



## Course details

### Course title

History: Rediscovering the Great War's Christmas Truce

### Course code

Q00019614

### Course date

Start: 07/12/24

End: 07/12/24

### Number of classes

1 sessions

### Timetable

Sat 7th Dec, 10:00 to 13:00

### Tutor

Stephen Smith

### Fee range

Free to £11.10

### How you'll learn

You'll join a small group of fellow learners for classes online in video meetings and materials will be provided in our virtual learning environment.

Got it!

Online

### Venue

Online

## **Level of study**

Beginners

## **Course overview**

The Christmas Truce is one of the most mythologised and celebrated events of the First World War, which has featured in film, song and fiction. In this one-off session, we will attempt to uncover the actual story behind the event, exploring the truce or truces through letters, reports, photographs and retrospective accounts. The course will be interesting to those with an interest in the Great War, and the manner in which that conflict has been interpreted in the century since its ending, but the course will also appeal to those with an interest in how societies shape and define themselves by their myths.

## **Course description**

The course will begin with a discussion of the Christmas Truce or truces of 1914, and we shall attempt to reconstruct the events from the diaries and letters of soldiers and military reports. We will place the event in the context of the early months of the war and questions of morale on all sides. We will also assess how the truce was perceived, not always positively by the officer-class. Having established the veracity of the Christmas Truces, we will begin to trace how those truces are shaped by the popular imagination, art and literature in the postwar years.

This will then lead us to consider the need for mythic constructions of events, and why such popularly evolved myths possess the power, which they invariably do. In this analysis we will evaluate the morality of myth-making and its ability to speak truth, how in essence we as narrator-forming individuals seek out stories to explain and to understand the human condition. The course will be supported by selected text-extracts, photographs, illustrations and other mixed media, all of which will provide a vivid recreation and understanding of the event of the Christmas Truces. Ample opportunity for your participation in discussions of the subject will exist to enrich your exploration of this fascinating hiatus in the carnage of the Western Front.

## **What financial support is available?**

We don't want anything to stand in your way when it comes to bringing Adult learning within reach so if you need anything to support you to achieve your goals then speak to one of our education experts during your enrolment journey. Most of our courses are government funded but if you don't qualify or need alternative financial help to access them then let us know.

## **What other support is available?**

All of our digital content, teaching and learning activities and assessments are designed to be accessible so if you need any additional support you can discuss this with the education experts during your enrolment journey and we will do all we can to make sure you have optimal access.

**Source URL:** <https://www.wea.org.uk/courses/humanities-science/history/7-december-history-rediscovering->

*great-wars-christmas-truce*