**4-minute presentation outline**

* Interest precipitated by Doctor Who (*Twice Upon A Time,* 2017 Christmas Special)
  + Obviously not very historically accurate but certainly recommended
  + Not aware of event before show, not an expert now after research but have better knowledge of/appreciation for it
* Background
  + What/when
    - Temporary unofficial truces/ceasefires between opposing forces for the Christmas Eve, Christmas, and Boxing Day 1914 holiday
      * Boxing Day history: British Christmas celebrations for staff who didn’t get Christmas off
  + Who
    - Soldiers on both sides of the western front, generally in British/German areas though some French and Belgian troops participated in some places
      * German soldiers put up candles and Christmas trees (Tannenbaum) in many cases sparking interest from the other side
      * Not all places/soldiers were for the truces
        + Then Corporal Adolph Hitler vehemently rejected the occasion
  + Where
    - Many different areas along the western front
      * Flanders, Belgium heavily discussed
  + Why
    - “Live and Let Live” mentality
      * “you no shoot, we no shoot”
    - War weariness
    - Mostly there wasn’t outright hatred for the opposing sides yet because the war was so new allowing for friendliness
    - Germans love Christmas
* Sources
  + Weintraub (2001)
    - Perspectives from both sides
    - Perspectives from both regular soldiers and higher-ranking officers
      * Challenges misconception that all officers were opposed to the ceasefire and wanted units to get back to the fighting
      * Though there were plenty higherups opposed
    - Discusses lingering questions about the event and what might have happened had the truces developed and solidified
  + Charles River Editors *The Christmas Truce* (2016); Terri Blom Crocker *The Christmas Truce* (2015)
    - Cites Weintraub numerous times
  + Jim Murphy *Truce* (2016)
    - Children’s book
    - Cites *The First World War* by Michael Howard
  + Generally similar in structure
    - Follow a cohesive, chronological account of the truces
      * Events leading to the truces
      * Christmas Eve and the truces made on that day
      * The recognition/recovery and burials (sometimes joint) of the dead in No Man’s Land
      * The comradery between the forces that in many instances led to war enemies becoming friendly
        + Exchanging of gifts and food

Button trading was very popular

* + - * + Carol/song singing between trenches

Somewhat competitive in some instances

* + - * The football/soccer games played that help to launch the event as sort of mythic
* Thank you/questions