

Task 1: The following article has once again been written by Mr Spencer and he thinks that it is a fantastic newspaper report! However Mr Spencer has not organised his information into paragraphs and has just written one mega piece of text. It is your job to re-write the report, organising the information into paragraphs. Remember, a paragraph should include information that is all based on one specific theme, subject or idea.

Task 2: Once you have done this, identify the parts of the text that are passages of reported speech. This means the sentences that you know have been said by someone and then written down for the newspaper report. Once you have identified these sentences, punctuate with speech marks and appropriate punctuation.

NEWS STORIES 1914



First News WORLD WAR I

Christmas truces spread!

30 December 1914

HUNDREDS of thousands of British and German soldiers in the trenches of the Western Front have spontaneously dropped their weapons and called a series of truces over Christmas. The shock move took British and German generals by surprise. Permission didn't come from the Secretary of War, Lord Kitchener. The Western Front stretches for 400 miles, from the Swiss border with France through to the North Sea coast in northern France. Fortified trenches have been built along the front by both the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire) and Allied forces. Soldiers dropped their weapons and exchanged gifts, with several even venturing into the 'no-man's-land' between trenches to shake hands with their enemies. The spontaneous ceasefires have been taking place regularly since Christmas Eve, with up to 100,000 troops thought to have taken part. The extraordinary show of affection between soldiers was started by German soldiers who held up Christmas trees from one of their trenches. After seeing the trees, some of which were lit up by

candles, the British soldiers began shouting across from their trenches. It wasn't long before the men of the British and German forces walked out of their trenches and exchanged small gifts, handshakes and good wishes. The gifts were anything the troops could get their hands on. Buttons, food, tobacco, and alcohol were all given. It is believed that the commander of the British forces, Sir John French, disapproved of the soldiers' actions, while General Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien, commander of the British II Corps, issued "strict orders" that friendliness between opposing sides was not allowed. To finish this war quickly, we must keep up the fighting spirit he said. As well as celebrating Yuletide with trees and presents, reports indicate that soldiers of both sides sang Christmas carols together and played football matches against each other. The truce has also allowed for burials of fallen soldiers to take place. British troops killed behind German lines were brought back to the Allied side for a dignified burial, and vice versa. On Christmas Day, German and British troops even held joint funerals. Hans Zimmer, a private in the German army said The ceasefire has been good for us ordinary men for sure, we have had time to be human again. The feelings were mutual within the British rank and file. Lance corporal Hitch Hancock of the Prince Consorts Own Rifle Brigade said We are tired of Giving the Germans what for and it has been nice to share a smile with our enemies. While some truces along the Western Front are believed to still be in place, the vast majority of soldiers have resumed the fight – against the same men they were exchanging gifts and singing carols with just a few days ago.