Irish Soldiers in the First World War (Somme)

Annual Somme Commemoration

A commemoration ceremony organised by the Royal British Legion Republic of Ireland is held every year at the Irish National War Memorial Gardens in Islandbridge, Dublin. The ceremony takes place on the Saturday before the Annual National Day of Commemoration event, which takes place on the Sunday closest to the 11th July every year.

Battle of the Somme Centenary Commemoration Ceremony

Since its inception in 2012, the Decade of Centenaries programme has sought to be measured and reflective and to commemorate significant events that shaped the history of the island of Ireland during this decade one hundred years ago – not only those that marked Ireland’s path to independence but also those which enhance our understanding of the wider international landscape during this period.

In 2016 a State ceremony to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of the Somme, in which approximately 3,500 soldiers from the island of Ireland (the 36th Ulster and the 16th Irish Divisions) lost their lives, was held in conjunction with the Royal British Legion Republic of Ireland and took place on Saturday 9th July 2016 at 12 noon.

During the ceremony wreaths were laid by the President of Ireland, the Secretary of State Northern Ireland, Deputy First Minister Northern Ireland, Minister for the Economy Northern Ireland, Ambassadors of the countries that fought at the Somme, and the Presidents of the Royal British Legion (Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland).

Irish Soldiers in the Battle of the Somme

The Battle of the Somme started on 1 July 1916 after an eight-day artillery bombardment of the German front lines. Despite 60,000 casualties in one day, no progress was made in the British sector and the battle continued until the following November when the weather intervened. The total number of casualties in the Battle exceeded one million. This included the deaths of some 3,500 Irishmen from all parts of this island. However, to fully understand and do justice to the significance what happened at the Somme, we must look at the overall context of WW1 and its impact on Ireland and on the Irish participants.

Irish Soldiers in the First World War

When the Bosnian Serb Gavrilo Princip fired the shots that killed the heir to the Austrian crown Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife during their state visit to Sarajevo in June 1914, he started a chain of events that would directly affect Irish people in every part of Ireland and some of those living in Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States. The course of Irish history was greatly altered, leading to the emergence of forces that still influence the politics of today. The increased awareness of the Irish aspects of the War have helped to put those forces to positive use by allowing people from the two major traditions to meet on common ground.
Ireland at the Outbreak of the War

By 1914, the political efforts to restore some form of self-government to Ireland appeared to be achieving tangible results with the passing of the Home Rule Bill at Westminster. The prospects of a Dublin parliament had prompted the Unionist opposition to organise the Ulster Volunteer Force and to import 24,600 rifles and three million rounds of ammunition from Germany on 24-25 April, 1914. In response, the Nationalists formed the Irish Volunteers who also imported arms from Germany at Howth albeit only 900 rifles and 25,000 rounds. These unofficial armies openly exercised in military formations bearing arms and with many volunteers wearing their own uniforms.

Ireland has a strong military tradition. Even before the departure of the “Wild Geese” after the Treaty of Limerick, Irish soldiers had practised their profession abroad. An exhibition of prints by Albrecht Durer contained a watercolour of “Irish soldiers” from 1521. Throughout the 19th century, the British Army in Ireland provided a convenient outlet for young men interested in soldiering. The country was divided into catchment areas for local regiments which offered regular income, attractive uniforms and the opportunity to travel abroad. Others joined the British navy. Irish emigrants to the United States had won distinction on both sides in the Civil War.

The new volunteer organisations and the Irish Citizen Army drew heavily on army veterans for organisational expertise and training.

Ireland goes to war

When Great Britain declared war on August 4th, 1914, there were some 20,000 Irishmen already serving in the regular British Army with another 30,000 in the first line reserve. The total army strength was 247,000 with 145,000 ex-regular reservists. In contrast to the other major European powers, the British Army relied on volunteer soldiers rather than on National Service. Lord Kitchener, a serving officer who was made Secretary for War on August 5th, informed the Cabinet that it would be a three-year war requiring at least one million men. Thirty new divisions were formed into what became known as the New Armies or Kitchener’s Army. The volunteers were assigned to new battalions of existing regiments of infantry which were given numbers following consecutively on the existing ones. [The word “Service” was added to the battalion number.] Typically, an infantry battalion consisted of 1,000 men. Following huge losses and a decline in volunteers, conscription was eventually introduced in January 1916. It was not applied to Ireland.

The Home Rule Bill was given the Royal Assent on the 18th September 1914 but its operation was suspended for one year or for the duration of the war when it would be reviewed with a view to securing the general consent of Ireland and the United Kingdom. On the Nationalist Party, John Redmond, who was widely expected to be the first Prime Minister of the new Irish Parliament, called on the Irish Volunteers to enlist. Irish soldiers in the British Expeditionary Force had already been in action in Flanders. The German advance through Belgium, the rumours of atrocities and refugees and the near capture of Paris had created an emotional atmosphere. The organisation split with those who followed Redmond being called the National Volunteers. About 12,000 of the 180,000 retained the Irish Volunteers title and set themselves the objective of gaining full independence for Ireland, by force if necessary. The peaceful achievement of Home Rule was again in doubt due to the failure of the Government to deal with the build-up of arms in Northern Ireland and the public refusal of a cavalry brigade in the Curragh to enforce Home Rule Act if so requested.
About 80,000 enlisted in Ireland in the first 12 months of the war, some half of whom came from Ulster. The First New Army of 100,000 soldiers, K1, contained the 10th (Irish) Division which was formed in late August, 1914. It had three brigades. One had regiments with bases in all four provinces. The second was based in Ulster and the third was based in the other three provinces. The 16th (Irish) Division of the Second New Army was formed in September, 1914. One brigade was from the province of Ulster. The 36th (Ulster) Division was authorised on the 28th October 1914. It was based on the formation and membership of the Ulster Volunteer Force to which a London based artillery unit was added. It contained men from all nine counties of Ulster. Redmond had sought have all Irish regiments organised into a single fighting unit.

Irishmen also joined Irish regiments such as the Irish Guards, the London (Irish), the Tyneside battalions of the Northumberland Fusiliers and the 1st/8th (Irish) Kings Liverpool Regiment. Many also joined other English, Scottish and Welsh regiments, the Royal Artillery, the Royal Flying Corps, the Medical Corps, the Army Service Corps, and the Royal Navy. Women served as nurses in the Voluntary Aid Detachment in the front line. Emigrants enlisted in the armies of Australia, New Zealand, Canada and South Africa and United States.

Those who went to fight could not have envisaged the changed world that would exist at the end of the War. The reasons for enlisting were as varied as the individuals. Some joined out of economic necessity. Others had the hope that the experience of serving side by side against a common enemy would forge friendships that would transcend the historic differences. Thomas Kettle, the former Nationalist MP for East Tyrone who served and was killed as a Lieutenant in the 9th Royal Dublin Fusiliers, believed that:

“Used with the wisdom which is sown in tears and blood, this tragedy of Europe may be and must be the prologue to the two reconciliations of which all statesmen have dreamed, the reconciliation of Protestant Ulster with Ireland, and the reconciliation of Ireland with Great Britain.”

