

PATCHWORK PRESS

H E B E R V A L L E Y Q U I L T E R S

History Lessons ~ Time Marches On

By HVQ Guild President, Company Commander Rachel Crane

Though there was no official truce, about 100,000 British and German troops were involved in unofficial cessations of fighting along the length of the Western Front during World War I. The first truce started on Christmas Eve, 24 December 1914, when German troops began decorating the area around their trenches while in Belgium. The Germans began by placing candles on their trenches and on Christmas trees, then continued the celebration by singing Christmas carols. The British responded by singing carols of their own. The two sides continued by shouting Christmas greetings to each other. Soon thereafter, there were excursions between trench lines and across No Man's Land, where small gifts were exchanged, such as food, tobacco and alcohol, and souvenirs such as buttons and hats. Troops from both sides had also been so friendly as to play games of football with one another. The artillery in the region fell silent that night. The truce also allowed a breathing spell where recently fallen soldiers could be brought back behind their lines by burial parties. Joint services were held. The fraternization was not, however, without its risks; some soldiers were shot by opposing forces. In many sectors, the truce lasted through Christmas night, but it continued until New Year's Day in others.

The truce is seen as a symbolic moment of peace and humanity amidst one of the most violent events of modern history. It was not ubiquitous, however; in some regions of the front, fighting continued



throughout the day, whilst in others, little more than an arrangement to recover bodies was made.

Bruce Bairnsfather, who served throughout the war, wrote: "I wouldn't have missed that unique and weird Christmas Day for anything. ... I spotted a German officer, some sort of lieutenant I should think, and being a bit of a collector, I intimated

to him that I had taken a fancy to some of his buttons. ... I brought out my wire clippers and, with a few deft snips, removed a couple of his buttons and put them in my pocket. I then gave him two of mine in exchange. ... The last I saw was one of my machine gunners, who was a bit of an amateur hairdresser in civil life, cutting the unnaturally long hair of a docile Boche, (a disparaging term for a German, especially a German soldier in World War I or World War II) who was patiently kneeling on the ground whilst the automatic clippers crept up the back of his neck."

We get to celebrate PEACE in December, although there is not peace right now concerning our country and our armed forces. Thank you for going throughout this year with TIME MARHCING ON as we learn about the wartime history of this great nation. We missed quite a few battles and wars that the United States has been involved in over the years, but we couldn't fit them all in just one year. Hopefully you have gained a little patriotism and love of our country and those that currently serve and those that have served in the past. Hopefully you have enjoyed learning about quilting through history and have a deeper appreciation for those amazing women that went before us.

December 2nd: T R U C E

Bring your favorite dessert to share as we celebrate our Peace Treaty! What a great combo! Quilts and Desserts!

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### Friendship Exchange

Those participating in the Friendship Block Exchange group, be sure to return your assigned block. If you cannot attend guild meeting, please make arrangements for someone to bring it for you.

Here is the Exchange Schedule:

Aug: Tamara

Sept: Beth W, Deonn

Oct: Leah

Nov:: Beth E

Dec: Timpi, Sally

Jan: Shauna, Mindy

Feb: Rachel



### Finishing Bee

Attn: Finishing Bee Participants: To be included in the Finishing Bee drawings, please turn in your Fat Quarters to Bethany by Nov 30th: March—PINK, April—YELLOW, May—PURPLE, June—BLACK, July—WHITE, Aug—NOVELTY PRINT, September—BROWN, October—ORANGE.

### Attn: BOARD MEMBERS

For those who were on the 2011 board and those who volunteered for the 2012 board, I would like to meet before guild meeting this week at 6 pm if you are able. There are a few more items to plan for the year and I need all the help and ideas you have to offer. It would also give everyone a chance to exchange information with the person they will be taking over for in the next year. Thank you again to everyone who volunteered their skills and time for the coming year!! You are so appreciated!

*Michele Murdock*

Be sure to visit the guild blog often to see the creativity of our guild members!

<http://hebervalleyquilters.blogspot.com>

(Subscribe or make a comment and your name will be entered in a monthly drawing!)

Also, check the guild website for the guild's exclusive "Block of the Month" patterns, past newsletters, slideshows, etc. [www.hebervalleyquilters.com](http://www.hebervalleyquilters.com)

### ~~ DONATIONS NEEDED: BATTING SCRAPS ~~

HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital in Sandy, UT, is looking for BATTING scraps. Their patients have a service project, making fleece "Huggies" to donate to police officers to give to children when removed from their homes.

### C h e c k l i s t

PLEASE BRING:

\* 2011 and 2012 Board Members—6:00 pm Planning Meeting

\* Potluck Dessert to share

\* Batting Scraps

\* Friendship Exchange Blocks

\* Sew & Tell Projects

\* Quilted Nametag

See you at guild meeting!