawling through the mud under fire with only small amounts of necessities. Officers organized burial details to inter the numerous corpses in No-Man's Land, which typically returned identity papers and personal effects of enemy soldiers to their comrades but tended to retain

weapons. These burials served both a humanitarian purpose and also freed the living soldiers from the stench and sight of putrid corpses, some of which had lain in the 60 yards between the lines for two months. The Christmas Truce lasted patchily for several days. The reaction of the soldiers to this extraordinary period of ceasefire and fraternization varied. Some, such as then-corporal Adolf Hitler, who distinguished himself shortly before the Truce by dragging a wounded officer to safety under heavy fire, expressed disgust at mingling with the enemy, even in the Yuletide tradition. Others entered into the occasion's spirit wholeheartedly, even discussing a permanent peace. Another sizable group welcomed the occasion for a day or two's respite and holiday enjoyment, yet remained keen, refusing to relax their martial impulses or their fierce determination to win. One British soldier, Bruce Bairnsfather, encapsulated this viewpoint forcefully in his wartime memoirs: "There was not an atom of hate on either side that day; and yet, on our side, not for a moment was the will to war and the will to beat them relaxed. It was just like the interval between the rounds in a friendly boxing match." (Bairnsfather, 1916, 92). Either intellectually or instinctively, some of the German soldiers realized their side lost the war as soon as the first trench line snaked across the sodden earth of Flanders. Many others remained confident of victory, asked the British how long they planned to continue their futile resistance, and also viewed the Truce as a welcome, but temporary, respite from fighting. The Germans initiated the Christmas Truce and managed to extend it for several days despite repeated British messages that it ended along with the holiday. The Christmas Truce of 1914: The History of the Holiday Ceasefire during World War I looks at the famous unofficial truce that took place during the first year of the war. Along with pictures of important people, places, and events, you will learn about the Christmas Truce like never before, in no time at all.

Shooting at the Stars

After four months of intense fighting, the war in Flanders between German and British soldiers fell silent on Christmas Eve 1914. The soldiers started singing instead of shooting. On Christmas Day they came out of their trenches and met in No Man's Land. Some chased rabbits. Some played football. This true story is about two footballers and soldiers, one Saxon and one Scot, who were in units that played a match in a field between the French villages Houplines and Frelinghien. Scotsman Jimmy Coyle had played professional football before the war. Saxon Albert Schmidt played in the third team for his local club. On Christmas afternoon they each got the chance to defeat their opponents without weapons. Pehr Thermaenius has tracked both Jimmy's and Albert's stories through military archives; from mobilization in August to the hard frozen mud in that field in Flanders that became a football field on Christmas Day. The story of the football match is a light in the darkness as the world remembers the tragic waste of a hundred years ago.

The Christmas Truce of 1914

The soldiers' 'football match' and the unofficial ceasefire of Christmas 1914 has become a legend of the Great War, but fraternization between enemy troops was actually widespread. In winter 1914, after months of marching, soldiers on both fronts began to dig trenches, and the war became a battle of attrition in which young men faced each other across what was often only a few yards of the muddy, bombed landscape called No Man's Land. Trapped in this devastation the soldiers of both armies experienced a shared feeling of pointlessness that culminated in the unofficial armistice of Christmas 1914, when German and English soldiers laid down their weapons for a few hours of joyful peace and carol singing. Using original research from the best European historians and discovering a history forgotten or lost in censor reports, officer journals and official reports, these brief moments of humanity are explored on all fronts during the long years of conflict.

The Christmas Match

A special lavishly illustrated new edition of Michael Foreman's classic story. It's 1914 when everything changes for a group of boys growing up and playing football in the Suffolk countryside. Far away, in a place called Sarajevo, an Archduke has been killed and a web of global events results in a call for all British men to do their duty 'for King and Country' and join the army to fight the Germans overseas. The boys sign up for what sounds like an adventure and a chance to see the world. After basic training the boys sail to France where they find themselves fighting on the front line. Living in the trenches in constant fear for their lives is nothing like they expected and only a bombed-out wasteland, no-man's-land, separates their trenches from those of their German enemies. Then, on Christmas Day, something remarkable happens as the German and British armies stop fighting and meet in the middle

of no-man's-land. The enemies talk, play football and become friends. But the war isn't over, the two sides resume fighting and the group of Suffolk lads are ordered to charge across no-man's-land...

Meetings in No Man's Land

Down at the front, on a cold winter's night in 1914, amidst the worst war the world had ever seen, an inexplicable silence spread from man to man. Belief was in the air. Then the soldiers ceased fire and the magic of Christmas took hold . . . Carol Ann Duffy's brilliant poem celebrates the miraculous truce between the trenches, when enemy shook hands with enemy, shared songs, swapped gifts, even played football, and peace found a place in No Man's Land. In a gorgeous small format with David Roberts' beautiful illustrations, *The Christmas Truce* is an irresistible festive gift. Also available in a larger, special edition hardback.