**Important Irish Episodes in the First World War**

The virtual disappearance of the First World War from the version of Irish history taught to the first few generations of the new independent Irish state had the result that few are aware of the extent of the Irish participation in the actual fighting. The concentration on the experience of the 36th (Ulster) Division at the Battle of the Somme in Northern Ireland overshadowed the sacrifice of the Nationalist community.

The following are some episodes that have particular significance for Ireland and form the background discussions about the relevance of the First World War to modern politics.

**1914 The First Battles**

The British Expeditionary Force entered France in August 1914 and advanced to stop the German advance through Belgium and Northern France. The Irish regiments in the BEF were:

*Infantry:*

1st Irish Guards  
2nd Royal Dublin Fusiliers  
2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers  
2nd Royal Irish Rifles
2nd Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers
1st Royal Irish Fusiliers
2nd Connaught Rangers
2nd Royal Irish Regiment
2nd Leinster Regiment

_Cavalry:

4th Royal Irish Dragoon Guards
South Irish Horse
8th King’s Royal Irish Hussars
5th Royal Irish Lancers
North Irish Horse

Many Irish men were serving in British regiments and there were some English, Scots and Welsh in the Irish regiments who had been so assigned because of their Catholic faith.

The first shot fired by the British Army in the War was discharged by Corporal E. Thomas of the 4th Royal Irish Dragoon Guards just north of Mons on August 22nd. On the following day, Lt Maurice Dease from Mullingar, who was serving with the Royal Fusiliers, attempted to stop the German advance into the city with his machine gun unit. He died fighting and was awarded the first posthumous Victoria Cross of the War.

The well-trained regular soldiers fought a number of battles but had to retreat in the face of the German thrust. The 2nd Dublins had their first casualties near Le Cateau and the 2nd Munsters delayed the German advance for a day with a costly rearguard action at Etreux.

The Irish prisoners of war were eventually taken to a camp at Limburg where they were visited by Sir Roger Casement in his attempts to raise an “Irish Brigade” which would not be part of the German forces. Less than 60 of the 2000 Irish prisoners in the camp took up the offer.

The German advance on Paris was halted in the Battle of the Marne. The Allied Armies pursued the Germans until both sides took up positions in opposing trenches which eventually stretched for 350 miles from the English Channel to Switzerland.

The Irish regiments were distributed throughout the British sector and began a routine of alternating periods of days in the front line, days in reserve and days in the rear resting. The routine was broken by the major set piece battles in many of which large numbers of Irish soldiers died.

Some Irish soldiers took part in the Christmas Truce of 1914 when there was a spontaneous cessation in the killing for a short period.

1915

**GALLIPOLI**

The stalemate on the Western Front prompted an alternative approach to defeating Germany. The capture of Constantinople, now Istanbul, would give a direct link to the Russian ally and a successful eastern front campaign could be undertaken. A British Navy
attempt to sail up the Dardanelles on March 18 failed with the loss of several ships. Despite the advanced warning that this gave the Turks, the British and French attempted a land invasion on the 25th April. They went ashore at six locations but the Turkish defence held them close to the beaches. A second attempt was made on the 6th August at Suvla Bay but this also ground to a halt. The campaign was abandoned and last of the troops were withdrawn in January 1916. Churchill, who had proposed the campaign, had to resign from the Cabinet. He subsequently lost his seat in the House of Commons and had to wait until outbreak of the Second World War to return to a position of power.

The 1st Battalions of the Royal Dublin, Munster and Inniskilling Fusiliers took part in the landing on April 25th at Cape Helles which was a perfect defensive location with gun emplacements housed on steep slopes. The naval bombardment failed to neutralize the Turkish defences. The Royal Dublin Fusiliers and the Royal Munster Fusiliers were the first to disembark from the S.S. River Clyde and of the first 200 men to leave the ship, 149 were killed and 30 wounded immediately. The Dublins had 25 officers and 987 other ranks but only, one officer and 374 other ranks made it ashore. There were 637 casualties in the first 36 hours.

The Allies decided to launch a fresh attack against the Turks and chose Suvla Bay, 25 miles north of Cape Helles. The first Irish volunteer unit to go into battle was the 10th (Irish) Division which contained the new service battalions of the Irish regiments. As a result of administrative incompetence, the Division’s artillery had been sent to France and the men arrived without either maps or orders. The Division did not fight as a unit. There was a chronic water shortage and the soldiers ran out of ammunition and had to resort to throwing stones at the enemy. At least 3,411 serving with Irish battalions were killed or missing, 569 from the 1st Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers alone.

ST JULIAN, Flanders, May 1915

Near St. Julien, during the second battle of Ypres, the 2nd Royal Dublin Fusiliers suffered near annihilation just one month after the Helles Landings. On May 24th, 1915, around 2.45am, the Germans launched a poison gas attack. The Battalion strength was 666 men. By 9.30 pm, only one officer and 20 other ranks remained.

SALONIKA, October, 1915

On September 29, 1915, the 2,454 strong 10th (Irish) Division set sail from Gallipoli for Salonika to fight on the Bulgarian front. On the 3rd October, the Royal Dublin and Munster Fusiliers were at the front line and were ordered to take the village of Jenikoj which is now in Macedonia. In the attack, they lost 385 men killed, wounded or missing. There is a granite Celtic cross to commemorate the 10th (Irish) Division near the village of Robrovo in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. This complements the ones at Wijtschate in Flanders and Guillemont in France.

1916

HULLUCH, April, 1916

The 16th (Irish) Division arrived in France in December 1915 and was assigned to the Loos sector. The soldiers experienced trench warfare and suffered casualties during each 8-day period in the front line. They were in the trenches at Hulluch when the Germans launched a gas attack on April 27th, 1916. Of the 1980 casualties, 570 were killed and many of the wounded died later from respiratory diseases. The Germans had put up placards opposite
the Irish trenches to bring news of the Easter Rising which had begun in Dublin. The Division remained at Loos until August when it moved to the Somme area. The Division had suffered 6,000 casualties (1,496 killed).

THE RISING IN DUBLIN, April, 1916

As the number of casualties continued to rise with little prospect of early victory, the Irish Volunteers continued to train and prepare to resist any attempt to disarm them. The reality of war was brought home in the long lists of dead and wounded which also increased the likelihood of conscription.

When the Rising began on the 24th April, there were about 5,000 soldiers deployed in the Dublin area. An additional 1000 were immediately sent from Belfast and further thousands were dispatched from England. The 4th, 5th and 10th Royal Dublin Fusiliers took part in the fighting as did a number of officers and soldiers who were on leave in Dublin at the time.

