

April 11, 1954 discovered to be the dullest day ever

By Matt Roper [26/11/2010](#)



It was a terrible day to bury bad news - because on April 11, 1954, NOTHING happened.

In a century that saw two world wars, space exploration and the invention of TV and the internet, that desperately dull 24 hours was the mother of all slow news days.

The only "happening" on that Sunday - apart from a general election in Belgium and the passing of ex-journeyman footballer Jack Shufflebotham - was the birth of a Turk who became an analogue and microwave electronics expert.

The date was discovered after 300 million facts were fed into a new computer search engine in Cambridge called True Knowledge.

Inventor William Tunstall-Pedoe found every other day of the century had at least one major occurrence. But he said of April 11, 1954: "Nobody famous died, no noteworthy events took place and the only person who might claim a notable birth was Turkish academic Abdullah Atalar.

"So the irony is that the day is only interesting for being boring. Unless you are Abdullah Atalar."

Descendants of Jack Shufflebotham might disagree - even though the centre half had played only a handful of games for Oldham Athletic and Notts County before his death that day aged 69.

But even the Belgians would be hard pressed to claim their fourth post-war general elections were nail-bitingly historical stuff.

And nobody - even in France - will remember plans being agreed for a