

Their First Match – By Ava Willis

26th December 1914

Dear Diary,

How are you? I've not been feeling that great recently but that all changed yesterday! Christmas Day! I hadn't been looking forward to Christmas at all because nothing is jolly or festive anymore. It started like every other morning has since this awful war began. A group of us were sitting chatting about our family Christmas' and all the lovely things we used to look forward to. I can't remember whose idea it was but somebody suggested we tried to make this Christmas a happy one. They decided that my good mate Jim would be the best person to try to make a truce with the Germans and to stop the fighting even if just for one day. Jim is always trying to make everyone around him feel happier so his actions didn't surprise me. I didn't think it was a good idea to try to make contact with them, however, how wrong I was. You will never guess what happened! While we were all silently crouching down in the dark, eerie and damp trenches listening to the distant sound of bombs dropping from the planes flying overhead and freezing from the chilly winter wind, we suddenly heard a familiar Christmas song being sung from the enemy's base. It was Silent Night, my favourite Christmas Carol! It reminded me of the happy, warm and safe family Christmas we used to have before all the trouble started. Anyway, Jim suddenly stood up and raised his arms slowly in the air as he made his way across the field. My mouth dropped open with fear! The Germans were so shocked that they pointed their guns directly at him and out of the silence somebody shouted 'STOP!' A tall young man with short brown hair and a kind face, who I now know is called Otto, greeted Jim and they started trying to talk to each other, one in German and the other in English! I have no idea how they managed to understand each other and get along but together they decided to organise a festive game of football. Someone actually had a football with them in the trenches! Can you believe that? Some men took their blazers off to make goals and we organised two teams. Well, there were sort of two teams. There were actually hundreds of people playing and no referee, we didn't even keep score. Nobody was bothered though, everybody seemed to be enjoying themselves even if it was only for a little bit of time. The noise on the fields changed from one of guns shooting and people shouting to laughter and singing. The game lasted for a while and was lots of fun. Gonna have to go now diary because the sun is coming up for another day. Hope it's another good one. Speak soon hopefully. Bob



**FOUNDATION
OF LIGHT**

THE WORLD AT YOUR FEET