It was generally accepted that the Irish Volunteers fought bravely and honourably. Prime Minister Asquith told the House of Commons that “they fought bravely and did not resort to outrage.” The series of executions helped to swing Nationalist support away from the Parliamentary Party and behind Sinn Fein.

THE SOMME, July –November 1916

In an attempt to break the deadlock of trench warfare and to relieve the pressure on Verdun, the British and French launched a major offensive on July 1. The German positions opposite the 14 miles of the British sector had been bombarded with 1.7 million shells since June 24. No resistance was expected when over 100,000 soldiers left their trenches and went forward into no man’s land at 7.30 am. In clear daylight, they advanced at a walking pace in straight lines with 100 yards between each assault wave. They were met with a hail of gunfire which caused 60,000 casualties on that day, of whom almost 20,000 were killed.

The 36th (Ulster) Division’s was assigned a target that included a huge concrete bunker where German troops sheltered, the Schwaben Redoubt. The Division was one of the few that succeeded in gaining its objectives but the soldiers could not hold them due the failures of the other divisions. The losses amounted to 5,500 of whom almost 2,000 were killed. Almost every community in Ulster was affected. Four Victoria Crosses were awarded to the Division.

Irish battalions serving in other divisions took part in the attack on July1. The 1st Royal Dublin Fusiliers, veterans of Gallipoli, went into action in a sector neighbouring the 36th. They had 147 casualties (22 killed) and 64 missing. The 2nd Royal Dublin Fusiliers were in the second wave of the attack, going into battle with 23 officers and 480 other ranks: 14 officers and 311 other ranks were casualties. The 1st Royal Irish Rifles, 1st Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st and 2nd Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Royal Irish Regiment and the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Tyneside Irish Battalions of the Northumberland Fusiliers fought on that day.

The Battle of the Somme continued throughout the Summer with little progress. The 16th (Irish) Division captured Guillemont on September 2nd and Ginchy on September 9th. Lt Tom Kettle, MP, was killed while leading a company of the 9th Royal Dublin Fusiliers and Lt John Holland of the Leinsters won a Victoria Cross. The Division had 4,314 casualties (1167 killed).

The Battle petered out in November when 10th Royal Dublin Fusiliers, attached to the 63rd Naval Division, helped to capture Beaumont Hamel, one of the objectives for the first day. It had 50% casualties.
1917

MESSINES RIDGE, June 1917

The 16th (Irish) and 36th (Ulster) Divisions went into battle together to take the Belgian village of Wijtschate in the well-planned attack on the Messines Ridge. General Plumer had a scaled model of the Ridge made so troops could see what lay ahead. He had mines dug for explosives beneath German defences. About 3 million shells bombarded Messines for over a week. The barrage eased just before Plumer detonated 9,500 tons of explosives under the Germans in 19 mines. Willie Redmond, M.P. and brother of John, leader of the Irish Party, died of wounds received in the attack.

PASSCHENDAELE, THE 3RD BATTLE OF YPRES, July 1917

The 16th (Irish) and 36th (Ulster) Divisions were transferred to General Gough's 5th Army in July 1917. On 31 July, the 36th (Ulster) Division took part in the opening attack on the strong German positions to the east of Ypres. The heavy rain, which continued for a month, made conditions for an attack impossible. Never-the-less, both Irish divisions moved forward at Langemarck on August 16th. 65% of the leading units were lost before the attack due to heavy German shelling. The 36th (Ulster) had 3,585 casualties and the 16th (Irish) 4,231. Fr Willie Doyle, MC, chaplain to the 8th Dublins, was killed.

The 16th (Irish) Division was in action near Arras and the 36th (Ulster) Division near Cambrai in November. The 10th (Irish) Division went to Egypt in September.

1918

THE SOMME 1918 - THE LAST 100 DAYS

The long-expected German offensive began on March 21st and succeeded in driving the British lines back almost to Amiens. The 16th and 36th Divisions received the full weight of the attack and were effectively destroyed as fighting units. The 16th had 6,435 casualties and the 36th had 6,109. A third were killed.

The battalions of 10th and 16th Divisions were amalgamated and distributed to other divisions on the Western Front. For example, the 1st Dublins went to the 29th Division and the 2nd and 7th joined the 31st Division. The 36th Division remained Ulster in name only as replacements were English conscripts. The Irish battalions took part in the advances which drove the Germans back over all of the territory gained during the four years of war. The 2nd Dublins went into battle near Le Cateau on October 16th, suffering 44% casualties within two days. This was where they had first gone into action in August 1914. The First World War ended within a month.

AFTERMATH

When the soldiers returned to Ireland, they found a changed political climate. The election in December 1918 was a clear endorsement of Sinn Fein outside of the traditional Unionist areas. The sacrifices made in the war were sidelined in the southern provinces whereas the losses at the Somme became part of the heritage of the new Northern Ireland.
Some ex-soldiers joined the IRA, notably Emmet Dalton who had served with Tom Kettle. He is on record as having no difficulty in fighting for Ireland with the British and fighting for Ireland against the British. Others joined the new Irish army.

On June 12th, 1922, the regiments which had been recruited in the new independent Ireland were disbanded. They were:

- The Royal Irish Regiment
- The Connaught Rangers
- The Prince of Wales Leinster Regiment
- The Royal Munster Fusiliers
- The Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

The Colours were received by the King and were laid up in Windsor Castle where they remain.
STATISTICS

There is no agreement on the total number of Irish soldiers who served in the British Army and Navy in the First World War. Professor Keith Jeffery gives a figure of 210,000. There appears to be a consensus that at least 35,000 died though the figure on the National War Memorial is 49,400.

About 140,000 enlisted in Ireland during the war. The increase in 1918 is worth noting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Recruits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 1914 –Feb 1915</td>
<td>50,107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 1915- Aug 1915</td>
<td>25,235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 1915 –Feb 1916</td>
<td>19,801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 1916- Aug 1916</td>
<td>9,323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 1916 –Feb 1917</td>
<td>8,178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 1917- Aug 1917</td>
<td>5,607</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 1917 –Feb 1918</td>
<td>6,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 1918- Aug 1918</td>
<td>5,812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 1918 –Nov 1918 [3 Months]</td>
<td>9,843</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The first year total of Irish recruits exceeded the total of the remaining three years of the War. As the War progressed, Irish losses were replaced by UK conscripts. For example, the percentage of non-Irish soldiers in the 1st Royal Irish Rifles, which was based in Antrim and Down, was 23% in 1916. One year later it was 52%.

