



# WORLD WAR I

≈

# THE GREAT WAR



RETURN TO ANY FOOD OFFICE

**NATIONAL RATION BOOK (B).**

**INSTRUCTIONS.**

Read carefully these instructions and the leaflet which will be sent you with this Book.

1. The person named on the reference card on the back of this ration book must receive the ration book and the ration book must be used for the purpose of obtaining food for the person named on the reference card.

2. For information of persons at the Food Office, the holder of this ration book must, if he or she is not a member of the household, sign the ration book at the time of issue and the address of the household to which it is issued.

The holder must register his book at once by getting his register for his book, meat, butter, and margarine made up at the Food Office, and must return it to the Food Office at once when he or she is no longer entitled to the ration book.

The ration book may be used only for the purpose of obtaining food for the person named on the reference card.

Date: *1917*

Food Office of Issue: *100*

Signature of Holder: *J. J. J. J.*

Address: *100*



WORLD WAR II



THE GREAT WAR





## UNIT 1

# WORLD WAR I = THE GREAT WAR

‘The Queen is dead’ was on newspaper headlines all over the world. It was January 1901. Queen Victoria, British monarch, Empress of India, ruler of half a billion people and a quarter of the world had reigned for 64 years. The emperors and kings who marched at her funeral ruled most of the world at that time. Many of these powers were rivals so European peace could easily be threatened.

### **Alliances**

Rivalry between countries led them to form alliances. One alliance was the Triple Alliance consisting of Germany, Italy and Austria - Hungary. Britain, France and Russia agreed to support each other against Germany because they felt Germany was becoming too powerful. They formed the Triple Entente and during the war, they became known as the Allies.

In 1914 Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the Austro - Hungarian Empire, and his wife were assassinated in Sarajevo in Bosnia-Herzegovina by a Serb nationalist. As a result, Austria declared war on Serbia on 28 July 1914. Russia then came to Serbia’s aid, which in turn led Germany to declare war on Russia on 1 August. On 3 August, Germany declared war on France because it was Russia’s ally. On 4 August, Germany invaded Belgium on their way to France. Britain then went to Belgium’s defence and they declared war on Germany on the same day. World War I had now started.

Turkey (known as the Ottoman Empire) joined Germany and Austria-Hungary. Italy changed sides and joined Britain and France in 1915. All countries expected the war to last for a short time, but it lasted for four years and took more lives than any other war up to that time.

### **Irish soldiers at war**

The conflict saw over 200,000 Irishmen join the British forces. Official estimates put the number of Irish dead at about 35,000. The vast majority died in their prime on French and Belgian battlefields. World War I wiped out an entire generation of young men. Some experts estimate that up to 20 million people, including civilians, died and more than 20 million people were wounded. The war was fought on a huge scale and the armies were vast with millions of conscripts. The Irish came from every Irish county and many villages and towns. They signed up for different reasons.

- Some enlisted to escape poverty.
- Others to maintain family honour or traditions.
- Others joined for adventure.
- Others wanted to stop German aggression.
- Many joined because they believed it would ensure Home Rule after the war and others joined to prevent Home Rule.

### **Irish regiments**

There were eight Irish infantry regiments and each drew recruits from a particular area.

**The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers:** Donegal, Derry, Tyrone, Fermanagh; depot in Omagh.

**The Royal Irish Rifles:** Antrim, Down; depot in Belfast.

**The Royal Irish Fusiliers:** Armagh, Monaghan, Cavan, Louth; depot in Armagh.

**The Connaught Rangers:** Galway, Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim, Roscommon; depot in Renmore, Co. Galway.

**The Leinster Regiment:** Longford, Westmeath, Meath, King’s Co. (Offaly), Queen’s Co. (Laois); depot was Crinkill Barracks, Birr.

