

## Christmas Truce 1914



British and German troops meeting in No-Mans's Land during the unofficial truce. (Robson Harold B, Imperial War Museums, Public Domain)

1. Read the chapters „Background“, „Fraternisation“ and „Christmas 1914“ on following Wikipedia-entry: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas\\_truce](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas_truce)

2. Translate following words into German:

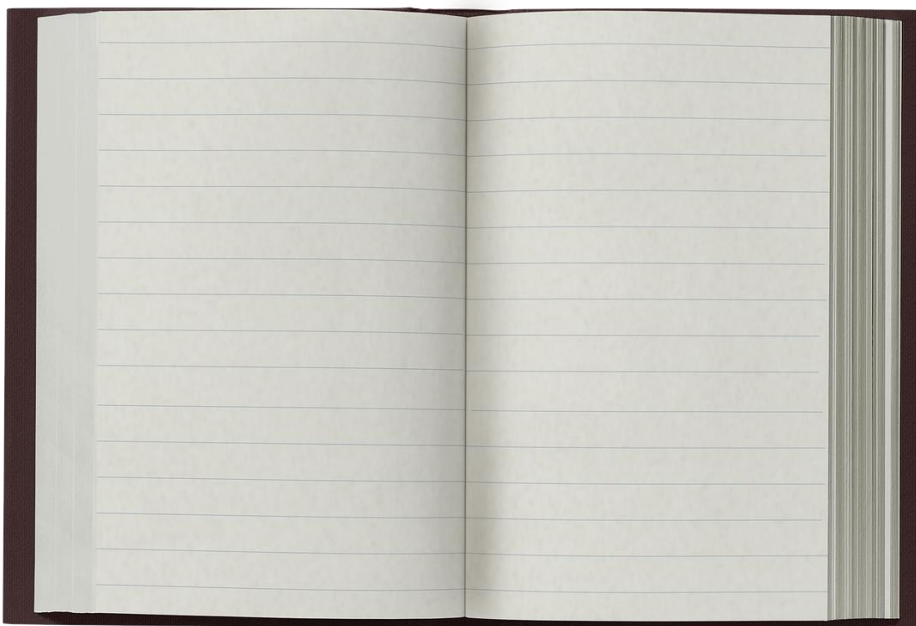
ceasefire	Waffenstillstand	burial	Begräbnis
troops	Truppen	lamentable desire	klägliche Begierde
battle	Schlacht / Gefecht	christmas carols	Weihnachtslieder
digging trenches	Schützengräben graben	no man's land	Niemandsland
peace initiatives	Friedensinitiativen	joint services	gemeinsame Gottesdienste
fraternisation	Verbrüderungen	Boxing Day	Geschenketage, 26. Dezember

**3. Imagine you were a british soldier on these frontlines at Christmas 1914. Write a postcard to your family or a diaryentry for your own about your experiences.**

Informations about field post / military postal service:

Field post was very important in World War I. Even in the 19th century prussian Field Marshal and Chief of General Staff Graf Helmuth von Moltke is credited with saying: „Ohne Feldpost ist ein Krieg nicht zu führen.“ Censorship was initially implemented since the beginning of the war in Austro-Hungarian field post. The totally censorship had to be abandoned even during 1914 and from 1915 on field post were only checked randomly.

Source: <https://ww1.habsburger.net/de/kapitel/kriegsfuehrung-mittels-feldpost>



**4. Sainsbury's is one of the largest supermarket chains in the United Kingdom. 2014 at the 100th anniversary of the Christmas Truce from 1914 Sainsbury's made a Christmas advertisement. This advertisement is not uncontroversial.**

Watch the ad at following link: <https://video.link/w/38qRc>

**Make some notices for a following discussion about these questions:**

Is war pictured here glossed over?

Is it unethical to make an advertisement with war-content?

Does the slogan „Christmas is for sharing!“ suggests that „Sharing is buying!“?

**5. Discuss your outcomes with your classmates.**

A critical article from Ally Fogg: The Guardian „Sainsbury's Christmas ad is a dangerous and disrespectful masterpiece“ (<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/nov/13/sainsburys-christmas-ad-first-world-war> )

**Optional materials:**

A short movie on Youtube from Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DYv6dHy5TJE> Football Stars are reading from soldiers notes.

The movie „Merry Christmas“ (2005, Director: Christian Carion)