

Chronology:



Sergeant Brookes & the Christmas Truce of 1914

ACTIVITY 3.1

My name is and I am in class
This is my timeline starting from my birthday throughout the next 12 months

My Birthday	Pesach Ramadan Easter Vaisakhi Holi Niirvana Day	Special Event e.g. Wedding	Hannukkah Eid Ul Adha Christmas Birth of Guru Nanak Diwali Wesak
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ACTIVITY 3.2A

Cut out and sort activity.

- Can you match the pictures to the correct part of Sgt Brookes' diary?

Note: Some of the events have no pictures.

- In your group (or with a partner) decide on how you could illustrate your part of Brookes' diary for a classroom display and then draw an example.

You will need

- Scissors
- Glue

<u>August 1914</u> ‘An ultimatum which England presented to Germany expired at 11.00pm and from that time war was the order of the day.’	<u>November 1914</u> ‘The battalion marched, (signallers cycled), some 5 miles in the direction of the firing line, we could hear the roar of the guns. Aeroplanes were travelling overhead.’
<u>August 1914</u> ‘I joined the Queen’s Westminster Rifles as a signaller.’	<u>December 1914</u> ‘A stretcher bearer was killed today by a shell, whilst attending to a wounded comrade.’
<u>August 1914</u> ‘My friends and I received our uniforms.’	<u>Christmas Eve 1914</u> ‘At midday I crawled behind a hedge and got to some cottages where I had left my cycle and gave it a good clean up.’
<u>October 1914</u> ‘At 12.35 am we were given orders to prepare to leave for France.’	<u>Christmas Day 1914</u> ‘In the afternoon I went out and had a chat with “our friends the enemy”. Many of the Germans had costumes taken from houses nearby. One fellow had a blouse, skirt, top hat and umbrella on. Various souvenirs were exchanged. I have also a number of German signatures and addresses and it was arranged that we would write to one another at the end of the war.’
<u>November 1914</u> ‘At 7.30 am we landed in France. It was a beautiful day and very hot. There were many excited people waving at us.’	<u>Boxing Day 1914</u> ‘As we were leaving the trenches early on Boxing Day we insisted on the truce ending at midnight. And so the truce ended, and in its place, death and bloodshed would once more reign supreme.’

ACTIVITY 3.2B

Cut out and sort activity.

- Can you match the primary evidence to the correct part of Sgt Brookes' diary?

Note: Some of the events have no pictures.

- In your group (or with a partner) decide on how you could illustrate your part of Brookes' diary for a classroom display and then draw an example.

You will need

- Scissors
- Glue

November 1914

'We had to walk 5 miles. I saw aeroplanes flying above us.'

August 1914

'The First World War starts.'

December 1914

'Lots of soldiers were killed, they were very brave.'

August 1914

'I joined the Queen's Westminster Rifles as a soldier.'

Christmas Eve 1914

'I miss my family.'

August 1914

'My friends and I put on our new uniforms.'

Christmas Day 1914

'We stopped fighting and played football instead.'

October 1914

'We go to France.'

Boxing Day, 1914

'We had to start fighting again.'

November, 1914

'It was a beautiful day when we arrived in France.'



August 1914 Brookes and his friends in their uniforms



October 1914 Brookes and his friends waiting to leave for France



November 1914 Brookes spots aeroplanes overhead



November 1914 Brookes and his friends waiting to fight on the front line



December 1914 The Christmas Truce



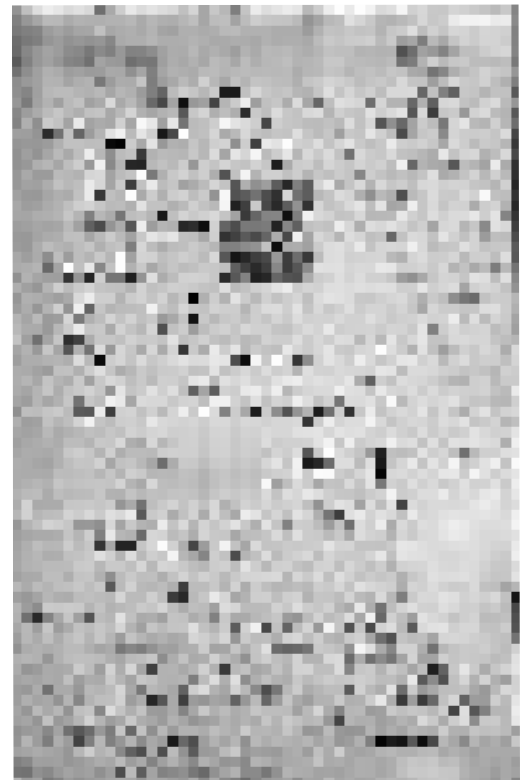
December 1914 Football in No Man's Land

ACTIVITY 3.3A

Leverstock Green and Olive Seabrook



When the Queen's Westminster Rifles (QWR) were training in Leverstock Green, they often frequented the local pub the *Leather Bottle*. Living at the *Leather Bottle* was a young girl named Olive Seabrook. When the QWR were to leave for France, Miss Seabrook asked all of the soldiers to sign a book for her. Many of the signatures came with short messages to her. Brookes would have undoubtedly met Olive.



ACTIVITY 3.3B

Imagine that you are Sergeant Brookes sitting on top of a London Bus in the middle of France and you see a young boy standing in the street. You suddenly remember your promise to write to young Olive Seabrook. You decide to send a postcard immediately. What will you say to her?



Remember when writing your postcard to Olive that you mention:

- Your journey to France
- The Christmas Truce