**The Royal Dublin Fusiliers:** Dublin, Kildare, Wicklow, Carlow; depot in Naas.

**The Royal Irish Regiment:** Tipperary, Kilkenny, Waterford, Wexford; depot in Clonmel.

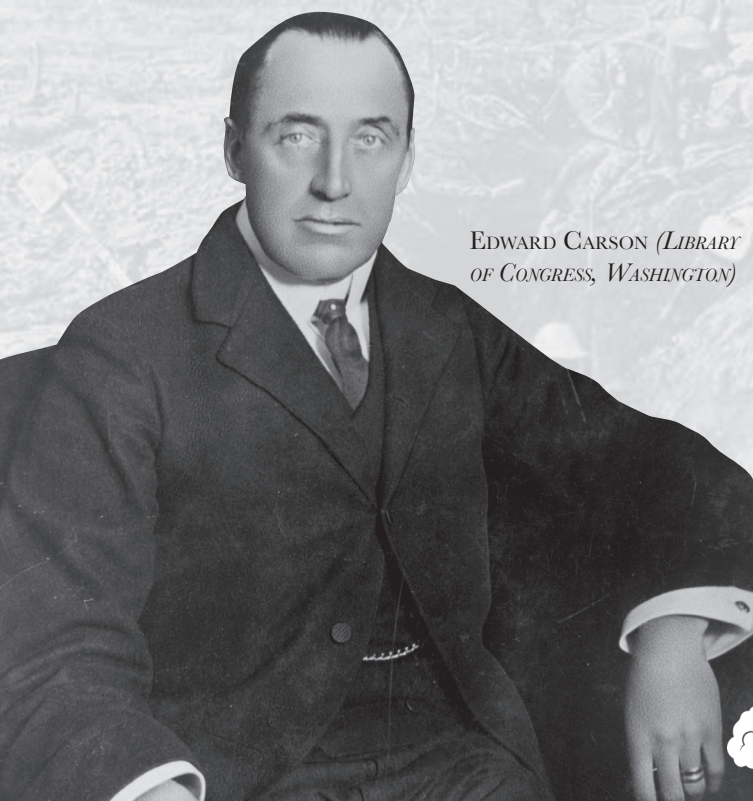
**The Royal Munster Fusiliers:** Clare, Limerick, Kerry, Cork; depot in Tralee.

Men from the working classes joined in vast numbers. Farmers prospered during the war due

to price increases and there was little prospect of them joining. The numbers joining up slackened off after the Eastern Rising. Many Irish people joined English, Scottish and Welsh regiments. Emigrants joined the armies of Australia, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa and the United States. In addition, women served as nurses at the front line.



MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL INNISKILLING FUSILIERS IN 1917. (IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM, LONDON)



EDWARD CARSON (LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, WASHINGTON)

### **Ireland and the war**

When World War I began in 1914, there was a crisis in Ireland because of Home Rule. Unionists and nationalists were on the verge of civil war. Both sides stopped their campaigning for and against Home Rule and supported the British war effort. Ulster Protestants joined the British Army to show their patriotism. In return they expected to remain part of the United Kingdom when the war was over. Edward Carson insisted the Protestant Ulstermen be kept together in one unit. His request was granted and approximately 9,000 men from Ulster formed the 36th (Ulster) Division.

John Redmond, the leader of the Home Rule Party, encouraged nationalists to join the British Army.





ATLANTIC  
OCEAN

FAROE ISLANDS

SHETLAND ISLANDS

ORKNEY ISLANDS

Christiania

NORTH  
SEA

SKAGGERAK

KATTEGAT

DENMARK

Copenhagen

HELIGOLAND

Kiel

IRELAND

ENGLAND

London

THE HAGUE

Dover

ENGLISH CHANNEL

Brussels

Paris

GERMANY

Berlin

BAY OF  
BISCAY

FRANCE

AUSTRIA

HUNGARY

Vienna

Bern

PORTUGAL

SPAIN

Madrid

Lisbon

CORSICA  
(France)

SARDINIA  
(Italy)

TYRRHENIAN  
SEA

ITALY

Rome

ADRIATIC SEA

Sarajevo

MEDITERRANEAN

ALGERIA  
(France)





MOROCCO  
(France)

SICILY

MALTA  
(Britain)



# EUROPE 1914

	Allied Powers
	Central Powers
	Neutral Powers
	Principal Rail Lines

Murmansk  
Archangel  
Stockholm  
St Petersburg  
GULF OF BOTHNIA  
LAKE ONEGA  
GULF OF FINLAND  
LAKE PEIPUS  
ESTONIA  
LIVONIA  
COURLAND  
Riga  
LITHUANIA  
R U S S I A  
Moscow  
Smolensk  
Warsaw  
Minsk  
POLAND  
U K R A I N E  
R O S T O V  
SEA OF AZOV  
B L A C K S E A  
S E R B I A  
A R Y  
ROMANIA  
Bucharest  
BULGARIA  
Sofia  
Adrianople  
Constantinople  
T U R K E Y  
DARDANELLES  
ALBANIA  
SALONIKA  
GREECE  
Athens  
A E G E A N S E A  
CYPRUS (Britain)  
C R E T E



The nationalists hoped for Home Rule as gratitude at the end of the war. The nationalists were not allowed to form a division of their own like the Ulstermen. Not everyone in Ireland agreed with fighting for Britain. Arthur Griffith of Sinn Féin said, 'Ireland is not at war with Germany. The only duty we have is to stand for Ireland's interests'. There was a banner in front of Liberty Hall in Dublin saying, 'We serve neither King nor Kaiser but Ireland'.



JOHN REDMOND MAKING A SPEECH.



BRITISH MACHINE GUN POSITIONS.

