

# "TERMITE" TERRY'S INSIDER INFORMATION

**TOP SECRET**

December 2014



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## Christmas In The Trenches, 1914

By the end of November 1914 the crushing German advance that had swallowed the Low Countries and threatened France had been checked by the allies before it could reach Paris. The opposing armies stared at each other from a line of hastily built defensive trenches that began at the edge of the English Channel and continued to the border of Switzerland. Barbed wire and parapets defended the trenches and between them stretched a "No-Mans-Land" that in some areas was no more than 30 yards wide.

Life in the trenches was abominable. Continuous sniping, machinegun fire and artillery shelling took a deadly toll. The misery was heightened by the ravages of Mother Nature, including rain, snow and cold. Many of the trenches, especially those in the low-lying British sector to the west, were continually flooded, exposing the troops to frost bite and "trench foot."

The treacherous monotony of life in the trenches was briefly interrupted during an unofficial and spontaneous "Christmas Truce" that began on Christmas Eve. Both sides had received Christmas packages of food and presents. The clear skies that ended the rain further lifted the spirits on both sides of no-mans-land.

The Germans seem to have made the first move. During the evening of December 24 they delivered a chocolate cake to the British line accompanied by a note that proposed a cease fire so that the Germans could have a

concert. The British accepted the proposal and offered some tobacco as their present to the Germans. The good will soon spread along the 27-mile length of the British line. Enemy soldiers shouted to one another from the trenches, joined in singing songs and soon met one another in the middle of no-mans-land to talk, exchange gifts and in some areas to take part in impromptu soccer matches.

The high command on both sides took a dim view of the activities and orders were issued to stop the fraternizing with varying results. In some areas the truce ended Christmas Day in others the following day and in others it extended into January. One thing is for sure - it never happened again.

### "We and the Germans met in the middle of no-man's-land."

*Frank Richards was a British soldier who experienced the "Christmas Truce". We join his story on Christmas morning 1914:*

*"On Christmas morning we stuck up a board with 'A Merry Christmas' on it. The enemy had stuck up a similar one. Platoons would sometimes go out for twenty-four hours' rest - it was a day at least out of the trench and relieved the monotony a bit - and my platoon had gone out in this way the night before, but a few of us stayed behind to see what would happen. Two of our men then threw their equipment off and jumped on the parapet with their hands above their heads. Two of the Germans done the*

(turn the page)

### 75 Years Ago ...

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer made his first-ever appearance. It was in a children's coloring book that was given away at Christmas time by Montgomery Ward stores and they distributed 2.5 million copies during the first year.

### Celebrating Frank Sinatra

*"The best revenge is massive success."*

Frank Sinatra, born December 12, 1915

## Rave Reviews!

*"We are writing this letter to recommend without reservation the services of Termite Terry Pest Control. This company stood out from all the others we considered and this is why. Their customer service was excellent. When we finally were ready to go forward we met Skip Haffke from Termite Terry. Skip came out to the house a couple of times. From the start it was clear that not only did Skip have far more detailed knowledge of the behavior and science of termites and how to combat them, he was easy-going, friendly and did not pressure us at all to enter into agreement with the company. His main goal was to educate us and answer all of our questions and concerns thoroughly. Quite frankly, we are not used to having a company representative be so attentive to us. Each time we left a message for Skip he promptly returned our calls and patiently answered all of our concerns. He was a true gentleman throughout our experience. Overall Skip and the others at Termite Terry were kind, courteous and respectful."*

Mark & Catherine Taylor Angelo  
Long Beach

*"We had massive ant issues. I had Termite Terry's expert come out and take care of the problem. He said to wait 2 weeks and I would not see anymore of those little suckers. Well, the next day they were gone. Great company and great service. I don't care if you find it cheaper, it's not worth it. Termite Terry guarantees his work. Other companies I talked to have a very limited conditional warranty. Sounds like a lot of BS to me. Only go with Termite Terry. Also, we had our house termite treated by Terry 9 years ago. Great job."*

Glen Ballard  
Ballard & Ballard Jewelers  
Fountain Valley

*same and commenced to walk up the river bank, our two men going to meet them. They met and shook hands and then we all got out of the trench.*