As mentioned earlier, Irish soldiers served in other forces.
## Recruiting areas for the Irish Infantry and Cavalry Regiments 1914

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regiment Name:</th>
<th>Recruiting area:</th>
<th>Depot:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The (18th Foot) Royal Irish Regiment</td>
<td>Tipperary, Wexford Waterford, Kilkenny</td>
<td>Clonmel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Royal Munster Fusiliers</td>
<td>Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Clare</td>
<td>Tralee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Connaught Rangers</td>
<td>Galway, Sligo, Mayo, Roscommon, Leitrim</td>
<td>Renmore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Inniskilling Fusiliers</td>
<td>Omagh, Fermanagh, Donegal, Derry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Royal Irish Rifles</td>
<td>Belfast, Down, Antrim, Tyrone</td>
<td>Belfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Royal Irish Fusiliers</td>
<td>Monaghan, Armagh, Cavan</td>
<td>Armagh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Leinster Regiment</td>
<td>Offaly, Meath, Louth, Laois</td>
<td>Birr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Royal Dublin Fusiliers</td>
<td>Dublin, Kildare, Wicklow, Carlow</td>
<td>Naas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Irish Guards</td>
<td>All over Ireland</td>
<td>Chelsea Barracks London.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Tyneside Irish 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th Battalions of Northumberland Fusiliers</td>
<td>Newcastle</td>
<td>Alnwick Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The London Irish Rifles</td>
<td>London, Chelsea</td>
<td>Duke of York Barracks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Kings Liverpool Regiment</td>
<td>Liverpool</td>
<td>Seaforth Barracks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mainly only Irish in name</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The 4th (Royal Irish) Dragoon Guards</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The 5th (Royal Irish) Lancers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The 6th (Inniskilling) Dragoons</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The 8th (King’s Royal Irish) Hussars</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The South Irish Horse</td>
<td>Southern Ireland</td>
<td>Clonmel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The North Irish Horse</td>
<td>Belfast, Down, Antrim, Tyrone, Cavan, Derry, Donegal, Armagh, Monaghan</td>
<td>Belfast</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Saighdiúirí Éireannacha sa Chéad Chogadh Domhanda

Comóradh Bliantúil ar an Somme

Reáchtálaí Léigiúin Rioga Briotanach na hÉireann searmanas comórtha gach blain i nGairdíní Náisiúnta Cuimhneacháin Cogaidh na hÉireann i nDroichead na hInse, Baile Átha Cliath. An Satharn roimh an Lá Náisiúnta Cuimhneacháin, a bhíonn ar siúl an Domhnach is gaire don 11ú lúil gach blain, a réachtáiltear an searmanas.

Searmanas Comórtha Chath an Somme

Ó tionscnaíodh é in 2012, féachann clár Deich mBliana na gCuimhneachán a bheith measúil agus machnamhach sa chomóradh a dhéantar ar imeachtaí suntasacha a raibh tionchar acu ar stair oileán na hÉireann sna deich mbliana seo céad blain ó shin – ní hamháin na himeachtaí sin a bhain ach freisin na cinn a chuireann lenár dtuisceart ar mar a bhí cúrsaí go híomhánútaidh ag an am. In 2016 réachtáladh searmanas Stáit chun comóradh a dheánadh ar Chath an Somme, inar maraíodh suas le 3,500 saighdiúir ó oileán na hÉireann (an 36ú Rannán Uladh agus 16ú Rannán na hÉireann). Réachtáladh sin i gcomhor le Léigiún Ríoga Briotanach na hÉireann an Satharn an 9ú lúil 2016 ag 12 meas lá. Le linn an tsearmanais leag Uachtarán na hÉireann, Stát-Rúnaí Thuaisceart Éireann, Leas-Chéad Aire Thuaisceart Éireann, Aire Eacnamaíochta Thuaisceart Éireann, Ambasadoirí ó thíortha a throid sa Somme agus Uachtaráin an Léigiúin Rioga Briotanach (Poblacht na hÉireann agus Thuaisceart Éireann) bláthfhleascanna.

Saighdiúirí na hÉireann i gCath an Somme

Thosaigh Cath an Somme, a bhfuilimid ag comóradh a chothrom lae nócha blain ó shin, an 1 lúil 1916 tar éis tuairgneáil airtléire ocht lá ar linte tosai na Garmeáine. In ainneoin go raibh 60,000 taismeach ann in aon lá amháin, ní dhearnadh aon duil chun cinn in aghaidh na Breataine agus mhair an cogadh go dtí an Samhain dar gcionn tráth ar athraigh an aimsir cúrsaí. Bhí os cionn milliún taismeach ar an iomlán. Bhí 3,500 Éireannach ó gach ceann den oileán i measc na marbh. Chun tuiscint iomlán a fháil ar ar tharla ag an Somme, agus chuimhneadh fein a thabhairt don tábhacht a bhí leis, caithfimid breathnú ar chomhthéacs iomlán na Chéad Chogadh Domhanda agus an tionchar a bhí aige ar Éirinn agus ar na daoine as Éirinn a ghlac páirt ann.

Saighdiúirí Éireannacha sa Chéad Chogadh Domhanda

Nuair a scaoil an Seirbiach Boisniach Gavrilo Princip na hOstaire a mharaigh an oidhre ar Choróin na hOstaire, an tArd-Diúc Franz Ferdinand, agus a bhanchéile le linn a gcualaithe le linn a gcuairte le Sarajevo i Meitheamh 1914, chuir sé tús le cúrsaí a mbeadh tionscar dhéach cuí a Éireannaigh i ngach ceann d’Éirinn agus ar Éireannaigh a bhí ina gcónaí sa Bhratain, san Astráil, sa Nua-Shéalainn, i gCéanada agus sna Stáit Aontaithe. Athraíodh stair na hÉireann go mór, as ar thainig fós a bhfuil tionscar fós acu ar pholaitíocht an lae inniu. Mar gheall ar níos mó eolais ar gnéithe Éireannacha den Chogadh is fheidir linn úsáidh thaircheacht a bhaint as na fósraí sin chun go bhféadfaidh daoine ón dá mhórthraidisiúin nithe a bheith i gcoiteann acu.

Éire ag Tús an Chogaidh
Faoi 1914, ba dhealraithe go raibh na hiarrachtaí polaitiúla chun féinrialtas de chineál éigin a thabhairt go hÉirinn ag baint torthaí cinnte amach le rith Bhille an Rialtais Dúchas ag Westminster. Thug an baol go mbeadh parlamint i mBaille Átha Cliath ar an bhfheabhsú Aontachtacht Óglaigh Uladh a eagrú agus 24,600 raidhfil mar aon le 3 milliún piléar a allmhairiú ón nGearmáin an 24-25 Aibreán, 1914. Mar fhreagra air sin, chruthaigh na Náisiúnaíthe Óglaigh na hÉireann agus thug siadsan airm ón nGearmáin isteach ag Binn Éadair, cé nach raibh ann ach 900 raidhfil agus 25,000 piléar. Bhiodh na haimr neamhoifigiúla sin ag freachnamh go hoscaithe in eagar mileata ag iompar airm agus bhiodh a gcuí eide féin a chaithneamh ag go leor de na hÓglaigh.


