



# TriOpus Group

Shaping your company's talent

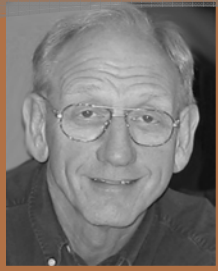
Peace  
On Earth



December 1, 2006 Issue 12, Volume 3

'What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store? What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more?' We think the Grinch was on to something when he asked those questions. All too soon, the business programs and the stock indices will tell us whether or not the gifts that we bought in those stores will mean that Christmas was a financial success or not. As important as all that seems, our thoughts in our December Newsletter are on the peaceful side of the Holidays and those loved ones who may not be with us this year.

**TriOpus Group Principals wish you  
the happiest of holidays!**



David Colman



Tamara Kerr



Marguerite Alston

[www.triopusgroup.com](http://www.triopusgroup.com)



It's the holiday season again and I've been in the trenches. You know, the malls, parking lots, the busy streets on these days before Christmas. I'm not sure what the business numbers will look like this year but, if my shopping excursion is anything to go by, the shopkeepers should be happy. I was only partially successful for my efforts. A special DVD I wanted for someone is nowhere to be found. I'm going to have to try again.

What does Christmas do to us? I ran into a lot of unhappy people on my travels and then I wondered, 'Is that what Christmas is all about?' Then I remembered. I remembered a Christmas Day that was full of peace.

On that Christmas Day, strangers met and shook hands. They exchanged smiles, brandy and cognac, cigarettes and chocolates. They showed each other pictures of loved ones who were not with them. It seemed an awful lot like the things you and I might do on Christmas Day. But what made this particular day so different?

The year was 1914. The First World War was into its fifth month. In France and Belgium, German and British troops faced each other. They were all dug into their trenches separated by the area known as No-Mans Land. It was cold, but it was also Christmastime. Spontaneously at many locations along the line on Christmas Eve, an informal truce broke out. Hours before, they had been shooting at each other. Now all was quiet. The Germans began to sing *Stille Nacht* and soon the British troops joined in with the English version of this famous carol. Then they met in No-Mans Land as friends. They joked and sang. They also retrieved the bodies of their fallen comrades. Later they played a soccer game that the Germans claim to have won 3-2.

This truly peaceful Christmas, that became known as *The Amazing Truce*, lasted along the front lines for a day in some places and up to a week in others.

Before Christmas, they were shooting at a faceless enemy. After the truce, they were now wondering which new friend they had in their sights.

Although the First World War's armistice wasn't until November 11<sup>th</sup>, 1918 and the war didn't officially end until 1919, there were to be no more Christmas Truces.

I suppose today, our equivalent of a truce is the short break we take from the business world for a day or two. Sadly, that break seems to get shorter each year. Even the post Christmas sales now begin before Christmas Day.

As the holiday time draws nearer and nearer, as we push our way through the babel of the shops and malls trying to find that elusive DVD, it is so easy to forget that there are thousands of our armed forces men and women serving overseas who will not experience an Amazing Truce like the one in 1914. They will go about their jobs professionally and hopefully with care.

We wish you and them a *Stille Nacht*.

*From all of us at TriOpus Group,  
best wishes for the Holiday Season  
and throughout 2007.*

