

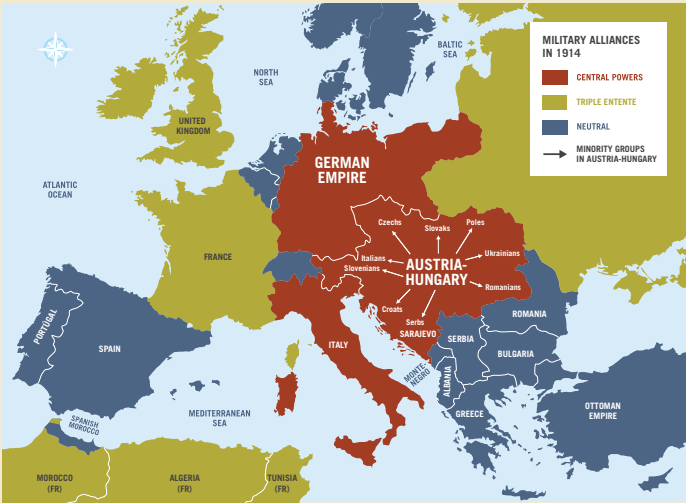
1914

The years leading up to the war were marked by severe rivalries between Europe’s main powers over the extent of their empires and the size of their armies.

Although the majority of European countries remained neutral, this tense climate favoured the formation of two strong political alliances. Meanwhile, some smaller nations – such as Ireland – sought self-rule.

Bhí méid a n-impireachtaí agus líon a n-airm ina chnámh spairne idir tíortha móra na hEorpa sna blianta roimh an chogadh.

Bíodh is go raibh formhór tíortha na hEorpa neodrach, bhí teannas mór ann, as a fáisceadh dhá cheann de chomhghuaillíochtaí móra polaitiúla. Idir an dá linn, bhí tíortha beaga, dála na hÉireann, ag lorg féinrialtais.



Europe’s political alliances in 1914 (Italy joined the Allies in 1915)
Comhghuaillíochtaí polaitiúla na hEorpa i 1914 (chuaigh an Iodáil leis na Comhghuallaithe i 1915)



Two Tug-of-War teams of the Leinster Regiment (c. 1909)
Dhá Fhoireann de Tharraingt na Téide as Reisimint Laighean (c. 1909)

A Volunteer Army

Unlike the other armies in Europe, Britain did not have a large army of conscripted soldiers. It was a volunteer army that relied on soldiers freely joining up. Russia, Germany and France had conscription which required men to join the army at the age of 18.

Arm d’Óglaigh

Murab ionann agus airm eile san Eoraip, ní raibh arm mór de shaighdiúirí coinscríofa ag an mBreatain. Arm d’óglaigh a bhí ann, a bhraith ar shaighdiúirí a liostáil dá ndeoin féin. Bhí coinscríobh i bhfeidhm sa Rúis, sa Ghearmáin agus sa Fhrainc agus b’éigean d’fhir liostáil san arm nuair a shlánaigh siad 18 mbliana d’aois.

The Irish Regiments of the British Army

There were 14 Irish Regiments in the British Army in 1914, and the majority were serving in India when the war broke out. The 1st Battalion of the Royal Munster Fusiliers was based in Rangoon (now Yangon, Myanmar) and had the furthest distance to travel to England.

This photograph album shows the Irish soldiers of the regiment at ease in their colonial life. Many of them were to die on 25th April 1915 on the first day of battle in Gallipoli.

Reisimintí Éireannacha Arm na Breataine

Bhí 14 Reisimint Éireannach in Arm na Breataine i 1914, agus bhí a bhformhór ar fiannas san India nuair a bhris an cogadh amach. Bhí an 1ú Cathlán d’Fhiúsailéirí Ríoga na Mumhan i Rangún (Rangún, Maenmar anois) agus ba iad an cathlán ab fhaide amach ó Shasana.

Taispeántar san albam grianghraf saighdiúirí Éireannacha ag ligean a scíthe sa saol impiriúil. Chaillfí mórchuid díobh an 25 Aibreán 1915 ar an gcéad lá troda in Gallipoli.



Parade of the Royal Munster Fusiliers in Rangoon (1912)
Paráid d’Fhiúsailéirí Ríoga na Mumhan i Rangún (1912)