Tharraing na heagraiochtaí óglach nua agus Arm Cathartha na hÉireann go mór ar athlaocha airm le haghaidh saineolas eagraíochtúil agus traenáil.

**Téann Éire chun cogadh**


Tugadh crutha de na “Seirbhísí” i mbun comhraic cheana i bhFlóndras. Bhí atmaíseach cruthaithe ag dul ar aghaidh na Gearmáine tríd an mBeilg, na luaidreáin faoi gníomhartha uafáis agus dídeanaithe agus ó tharla gur beag nár tógadh Páras. Scoilt an eagraíocht, agus ghairm an dream a lean Mac Réamainn na hÓglaigh Náisiúnta orthu féin. Chuir Mac Réamainn na hÓglaigh Náisiúnta orthu féin 1,000 fear a bhíodh sa chathlán coisithe. Tar éis caillteanais mhóra agus meath ar an líon óglach, tugadh coinscríobh isteach faoi dheireadh in Eanáir 1916. Níor cuireadh i bhfeidhm in Éirinn é.

Tugadh Cead Rioga do Bhille an Rialtais Dúchas an 18ú Meán Fómhair 1914, ach cuireadh a fheidhmíu a fhearrgáraí agus amháin ní a bheidh an teideal Óglaigh na hÉireann agus an Ríoga Na hÉireann i bhfeidhm i mbun comhraic cheana i bhFlóndras. Bhí atmaíseach cruthaithe ag dul ar aghaidh na Gearmáine tríd an mBeilg, na luaidreáin faoi ghníomhartha uafáis agus dídeanaithe agus ó tharla gur beag nár tógadh Páras. Scoilt an eagraíocht, agus ghairm an dream a lean Mac Réamainn na hÓglaigh Náisiúnta orthu féin. Choinnigh thart ar 12,000 den 180,000 an teideal Óglaigh na hÉireann agus leag siad amach mar chuimhne dóibh féin neamhspleáchas iomlán a bhaint amach d’Éirinn, le forneart dá mba ghá. Chuirteadh amhras
arís ar bhaint amach an Rialtais Dúchas go síochánta mar gheall ar an Rialtas déileáil leis an gcarnadh arm i dTuaisceart Éireann agus mar gheall gur dhíúltaiigh briogáid marcra sa Churrach poiblí Acht an Rialtais Dúchas a chur i bhfeidhm dá n-iarrfai sin orthu.


Chuaigh Éireannach freisin le reisimintí Éireannacha ar nós Gardaí na hÉireann, an Londain (Éireannach), Cathláin Cosy Tyné d'Fhíúisailéiri Northumberland agus an 1ú/8ú Reisimint Learphoil an Rí (Éireannach). Chuaigh go leor eile isteach i reisimintí Sasanach, Albanacha agus Breathnach, an Rioga, Airtléire, an Cór Eilíite Rioga, an Cór Liachta, Cór Seirbhísí an Airm agus an Cabhlach Rioga. D'fhóin mná mar bhanaltraí san Astráil, sa Nua-Shéalainn, i gCeannada agus san Afric Theas agus sna Stáit Aontaithe.

Ní raibh bealach ar bith go bhféadfadh na daoine a chuaigh chun troda an saol athraithe a bheadh ann ag deireadh an Chogaidh a shamhlú. Bhí na cúiseanna a liostáil daoine chomh héagsúil leis na daoine féin. Chuaigh daoine ann mar gheall ar riachtanas eacnamaíoch. Bhí tuilleadh ag súil go gcothófaí cáirdeas agus thrasnóidh difríochtai stairiúla trína bhheith ag fómham taobh le taobh in aghaidh an namhad céanna. Chreid Thomas Kettle, iar-MP Náisiúnaí a d'fhóin in 8ú Fiúsailéirí Rioga Bhaile Átha Cliath, agus a maraíodh tráth a raibh sé ina Leifteanant:

“Ag breathnú ar an tragóid seo san Eoraip leis an ngaois a thagann le deora agus fuil, is maith a d'théadhadadh sí, go deimhin caithfidh sí, a bheith ina tús le chéile athmhuintearas atá ina aisling ag gach an stát aghaidh, athmhuintearas Uladh Prostastúnach le hÉirinn agus athmhuintearas na hÉireann leis an mbreataithe mhór.”

Eachtraí Tábhachtacha Éireannacha sa Chéad Chogadh Domhanda

Ó tharla go raibh an Chéad Chogadh Domhanda fágtha amach nach mór as an leagan de stair na hÉireann a múineadh don chéad chupla gluin den stát nua neamhspleách Éireannach is beag ar eol dóibh a mhéid a bhí Éireannach páirteach sa troid féin. Rinneadh beag d’iobairt an phobail Náisiúnaigh trí dhíriú isteach i dTuaisceart Éireann ar ar tharla don 36ú Rannán (Uladh) ag Cath an Somme.

Seo a leanas cuid de na heachtraí a bhfuil tábhachtach ar leith ag baint leo d’Éirinn agus atá mar bhunús don phlé ar an mbaint atá ag an gCéad Chogadh Domhanda le polaitiocht an lae inniu.
1914 Na Chéad Chathanna

Chuaigh Forrsa Sluaíochta na Bretaine (BEF) go dtí an Fhrainc i Lúnasa 1914 agus rinne siad a mbealach chun dul ar aghaidh na Gearnáine tríd an mBeilg agus Tuaisceart na Fraince a stopadh. Ba iad na reisimintí Éireannacha sa BEF ná:

_Coísithe:_

1ú Gardaí na hÉireann 2ú Fiúsailéirí Rioga Bhaile Átha Clath 2ú Fiúsailéirí Rioga na Mumhan 1ú Fiúsailéirí Rioga na hÉireann 2ú Fiúsailéirí Rioga Inis Ceithleann 2ú Reisimint Rioga na hÉireann 2ú Fiannóghaigh Chonnacht 2ú Raidhfilí Rioga na hÉireann 2ú Reisimint Láighean

_Marcra:_

4ú Gardaí Dragúin Rioga na hÉireann Capaill Éireann an Deiscirt 8 ú Husáir Éireannacha Rioga an Rí 5ú Lansaithe Rioga na hÉireann Capaill Éireann an Tuaiscirt

Bhí go leor fear Éireannach ag fónamh i reisimintí na Bretaine agus bhí roinnt Sasanaigh, Albanach agus Breatnach i reisimintí na hÉireann ar cuireadh ann mar gheall go mba Chaitlicigh iad.

