

Worldwide Carillons will recall 100th anniversary of the 1914 World War I Christmas Truce at 19:14 hrs on Christmas Eve 2014 St. George's-by-the-River, Rumson N.J. Carillon performance by Frances Newell

On Christmas Eve, 1914, in World War I Europe, bitter, brutal trench fighting ceased as darkness descended upon a bleak landscape of mud, blood, barbed wire and fear. Germans began singing "Silent Night" in their trenches. In the distance they could see the glow of candles on Christmas trees.

The Belgian, English and French soldiers in opposite trenches joined in, then sang other carols, replacing the deadly din of bullets and shells along the Western Front. Throughout a long line of trenches, soldiers began crossing the lines,

exchanging chocolate bars and cigarettes, and showing photos of their sweethearts. Although fighting resumed after the new year, this brief respite of peace had lasting effects among all those who participated. Those soldiers were never able to kill again.

This remarkable moment of hope and humanity will be celebrated by a worldwide carillon concert. By invitation of the World Carillon Federation and Don Mullan, Associate Chair of UNESCO's Global Youth Program, on Christmas Eve, as each time zone in the world reaches at 19:14 hours, 7:14 P.M., church tower bells will ring "Silent Night" followed by other Christmas carols. Participating countries include the United States, Canada, England, Belgium, France, Ireland, Japan, Australia, Germany, and Poland. My grandfather, Samuel Sloan Walker, was a real live World War I flying ace! I will be ringing to honor him and all those soldiers! We are also honoring all those who are now fighting for peace.

The following carols will be played, 1st and 2nd verses only! I encourage you to sing along!

Listen inside the church or walk around outside, to get a feel of that special moment.

Silent Night

Hark The Herald Angels Sing

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Angels We Have Heard On High

Away In a Manger

O Little Town of Bethlehem

In The Bleak Midwinter

Lo, How A Rose E're Blooming

What Child Is This?

O Holy Night





Samuel Sloan Walker, Dunkirk

Reg Coombes and Samuel Walker