*Buffalo Bill (the Company Commander) rushed into the trench and endeavored to prevent it, but he was too late: the whole of the Company were now out, and so were the Germans. He had to accept the situation, so soon he and the other company officers climbed out too. We and the Germans met in the middle of no-man's-land. Their officers was also now out. Our officers exchanged greetings with them. One of the German officers said that he wished he had a camera to take a snapshot, but they were not allowed to carry cameras. Neither were our officers.*

*We mucked in all day with one another. They were Saxons and some of them could speak English. By the look of them their trenches were in as bad a state as our own. One of their men, speaking in English, mentioned that he had worked in Brighton for some years and that he was fed up to the neck with this damned war and would be glad when it was all over. We told him that he wasn't the only one that was fed up with it. We did not allow them in our trench and they did not allow us in theirs.*

*The German Company-Commander asked Buffalo Bill if he would accept a couple of barrels of beer and assured him that they would not make his men drunk. They had plenty of it in the brewery. He accepted the offer with thanks and a couple of their men rolled the barrels over and we took them into our trench. The German officer sent one of his men back to the trench, who appeared shortly after carrying a tray with bottles and glasses on it. Officers of both sides clinked glasses and drank one another's health. Buffalo Bill had presented them with a plum pudding just before. The officers came to an understanding that the unofficial truce would end at midnight. At dusk we went back to our respective trenches.*

*The two barrels of beer were drunk, and the German officer was right: if it*

*was possible for a man to have drunk the two barrels himself he would have bursted before he had got drunk. French beer was rotten stuff.*

*Just before midnight we all made it up not to commence firing before they did. At night there was always plenty of firing by both sides if there were no working parties or patrols out. Mr. Richardson, a young officer who had just joined the Battalion and was now a platoon officer in my company wrote a poem during the night about the Briton and the Bosche meeting in no-man's-land on Christmas Day, which he read out to us. A few days later it was published in The Times or Morning Post, I believe.*

*During the whole of Boxing Day (the day after Christmas) we never fired a shot, and they the same, each side seemed to be waiting for the other to set the ball a-rolling. One of their men shouted across in English and inquired how we had enjoyed the beer. We shouted back and told him it was very weak but that we were very grateful for it. We were conversing off and on during the whole of the day.*

*We were relieved that evening at dusk by a battalion of another brigade. We were mighty surprised as we had heard no whisper of any relief during the day. We told the men who relieved us how we had spent the last couple of days with the enemy, and they told us that by what they had been told the whole of the British troops in the line, with one or two exceptions, had mucked in with the enemy. They had only been out of action themselves forty-eight hours after being twenty-eight days in the front-line trenches. They also told us that the French people had heard how we had spent Christmas Day and were saying all manner of nasty things about the British Army."*

"Christmas in the Trenches, 1914,"  
EyeWitness to History,  
www.eyewitnesstohistory.com (2006)

## Agents Bust Destructive Beetles At The Border

U.S. Customs and Border Protection agriculture specialists working at the Canadian border recently inspected a shipment of rain ponchos from China and discovered live Khapra beetle larvae. These insects are one of the world's most destructive pests.

A commercial tractor carrying an ocean container arrived at the border crossing and was referred for further inspection. Live insect larvae were found and the container was sealed and the pests forwarded to the USDA for identification.

Two days later, an entomologist with the USDA identified the pest as Khapra beetle larvae. The shipment was then re-exported to Canada.

Khapra beetles pose a high risk to our agriculture and are one of the world's most destructive pests of grains, cereals and stored foods. They are known as "dirty feeders" because they damage more grain than they consume with their body parts and hairs. Contaminants from Khapra beetles may cause gastrointestinal irritation in adults. Infants are especially at risk for sickness.

Controlling Khapra beetles is very difficult because they have the ability to tolerate insecticides and fumigants. They can also survive for long periods of time without food.

In 1953, California had to perform extensive eradication measures following a Khapra beetle infestation. The effort was successful but cost taxpayers about \$11 million. When adjusted for inflation, today's cost on that same treatment would probably be over \$90 million!

Our U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials have stopped many contaminated shipments from

entering our country. They perform an invaluable service and should be commended.