Ba é an Ceannaire E. Thomas de 4ú Gardaí Dragúin Rioga na hÉireann a chaithe an chéad urchar de chuid Arm na Bretaine sa Chogadh díreach ó thuaidh de Mons an 22ú Lúnasa. An lá dar gcionn, d’fhéach an Lt Maurice Dease as an Muileann gCearr, a bhí ag fónamh leis na Fiúsailéirí Rioga le dul chun cinn na Gearnáine isteach sa chathair a stopadh lena aonad meaisinghunnaí. Bhásaigh sé sa troid agus bronadh an chéad Cros Victoria iarbháis den Chogadh air.

Throid na buansaighdiúirí dea-oilte roinnt cathanna ach b’éigean dóibh cúlú ó ionsaí na Gearnáine. Bhi a gcéad taismiag ag an 2ú Baile Átha Cliath in aice le Le Cateau agus chuir an 2ú Mumhain moill ar dhul chun cinn na Gearnáine ar feadh lae trí chomhrac costasach cúilgharda ag Etreux.

Tugadh príosúnaigh choghaidh na hÉireann faoi dheireadh go dtí campa ag Limburg áit ar thug Sior Ruairí Mac Easmainn cuairt orthu ina chuid iarrachtait “Briogáid Éireannach” a chur le chéile nach mbeadh mar chuid d’fhórslai na Gearnáine. Ghlac níos lú ná 60 den 2000 príosúnaigh Éireannach sa champa lena thairiscint.

Cuireadh stop le dul chun cinn na Gearnáine ar Pháras i gCath Marne. Lean Aírm na gComhghuaillithe na Gearnánaigh go dtí go raibh an dá thaobh suite i dtrinsí ar aghaidh a chéile a bhí ag síneadh faoi dheireadh ar feadh 350 mile ó Mhuir nlocht go dtí an Eilvéis.

Bhí reisimintí na hÉireann scáipthe ar fud theascóg na Bretaine agus chuir siad túis le tréimhsí malartacha laethanta sa lín tosaigh, laethanta sa chúltaca agus laethanta ar chúl ag ligean scíthe. Bhristi an gnáthmha sin leis na mórchathanna piosai socraithe inar bhásaigh lion mór saighdiúirí Éireannacha.
Ghlaic roinnt saighdiúirí Éireannacha páirt i Sos Cogaidh na Nollag sa bhliain 1914 nuair a cuireadh stop go tobann leis an marú ar feadh tréimhse ghearr.

1915

GALLIPOLI

Leis an leamhsháinn a bhí ar an bhFronta Thiar lorgaíodh bealach eile chun an Ghearmáin a chloí. Chruthódh tógáil Constantinople, Istanbul sa lá atá inniu ann, nasc díreach leis an gcogaidh Rúiseach agus d’fhéadfaí tabhairt faoi theachtas rathúil ar an bhfronta thoir.

Theip ar iarraidh de chuid Chabhlach na Breataine seoladh suas an Dardanelles an 18 Márta agus caileadh roinnt long. In ainneoin an flóirireadh roimh ré a thug sé sin do na Turcaigh, thug na Briotanaigh agus na Francaigh faoi ionradh talún an 25ú Aibreán. Chaigh siad i dtír ag sé shuíomhach ach choinnigh cosaint na dTurcach gar do na tráanna iad. Rinneadh iarraidh eile an 6ú Lúna ag Bá Suvla ach tháinig sin ina stad chomh maith. Caitheadh an feachtas i dtraipéise agus tarraingióidh an chuid de chuid déideadh de na trápaí siar in Eanáir 1916.

B’éigean do Churchill, a mholt an feachtas, éiri as an gComh-Aireacht. Chaill sé a shuíochán ina dhiaidh sin i dTeach na dTeachtaí agus bhí air fanacht go dtí gur thosaigh an Dara Cogadh Domhanda le go mbeadh cumhacht arís aige.


ST JULIAN, Flóndras, Bealtaine, 1915


SALONIKA, Deireadh Fómhair, 1915

An 29 Meán Fómhair, 1915, sheol an 10ú Rannán (Éireannach), a raibh 2,454 duine ann, ó Gallipoli ag tabhairt a n-aghaidh ar Salonika chun troid ar fronta na Bulgáire. An 3ú Deireadh Fómhair, bhí Fíúsailéirí Rioga Bhaile Átha Cliath agus na Mumhan ag an linn tosaigh agus ordaíodh dóibh an sráidbhaile Jenikoj, atá sa Mhacadóin sa lá atá inniu ann, a
thógáil. San ionsaí sin, chaill siad 385 fear, idir dhaoine a maraíodh, a goineadh nó a chuaigh ar iarraidh. Tá cros Cheilteach eibhir ansin anois chun comóradh a dhéanamh ar an 10ú Rannán (Éireannach). Tá crosa den chineál céanna ag Wytscaete i bhFlóndras agus i Guillemont sa Fhrainc.

1916
HULLUCH, Aibreán, 1916

AN T-ÉIRÍ AMACH I MBAILE ÁTHA CLIATH, Aibreán, 1916
De réir mar a bhí lion na dtaismeach ag meadú agus gan mórán dóchais de bhua luath, lean Óglaigh na hÉireann orthu ag traenáil agus ag ullmhú chun seasamh in aghaidh aon iarraighta ar iad a dhí-armáil. B'oscailt súr ar fhioriarthairt an chogaidh a bhí sna liostaí fada de dhaoine a bhí maraithe nó gorta chomh maith leis an meadú ar an dóchúlacht go dtéacharfaí coiscriobh isteach.

Nuair a thosaigh an tÉirí Amach an 24ú Aibreán, bhí thart ar 5,000 saighdiúir imlonnaithe i límistéar Bhaile Átha Cliath. Seoladh 1000 breise láithreach ó Bhéal Feirste ag cuireadh na milte eile anall ó Shasana. Ghlac 4ú, 5ú agus 10ú Fiúisáléirí Ríoga Bhaile Átha Cliath páirt sa troid faoi mar a rinne oifigeach agus saighdiúiri a bhí ar saoire i mBáile Átha Cliath ag an am.

Glactar leis go coitianta gur hÓglaigh na hÉireann go calma agus go fiúntach. Dúirt an Príomh-Aire Asquith i dTeach na dTeachtaí gur throid siad go calma agus nach ndeachaigh siad i muinín an feillbhír. Leis an mheid daoine a cuireadh chun bás ina dhiaidh baineadh an tacaíocht Náisiúnaí ón bPáirtí Parlaiminteach ach tugadh do Shinn Féin í.

