



Last Friday, at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire, near where we live, the 'Football Remembers' memorial was unveiled by H.R.H. Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, and the winning designer, a ten-year-old schoolboy, in the presence of F.A. Chairman Greg Dyke, England manager Roy Hodgson and representatives from the Premier League, Football League and the British Council.

The 'Football Remembers' memorial commemorates the centenary of one of the most iconic moments of the First World War – the 1914 Christmas Truce football match which took place between allied and German troops on Christmas Day 1914 in Flanders, Belgium. Soldiers from both sides put down their weapons and crossed into 'no man's land' to share in an impromptu ceasefire. First-hand accounts from the time include references to football being played and photographs taken.

The Christmas Truce is synonymous with games of football and ad hoc matches were played at St Yvon. There was definitely a game involving the Royal Warwickshire C Company on Christmas Day with caps as goalposts. Lieutenant Zehmisch spoke of a couple of English who brought a football out of their trench and a vigorous match began.

Lt. Johannes Niemann wrote: „Suddenly a Tommy came with a football. Teams were quickly established for a match on the frozen mud, and the Fritzes beat the Tommies 3–2“. Other soldiers' diaries and various reports also spoke of balls being kicked about in friendship.

Lt. Charles Brockbank of the Cheshire Regiment wrote in his diary: „A huge crowd was between the trenches. Someone produced a little rubber ball so of course a football match started“.

Margaret and I went to see the 'Football Remembers' memorial on Friday afternoon, immediately after it had been dedicated and I took pictures. While thinking of the 1914 Truce, we took the opportunity to commemorate the 'Owls & Eagles' friendship which has lasted in strength for so long.

My set of pictures associated with football in the First World War can be seen on the following link:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/diego_sideburns/sets/72157649577173482/

The pictures also include videos from BBC TV about the Memorial, and I am attaching two of the pictures, which I would be happy for you to arrange for them to be added to the Owls & Eagles web site. The pictures with the scarf are definitely the first football fan-related pictures ever to be taken at the Memorial. I have added the following description to one of the pictures:

The 1914 Christmas Truce brought together English and German soldiers to share token gifts, sing songs and play football games in the frozen mud, comprising two teams with one spirit.

In 1982, members of the SGE Bockenheim and Rhönadler supporters' groups of Eintracht Frankfurt FC met some Oldham Athletic supporters during an international fan club football tournament in Paris. They camped by the River Seine and not only did the two teams share food, drinks and songs, but they also met in the tournament Final.

The story says that the Oldham Athletic supporters would have won if a player had been alert enough to follow-up when the ball stuck in the mud, thereby avoiding a penalty shoot-out, which the Germans won – no surprise there! One of the Oldham Athletic supporters won the player of the tournament prize of a large bottle of Pernod, which was shared by both teams. They formed a friendship which has stood the test of time, and for over 30 years supporters of both Clubs have continued to visit each other to attend games, social events and World Cups. That 1914 ethos of two teams with one spirit is alive and kicking.

Best wishes.

Terry



Thank you so much for your words Terry!

For the museum of Eintracht Frankfurt

Football Remembers

The 1914 Christmas Truce

Am 12. Dezember 2014 wurde in Staffordshire (England) ein Denkmal eingeweiht, welches an den 100-jährigen Jahrestag im Dezember 1914 erinnert.

Englische und deutsche Soldaten beschlossen unter Lebensgefahr, im Niemandsland der belgischen Front, die Waffen ruhen zu lassen und ein Freundschaftsspiel auszutragen!

Der „Weihnachts-Frieden“ von 1914 brachte englische und deutsche Soldaten zusammen.

Diese Gedenkstätte „FUSSBALL ERINNERT“ wurde von seiner königlichen Hoheit, Prinz William, Herzog von Cambridge sowie Vertretern der Premier League enthüllt.

Das Denkmal steht nun für alles, was der Fußball weltweit verbindet und was er an Freundschaften stiftet.

Eine tiefe Freundschaft mit Fans von Oldham Athletic verbindet die Mitglieder der Eintracht Frankfurt Fanclubs EFC Bockenheim und Rhönadler. Man lernte sich 1982 beim internationalen Fanclub-Turnier in Paris kennen.

Eine Freundschaft, die allen Zeichen der Zeit widerstand. Seit über 30 Jahren besuchen sich diese Fans mittlerweile gegenseitig, um sich ihre Spiele bis hin zu Weltmeisterschaften anzusehen und an sozialen Events teilzunehmen.

Die Fans von Oldham Athletic nahmen an Benefiz-Turnieren des Vereins „FUSSBALLER UND FANS HELFEN e.V.“ teil.
Fußball verbindet – auch über Grenzen hinweg.



Das Bild zeigt den Oldham-Fan Terry mit seiner Frau Margaret. Das Bild wurde direkt nach der Einweihung aufgenommen.

Two teams – one spirit!
Owls & Eagles' friendship

Ausführliche
Informationen
auf www.fufh.org