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Review of Silent Night: the Remarkable 1914 Christmas Truce

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Title of the book: *Silent Night*

Author or editor of the book: Stanley Weintraub

This book is recommended for: public & academic libraries

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Review

Author: Stanley Weintraub

Title: *Silent Night*

Publisher: The Free Press

Release date: November 2001

Number of pages: pages. 224

Features: 16 pages of b&w photographs

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At Christmas time in 1914, blood enemies emerged from their trenches in Flanders Field, shook hands, and wished each other a merry Christmas. In his newest book, Stanley Weintraub (*A Stillness Heard Round the World: The End of the Great War*, LJ 8/85) draws on letters, diaries and a variety of other source material to tell the inspiring story of the spontaneous Christmas Truce of World War I, when enemy troops laid down their arms, exchanged gifts, and reveled in their shared humanity. The desperate longing for peace, which Weintraub captures through the words of the soldiers themselves, underscores the poignancy of the ending of the truce, when outraged commanders ordered newly-made friends to kill each other. Despite the impact of Weintraub's storytelling and documentation, some readers may be stymied by occasionally untranslated German or confused by his interweaving of fictitious accounts of the event. Still, Weintraub's work stands as a unique testament to the fundamental brotherhood of man. Recommended for public and academic libraries.

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