AN SOMME, Iúil–Samhain, 1916
In iarraicht an tsáin a bhain leis an gcogaíocht trinse a bhraiseadh agus chun an brú a bhaint de Verdun, chuia na Briotanaigh agus na Francaigh tús le mór-ionsáí an 1 lúil. Bhi suímh na nGearmánaigh trasna ón 14 mile de theascóg na Brentaine á dtuairgineáil le 1.7 milliún sligóin ón 24 Meitheamh. Nó rabhthas ag súil le haon fhrithghníomh nuair a d'fhág 100,000 saighdiúir a dtrinsí agus nuair a chuailigh siad isteach i ltrach an air ag 7.30 am. Faoi sholas an lae, chaighi siad cinn ag súil go réidh i linte díreach le 100 slat idir gach tonn lingthe. Scoileadh roiseadh gunnalámhaigh leo agus bhí 60,000 taismeach ann an lá sin, agus maraíodh beagnach 20,000 diobh.

Sannadh sprioc ar an 36ú Rannán (Ulaidh) ina raibh buncar ollmhór coirnírte a raibh trúpaí Gearmánaigh ar dídean ann, Dúnchaí Schwaben. Bhí an Rannán sin ar cheann de bheagán ar éirigh leo a sprioc a bhaint amach, ach ní raibh na saighdiúirí in ann an sprioc sin a choineáil ó tharla nár éirigh leis na rannáin eile. Bhí 5,500 duine de chailtleanas orthu
agus maraíodh beagnach 2,000 díobh sin. Ghoill sé ar beagnach gach pobal i gCúige Uladh. Bronnadh ceithre Chros Victoria ar an Rannán.

Bhí cathláin Éireannacha eile a bhí ag fónamh i rannáin eile páirteach san ionsáí an 1ú lúil. Chuaigh 1ú Fiúsailéirí Ríoga Bhaile Átha Cliath, athlaochra Gallipoli, i mbun gnímh i dtéascog a bhí in aice leis an 36ú. Bhain 147 taismeach diobh (maraíodh 22) agus chuaigh 64 ar iarraidh. Bhí 2ú Fiúsailéirí Ríoga Bhaile Átha Cliath sa dara tonn den ionsaí, ag dul chun cogaidh le 23 oifigeach agus 480 de chéimeanna eile: rinneadh taismeach de 14 oifigeach agus 311 de chéimeanna eile. Throid 1ú Ríoga na hÉireann Cois Tyne d’Fhíúsailéirí Northumberland an lá sin.

Mhair Cath an Somme ar feadh an tSamhraidh agus is beag dul chun cinn a rinneadh. Thóg an 16ú Rannán (Éireannach) Guillelmore an 2ú Meán Fómhair agus Ginchy an 9ú Meán Fómhair. Maraíodh an Lt Tom Kettle agus bhuaigh an Lt John Holland de na Laigheanaigh an 1ú Fiúsailéirí, ceann de na 23 oifigeach agus 480 de chéimeanna eile. Throid 1ú Raidhfilí Ríoga na hÉireann agus an 1ú, 2ú, 3ú agus 4ú Cathláin Éireannacha Cois tyne d’Fhíúsailéirí Northumberland an lá sin.

Tháching deireadh leis an gCath i mí na Samhna nuair a chabhraigh 10ú Fiúsailéirí Ríoga Bhaile Átha Cliath, a bhí ar ceangal leis an 63ú Rannán Cabhlaigh, le Beaumont Hamel a thógáil, ceann de na spriocanna don chéad lá. Bhí 50% ina dtaisnígh:

**1917**

**IOMAIRE MESSINES, Meitheamh, 1917**

Chuaigh an 16ú Rannán (Éireannach) agus an 36ú Rannán (Ulaidh) chun cogaidh chun an sráidbhaile Beilgech Wytschaete a thógáil in ionsaí dea-phleanáite ar iomaire Messines. Fuair an Ginearál Plumer samhail de réir scála den iomaire deanta íomhánais go mbéadh a raibh rompu le feiceáil ag na trúpaí. Chuir sé miane nach a dtchocht le haghaidh pléascáin foirnais a bhí ag an phoill sa Ghearmáin. Thuairgneáil thart ar 2 milliún sliogán Messines ar feadh 14,000 oifigeach a tháilte. Tháinig deireadh leis an gCath i mí na Samhna nuair a chabhraigh 10ú Fiúsailéirí Ríoga Bhaile Átha Cliath, a bhí ar ceangal leis an 63ú Rannán Cabhlaigh, le Beaumont Hamel a thógáil, ceann de na spriocanna don chéad lá. Bhí 50% ina dtaisnígh.

**1918**

**AN SOMME 1918 – NA 100 LÁ DEIRIDH**

Thosaigh iomaire na Ghearmáine a raibh síúl le fada leis an 21ú Márta agus dhéantar sa 100 lá deiridh chomh fada le Amiens. Bhí an 16ú agus 36ú Rannán farraimh eile in aice le Arras agus an 36ú Rannán (Ulaidh) in aice le Cambrai in mí na Samhna. Chuaigh an 10ú Rannán (Éireannach) chun na hÉigipte i Meán Fómhair.

Cuireadh cathláin an 10ú Rannán agus an 16ú Rannán le chéile agus scaipeadh chuig rannán eile eile ar an bhFronta Thiar iad. Mar shampla, chuaigh an 1ú Baille Átha Cliath go dtí an 19ú Rannán agus cuireadh an 2ú agus an 7ú leis an 31ú Rannán. Is san ainm amháin a d’fhian Ulaídh ar an 36ú Rannán mar gur daoine a coinscriobhadh as Sasana na daoine nua a cuireadh ann. Bhí na cathláin Éireannacha páirteach sa dul chun cinn a ruaig na Gearmánaigh siar thar an bhfhearann go léir a bhí gnóthaithe acu sna ceithre bliana den chogadh. Bhí an 2ú Baille Átha Cliath i gcath in aice le Le Cateau an 16ú Deireadh Fómhair, agus rinneadh taismigh de 44% in imeacht dhá lá. Ba é seo an áit a ndeachaigh siad chun comhraic den chéad uair i Lúnasa 1914. Chríochnáigh an Chéad Chogadh Domhandha laistigh de mhí.

TAR ÉIS AN CHOGAIDH

Nuair a d’fhhill na saighdiúirí ar Éirinn, bhí an saol polaitiúil athraithe. Sa toghchán i mí na Nollag 1918 tacaíodh go láidir le Sinn Féin, seachas sna limistéir thraidisiúnta Aontachtacha. Cuireadh na híobairtí a rinneadh sa chogadh de leataobh i gcúigí an deiscrit agus bhí an caillteanas a tharla ag an Somme mar chuid den oidreacht sa líon mar chuid den oidhreachtaí sa limistéar nua Tuaisceart Éireann.

Chuaigh roinnt daoine a bhí ina saighdiúirí leis an IRA, ar dhuíne díobh sin bhí Eiméid Daltún a bhí ag fónamh le Tom Kettle. Dúirt sé nach raibh deacracht ar bith aige troid d’Éirinn leis an mBreatain agus nach raibh aon deacracht aige aghaidh troid d’Éirinn in aghaidh na Breataine. Chuaigh iarshaighdiúirí eile le harm nua na hÉireann.

