



Today in History

December 25, 1584

▲ An Estonian Lutheran pastor described setting up a decorated spruce tree in the market square, the earliest known written reference to a Christmas tree

1741: Anders Celsius devised the centigrade temperature scale

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

1979: Afghanistan was invaded by Soviet troops

1989: Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife Elena were executed after a secret trial found them guilty of genocide