## The President's Economic Stimulus Plan

The elections are over and we now have a lot of newly elected leaders. Are they really going to make changes and keep their promises? Only time will tell. That is why President Termite Terry is going to continue with his highly successful economic stimulus plan. Here are just a few of your fellow citizens who have benefited recently:

- Dann Bean of Huntington Beach referred us to Stephen Sharp of Huntington Beach.
- Jerod Dickinson of Costa Mesa recommended our service to Jeanette Moris of Costa Mesa.
- Chuck & Kathy Wooten of Huntington Beach referred us to Penny Boland, also in Huntington Beach.
- Sergio Fabres of Santa Ana recommended our service to Amy Rocha of Whittier.
- Jane Cusick of Huntington Beach **earned two gas cards** by recommending our pest control service to Candace Soper of Fountain Valley and to Joey Cusick in Huntington Beach.

Everyone who referred us received a **FREE \$50 Gas Card!** To participate, all you have to do is to refer us to your family, friends or neighbors. And, if they have us do termite treatments, wood repairs or start a regular pest control service, you'll get your **FREE tank of gas, too!**

## Fun Christmas Facts!

Christmas is a special time of the year to celebrate. Here are some fun facts you can share with your family and friends:

- The United Nations Children's Fund says there are 2,106 million children under the age of 18 in the world. If the average household has 2.5 children, that means Santa Clause would have to make 842 million stops on Christmas Eve and travel 221 million miles.
- The first artificial Christmas trees were made by the Germans, using dyed goose feathers.
- The first US Christmas postage stamp was issued in 1962.
- Pope Julius 1, bishop of Rome, proclaimed December 25 as the official celebration date for the birth of Christ in 350 A.D.
- Most of Santa's reindeer have male-sounding names but did you know male reindeers shed their antlers around Christmas? So, that means the reindeer pulling Santa's sleigh are likely to be female or castrati.
- Christmas trees usually grow for about 15 years before they are sold.
- President Teddy Roosevelt was an environmentalist and he banned Christmas trees from the White House in 1912.
- Add up all of the gifts in the Twelve Days of Christmas and you'd have to buy 364 gifts at a total cost of over \$114,000.00!
- Green, red and gold are the three traditional colors of Christmas. Green is a symbol of life and rebirth. Red symbolizes the blood of Christ and gold represents light as well as wealth and royalty.
- Spiders or spider webs are common Christmas tree decorations in Poland. Legend has it that a spider wove a blanket for Baby Jesus.
- They estimate that the single of "White Christmas", by Irving Berlin, is the best selling single of all time with over 100 million sales worldwide.

"Termite" Terry's Insider Information is Published by:

"Termite" Terry Pest Control, Inc.  
785 W. 17<sup>th</sup> St. #G, Costa Mesa, CA 92627  
(949)631-7348 [www.termiterry.com](http://www.termiterry.com)



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Costa Mesa, CA 92627

Office: (949)631-7348 Fax: (949)722-6190

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**"You're Going To Love Living In A Pest Free Home.  
I Guarantee It."**

## Don't Try This At Home!

A home in Orange County caught fire and sustained moderate damage when the homeowner attempted to do his own pest control service.

The homeowner was having a problem with spiders and cobwebs in the eave areas around his home and rather than call a professional, he decided to do his own pest control service.

The homeowner apparently thought he had a better way to solve his spider problem, so he devised a makeshift open-flame device to eradicate the spiders and webs. While attempting to kill the spiders and burn away the webs with his "flame-thrower", some combustible materials on the home caught fire.

Thirty firefighters responded to the call and put out the fire. The home's attic and roof were damaged by the fire. There was smoke damage throughout the home as well.

Fortunately, no one was injured in the fire. The residents of the home have been displaced and are now looking for a new place to live.

Ladies and gentlemen, please don't try this at home. Using fire to kill insects, spiders and other pests is simply too dangerous.

Another real important thing to remember is that aerosol products and bug bombs usually contain butane or propane as propellants. These should never be used around open flames or pilot lights. Furnaces, stoves, water heaters, as well as other appliances, should all be turned off before you use these products.

Be safe and always follow all product label instructions. Better yet, call us for help. I can assure you that our service rates are substantially less than the cost of a fire. ☺



"Termite" Terry Singleton