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100 Years Ago Today: Challenging the Christmas Truce

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Abstract

This holiday season, I made a resolution for myself: DO NOT publicly complain about the rampage of Christmas Truce ridiculousness that is about to hit Great War commemoration efforts. But, resolutions are made for breaking anyways so, when my “100 Years Ago Today” coverage of the Gettysburg Times offered up some challenging material, I couldn’t resist. [*excerpt*]

Keywords

World War I, WWI, Christmas Truce

Disciplines

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THE GETTYSBURG COMPILER

ON THE FRONT LINES OF HISTORY

100 Years Ago Today: Challenging the Christmas Truce

January 11, 2015

By Sarah Johnson

Originally posted on [Gettysburg and the Great War](#):

This holiday season, I made a resolution for myself: DO NOT publicly complain about the rampage of Christmas Truce ridiculousness that is about to hit Great War commemoration efforts. But, resolutions are made for breaking anyways so, when my “100 Years Ago Today” coverage of the *Gettysburg Times* offered up some challenging material, I couldn’t resist. Images of enemies playing football and fraternizing in No Man’s Land have flooded the public consciousness in the last month, most notably (and perhaps notoriously) through the controversial [Sainsbury’s Chocolate Commercial](#). To believe the commemorative hype, one would be led into thinking that the entire Western Front halted, had epiphanies about the fellow humanity of the foe, and kicked soccer balls to their heart’s content. Unfortunately, this memory obscures reality. On January 9, 1914, the *Gettysburg Times* did relay reports of small sections of the line where soldiers were found “fraternizing with forces of the enemy” over the Christmas...

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