An 12ú Meitheamh, 1922, díscaoileadh na reisimintí a bhí earcaithe in Éirinn a bhí anois neamhspleách. Ba iad sin:

Reisimint Ríoga na hÉireann
Fiannóglaigh Chonnacht
Reisimint Laighean Phhrionsa na Breataine Bige
Fiúsaléirí Rioga na Mumhan
Fiúsaléirí Rioga Bhaile Átha Cliath

Ghlaic an Rí na Bratacha agus cuireadh i dtaisce i gCaisleán Windsor iad, áit a bhfuil síad fós.

STAITISTICÍ

Nílear ar aon intinn faoin líon iomlán saighdiúirí Éireannach a d’fhóin in Arm agus i gCabhlahc na Breataine sa Chéad Chogadh Domhandha. Deir an tOllamh Keith Jeffery gur 210,000 é. Is cosúil go n-aontaítear gur maraíodh 35,000 ar a laghad, cé gur 49,400 an figiúr atá tugtha sa Chuimhneachán Náisiúnta Cogaidh.

Liostáil thar ar 140,000 in Éirinn i rith an chogadh. Is cuid suntais an méadú a tharlaigh i 1918.
Bhí an líon earcach Éireannach sa chéad bhliain níos mó ná an líon iomlán don chuid eile de thri bhliana an Chogaidh. De réir mar a chuaigh an Cogaidh chun cinn, ba daoine a coinscriobhadh sa Ríocht Aontaithe a cuireadh in áit chailleanais na hÉireann. Mar shampla, ba 23% a bhí sa chéatadán de shaighdiúirí nár bh Éireannaigh iad a bhí i 1ú Raidhfilí Rioga na hÉireann, a bhí lonnaithe in Aontraim agus an Dún, sa bhliain 1916. Bhí bha 52% a bhí ann.

Mar a luadh níos túisce, d’fhóin saighdiúirí Éireannacha i bhfórsaí eile.

Bhí an líon earcach Éireannach sa chéad bhliain níos mó ná an líon iomlán don chuid eile de thri bhliana an Chogaidh. De réir mar a chuaigh an Cogaidh chun cinn, ba daoine a coinscriobhadh sa Ríocht Aontaithe a cuireadh in áit chailleanais na hÉireann. Mar shampla, ba 23% a bhí sa chéatadán de shaighdiúirí nár bh Éireannaigh iad a bhí i 1ú Raidhfilí Rioga na hÉireann, a bhí lonnaithe in Aontraim agus an Dún, sa bhliain 1916. Bhí bha 52% a bhí ann.

Mar a luadh níos túisce, d’fhóin saighdiúirí Éireannacha i bhfórsaí eile.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tréimhse</th>
<th>Earcaigh</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lún 1914 – Feabh 1915</td>
<td>50,107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feabh 1915- Lún 1915</td>
<td>25,235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lún 1915 – Feabh 1916</td>
<td>19,801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feabh 1916- Lún 1916</td>
<td>9,323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lún 1916 – Feabh 1917</td>
<td>8,178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feabh 1917- Lún 1917</td>
<td>5,607</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lún 1917 – Feabh 1918</td>
<td>6,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feabh 1918- Lún 1918</td>
<td>5,812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lún 1918 – Samh 1918 [3 Mhí]</td>
<td>9,843</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bhí an líon earcach Éireannach sa chéad bhliain níos mó ná an líon iomlán don chuid eile de thri bhliana an Chogaidh. De réir mar a chuaigh an Cogaidh chun cinn, ba daoine a coinscriobhadh sa Ríocht Aontaithe a cuireadh in áit chailleanais na hÉireann. Mar shampla, ba 23% a bhí sa chéatadán de shaighdiúirí nár bh Éireannaigh iad a bhí i 1ú Raidhfilí Rioga na hÉireann, a bhí lonnaithe in Aontraim agus an Dún, sa bhliain 1916. Bhí bha 52% a bhí ann.

Mar a luadh níos túisce, d’fhóin saighdiúirí Éireannacha i bhfórsaí eile.

**Limistéir earcaíochta do na Reisimintí Éireannacha Coisithe agus Marcra 1914**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ainm na Reisiminte:</th>
<th>Limistéar Earcaíochta:</th>
<th>Iosta:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reisimint Rioga na hÉireann (18ú Coisithe)</td>
<td>Tiobraid Árann, Loch Garman, Port Láirge, Cill Chainnigh</td>
<td>Cluain Meala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiúsailéirí Rioga na Mumhan</td>
<td>Corcaigh, Ciarrái, Luimneach, An Clár</td>
<td>Trá Lí</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiannóglaiigh Chonnacht</td>
<td>Gaillimh, Sligeach, Maigh Eo, Ros Comáin, Liatroim</td>
<td>An Rinn Mhór</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiúsailéirí Inis Ceithleann</td>
<td>An Ómaigh, Fear Manach, Dún na nGall, Doire</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raidhfíli Rioga na hÉireann</td>
<td>Béal Feirste, An Dún, Aontroim, Tír Eoghain</td>
<td>Béal Feirste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiúsailéirí Rioga na hÉireann</td>
<td>Muineachán, Ard Mhacha, An Cabhán</td>
<td>Ard Mhacha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reisimint Laighean</td>
<td>Uibh Failí, An Mhí, Lú, Laois</td>
<td>Biorra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiúsailéirí Rioga Bhaile Átha Cliath</td>
<td>Baile Átha Cliath, Cill Dara, Cill Mhantáin, Ceatharlách</td>
<td>Nás</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gardaí na hÉireann</td>
<td>Ar fud na hÉireann</td>
<td>Beairic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24ú, 25ú, 26ú, 27ú Cathlán Éireannach Cois Tyne d’Fhiúsailéirí Northumberland</td>
<td>Newcastle</td>
<td>Campa Alnwick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raidhfiú Éireannacha Londan</td>
<td>Londain, Chelsea</td>
<td>Beairic Dhiúc York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reisimint Learphoill an Rí</td>
<td>Learpholl</td>
<td>Beairic Seaforth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Éireannach in aín den chuid is mó The 4ú Gardaí Dragúin (Ríoga na hÉireann) 5ú Lansaithe (Ríoga na hÉireann) 6ú Dragúin (Inis Ceithleann) 8ú Husáir (Éireannach Ríoga an Rí)</td>
<td>Deisceart na hÉireann</td>
<td>Cluain Meala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capaill Éireann an Deiscirt</td>
<td>Béal Feirste, An Dún, Aontroim, Tír Eoghain, An Cabhán, Doire, Dún na nGall, Ard Mhacha, Muineachán</td>
<td>Béal Feirste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capaill Éireann an Tuaiscirt</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>