War Game

"The Christmas Truce of 1914 is one of the most extraordinary incidents not only of World War I but of all military history. Providing inspiration for songs, books, plays and movies, it has endured as an archetypal image of peace. Yet much about the historic event remains shrouded in myth and legend. In this fictional letter--illustrated in authentic detail by Wendy Edelson--award-winning author Aaron Shepard draws from firsthand accounts of soldiers at the front to portray the truce in its true nature and spirit"--Page 4 of cover.

The Christmas Truce

Cover -- Title Page -- Credits -- Contents -- Chapter 1: Peace Breaks Out -- Chapter 2: The Great War -- Chapter 3: Appeals for Peace -- Chapter 4: The Christmas Season -- Chapter 5: Christmas Meals and Soccer Matches -- Chapter 6: Carrying on the Fight -- Chapter 7: A New Year of War -- Chapter 8: Peace and Aftermath -- Timeline -- Essential Facts -- Glossary -- Additional Resources -- Source Notes -- Index -- About the Author

Christmas Truce

Two-time Newbery Honor Book author Jim Murphy writes a stunning nonfiction masterpiece about a Christmas miracle on the Western Front during World War I. On July 29th 1914, the world's peace was shattered as the artillery of the Austria-Hungary Empire began shelling the troops of the country to its south. What followed was like a row of falling dominoes as one European country after another rushed into war. Soon most of Europe was fighting in this calamitous war that could have been avoided. This was, of course, the First World War. But who could have guessed that on December 25 the troops would openly defy their commanding officers by stopping the fighting and having a spontaneous celebration of Christmas with their "enemies"? In what can only be described as a Christmas Miracle, this beautiful and heartrending narrative will remind everyone how brotherhood and love for one another reaches far beyond war and politics.

Christmas Truce of 1914

'One of them shouted "A Merry Christmas English. We're not shooting tonight." . . . [then] they stuck up a light. Not to be outdone, so did we. Then up went another. So, we shoved up another. Soon the lines looked like an illuminated fete.' Rifleman Leslie Walkington On Christmas Eve 1914, a group of German soldiers laid down their arms, lit lanterns and started to sing Christmas carols. The British troops in nearby trenches responded by singing songs of their own. The next day, men from both sides met in No Man's Land. They shook hands, took photos and exchanged food and souvenirs. Some even played improvised football games, kicking around empty bully-beef cans and using helmets for goalposts. Both sides also saw the lull in fighting as a chance to bury the bodies of their comrades. In some parts of the front, the truce lasted a few hours. In others, it continued to the New Year. But everywhere, sooner or later, the fighting resumed. Today, the Christmas Truce is seen as a poignant symbol of hope in a war that many people regard as unnecessary and futile. But what was the real story of those remarkable few days? In this fascinating new book, historian Anthony Richards has brought together hundreds of first-hand reminiscences from those who were there – including previously unpublished German accounts – to cast fresh light on this extraordinary episode.

Truce

After a miraculous escape from the German military juggernaut in the small Belgian town of Mons in 1914, the first major battle that the British Expeditionary Force would face in the First World War, the British really believed that they were on the side of the angels. Indeed, after 1916, the number of spiritualist societies in the United Kingdom almost doubled, from 158 to 309. As Arthur Conan Doyle explained, 'The deaths occurring in almost every family in the land brought a sudden and concentrated interest in the life after death. People not only asked the question, "If a man die, shall he live again?" but they eagerly sought to know if communication was possible with the dear ones they had lost.' From the Angel of Mons to the popular boom in spiritualism as the horrors of industrialised warfare reaped their terrible harvest, the paranormal - and its use in propaganda - was one of the key aspects of the First World War. *Angels in the Trenches* takes us from defining moments, such as the Angel of Mons on the Front Line, to spirit communication on the Home Front, often involving the great and the good of the period, such as aristocrat Dame Edith Lytton, founder of the War Refugees Committee, and the physicist Sir Oliver Lodge, Principal of Birmingham University. We see here people at every level of society struggling to come to terms with the ferocity and terror of the war, and their own losses: soldiers looking for miracles on the battlefield; parents searching for lost sons in the séance room. It is a human story of people forced to look beyond the apparent certainties of the everyday - and this book follows them on that journey.

Christmas Beyond the Trenches ...

This title examines the Christmas Truce of 1914, focusing on how the informal truces came to be and exploring the experiences of the soldiers of both sides. Compelling narrative text and well-chosen historical photographs and primary sources make this book perfect for report writing. Features include a glossary, a selected bibliography, websites, source notes, and an index, plus a timeline and essential facts. Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Essential Library is an imprint of Abdo Publishing, a division of ABDO.

Truce 1914

By December 1914, it had become clear to even the most optimistic observer that the war would not be over by Christmas. That month brought the first enemy inflicted deaths on the home front, when German warships bombarded three north-east coastal towns; meanwhile, the recently invented aeroplane was being put to fearsome use in raids over the south east. In Europe, Mons, the Marne and Ypres had given a taste of the devastating power of modern warfare – a reality to which troops in the trenches on both sides tried to turn a blind eye in the famous Christmas truce. This book uses contemporary newspapers and magazines, diaries and other records to present a comprehensive image of this extraordinary Christmas, both at home and abroad.

