



Today in History

December 25, 1914

▲ **British and German soldiers exchanged cigarettes and played football as they took part in an unofficial Christmas truce in the trenches of World War I**

1584: An Estonian Lutheran pastor described a decorated spruce tree in the market square, the earliest written reference to a Christmas tree

1979: Afghanistan was invaded by Soviet troops, the start of a grinding nine-year campaign

1999: Russian forces entered the Chechen capital Grozny, amid fierce resistance from Islamic fighters

2016: Singer George Michael died at the age of 53