

Saturday, December 25

ON THIS DAY



▲ 1584: The earliest recorded written reference to a Christmas tree was made by Estonian chronicler Balthasar Russow, a Lutheran pastor

1758: The comet portrayed as the Star of Bethlehem in medieval art returned as predicted by astronomer Edmund Halley, after whom it was later named

1914: British and German soldiers exchanged cigarettes and played football in an unofficial Christmas truce in the trenches of World War I

1995: The annual Christmas party on Sydney's Bondi Beach ended in a mass punch-up involving thousands of rather too merry revellers