The True Story of the Christmas Truce

Billedbog. A forgotten letter in a secret drawer brings one night in the Great War vividly to life. Writing home from the front, a soldier has an incredible story to tell

Angels in the Trenches

The spirit of Christmas was strong between the soldiers fighting in 1914. They voluntarily stopped fighting to celebrate Christmas. They shared a good laugh and a cigarette or two, too! How we wish that agreement lasted until war was resolved! Are you interested to find out more about The Unofficial Christmas Truce of 1914? Then read this book to

Christmas Truce of 1914

Exactly a century ago, the soldiers on both sides of the opposing lines came out of the trenches, sang and played football, sometimes for more than a week. It was one of the strangest, most inspiring, most controversial but spontaneous acts of war. But there remain unanswered, and sometimes uncomfortable, questions. This book uses first-hand accounts to answer some of them and explain why these extraordinary events took place.

Christmas 1914

Part of the million-selling MY STORY series that brings the past into the real world, giving it a truly human touch. *TRENCHES* is set in 1917 and is the story of Billy Stevens, a telegraph operator, stationed

near Ypres. The Great War has been raging for three years when Billy finds himself taking part in the deadly Big Push. But he is shocked to discover that the bullets of his fellow soldiers aren't just aimed at the enemy. Vividly imagined and historically accurate, readers are taken on a first-hand journey of danger and peril.

The Best Christmas Present in the World

A young Welsh soldier fights along the Western Front during World War I, experiencing the horrors of trench warfare before participating in the famed Christmas Truce of 1914.

The Unofficial Christmas Truce of 1914 - History of the World Children's Military Books

The Western Front, Christmas 1914: lights appear from the German trenches, ghosts rise behind the horizon, soldiers meet between the firing lines. The events which follow are the most astounding stories of the Great War told through the eyes of one soldier, Private James Boyce: 'We're fighting the same enemy, just on two different sides.' Boyce takes us on a magical, haunting journey through the events surrounding the Christmas truce. Our Friends, The Enemy is a debut solo show combining theatre and spoken word to tell the story of the Christmas truce from the First World War.

Peace on Earth

The shock and slaughter of the battlefields of the Somme, Verdun and Passchendaele is well documented. However, during the smaller battles soldiers could, and often did, make personal decisions. From these evolved a culture of live and let live, which constrained that of kill and be killed.

Meet at Dawn, Unarmed

"It's Christmas Eve 1914. A group of tired soldiers start singing Stille Nacht. Soldiers the other side of the divide on No Man's Land respond with Silent Night. The following day, soldiers on both sides put down their weapons and celebrate the spirit of Christmas with a friendly football match. In the sequel to the hugely popular 'Where The Poppies Now Grow', 'The Christmas Truce' finds soldiers Ben and Ray shaking hands in friendship with Karl and Lars, a tribute to that remarkable moment in history when, for one day, peace found a place."--Publisher's description.

My Story: The Trenches

The Christmas Truce of 1914 was a remarkable episode during World War I; a single fleeting moment of man's humanity, amidst the horrors of war. This book takes a detailed look at the Christmas Truce, within the context of the social and political landscape at the time. It also considers the part that football may or may not have played during the truce and why it is that a football match has become the overriding symbol of the Christmas Truce in modern times. What topics does this book on the WW1 Christmas Truce cover? The book begins with a look at a number of the factors that ultimately led to the First World War and then describes in turn the early months of WWI, the phenomenon that was trench warfare, some of the other unofficial armistices throughout history and also early attempts at a truce, in the December of 1914. The Christmas Truce itself is then discussed, looking at the events that took place on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day, before examining the part that football may have played within the truce. Finally, the legacy of the Christmas Truce is considered, especially in the context of the Centenary celebrations of 2014.

A Christmas Truce

From the bestselling author of Horrible Histories, named 'the outstanding children's non-fiction author of the 20th century' by Books For Keeps _____ Ideal for readers aged 7+ Stories of the First World War from the bestselling Terry Deary, author of the hugely successful Horrible Histories. Flanders, 1914. The German and British soldiers in the trenches make an unofficial Christmas truce, with carols and a football match. But the officers aren't happy... A veteran soldier and a young recruit are 'celebrating' Christmas in the trenches of Flanders in 1914. They hear the enemy sing carols and watch them place Christmas Trees in the trenches opposite. They begin to shout greetings across no-man's land and end up playing an international football match. The match is hard-fought but with moments of generosity and sportsmanship on both sides. They see the 'enemy' as vulnerable humans and the officers are furious. Further unofficial truces are banned and the war goes on with bullets instead of footballs. But it's a memory that stays with young Albert long after the war. A moving and fascinating look

at a very human moment of the Great War, by the master historical storyteller. Book Band: Grey Quizzed for Accelerated Reader _____ 'Bubbling with wit, language play and robust dialogue....just the right mix of ingredients to trigger young readers' interest in all things historical' - Books For Keeps

And the Soldiers Sang

Our Friends, The Enemy