### **A world war**

Fighting took place in several places. There was a Western Front in Belgium and northern France. There was an Eastern Front between Germany and the Russian forces. There was also fighting in Gallipoli (Turkey), in the Middle East, in Africa and at sea. French and British troops, along with thousands of men from Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa, occupied a network

of deep trenches along the Western Front from September 1914. Facing them across a few hundred metres of ground known as 'No man's land' were trenches occupied by the Germans. Millions of soldiers were killed on the Western Front in battles such as Verdun, Ypres, the Somme and Mons. The Eastern Front ran from the Baltic to the Black Sea and it too had lines of trenches.



BRITISH SOLDIERS IN A TRENCH. (IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM)

By 1917, the war had reached a stalemate with neither side gaining a major advantage. In April 1917, the U.S.A. declared war on Germany and prepared to send troops to Europe. During World War I Britain and France depended on food supplies from the U.S.A. and Canada. German U-boats attacked supply ships and from February 1917, they began to attack every ship in the seas around Britain. In 1918, Russia withdrew from the war, so Germans no longer fought on the Eastern Front. By 1918, it looked like Germany would break through and advance to Paris. The French, British and Americans fought back and in November 1918 Germany signed the armistice (agreement to end the fighting). The war resulted in the deaths of about 10 million civilians and millions more were wounded.

Many of the soldiers who returned home brought with them injuries, nightmares, anger and a determination that it must never happen again.

This flower the poppy is a symbol to remember all who died.

When the guns fell silent on the 11 November 1918, dazed men climbed out of their trenches, hardly able to believe what was happening. They staggered towards one another and shook hands. The fighting was over. In Britain, France and America people poured into the streets to celebrate. The great empires of Austria - Hungary, Germany, Russia and Turkey had been destroyed. A peace conference was held in Versailles, Paris in 1919. Britain and France insisted that Germany pay large sums of money to the allies as compensation.

Germany was given years to pay, but they complained that the amounts were too high. As a result of the payments the German economy collapsed and there was widespread unemployment. This eventually led to the rise of Hitler and the Second World War.







BRITISH SOLDIERS BLINDED BY GAS. (TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY)

#### FACT FILE

Battle of Somme, 1 July 1916 – 23 November 1916.  
Day 1 - 20,000 British soldiers killed and 40,000 wounded.  
Day 1 - 36th (Ulster) Division lost 5,000 men.  
12 July - Orange parades cancelled in Belfast.  
Total dead in battle - over 1 million.



MEN GOING 'OVER THE TOP' DURING THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME. (IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM)





# ACTIVITIES

## A. Questions

1. What Queen died in 1901?
2. What countries made up the Triple Alliance?
3. How long did World War I last?
4. Why did so many Irishmen fight for Britain in W.W.I? (Give 2 answers)
5. What battle began on 1 July 1916?

## B. Match the words with their meanings

Armistice	ditches that were dug
A poppy	foot soldiers
Trenches	end of fighting
Infantry	explosive fired from a submarine
Torpedo	a flower

## C. Examine the map

Write the countries

1. Allied Powers.....  
.....
2. Central Powers.....  
.....

## D. Match each action / event to its cause.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated.</li><li>• Huge numbers of men went to war.</li><li>• Russia came to Serbia's aid.</li><li>• German submarines torpedoed ships bringing food to Britain.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia.</li><li>• Britain was short of food.</li><li>• Germany declared war on Russia.</li><li>• Women took over most of the jobs that had traditionally been carried out by men.</li></ul>
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**E. Number the events in the correct order.**

- Russia withdrew from the war in 1918.
- The Battle of the Somme began on 1 July 1916.
- World War I began in 1914.
- A peace conference was held in France in 1919.

**F. Crack the code to find out the name of the regiment that fought in World War I.**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

20	8	5		12	5	9	14	19	20	5	18		18	5	7	9	13	5	14	20	

# NOTES

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## UNIT 2

# PERSONALITIES OF THE WAR

### Kaiser Wilhelm II

The Kaiser was a first cousin of Britain's King George V and Russia's Czar Nicholas II. Upon becoming emperor in 1888, he set about strengthening Germany. His ambition was to make his navy as powerful as Britain's which boasted about ruling the waves. Having threatened to fight on a number of occasions, he pulled back. In 1914 his own top generals insisted on going to war. Once the war began, he had little say in strategy or decision making. In 1918, Wilhelm went into exile in The Netherlands, where he spent his final years.



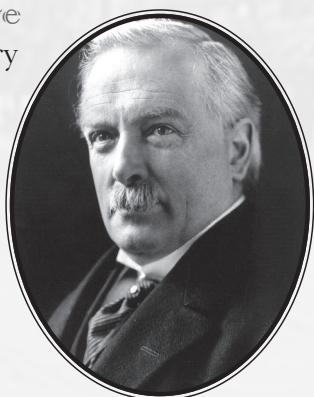
### Paul Von Hindenburg

Von Hindenburg retired in 1911 but he was recalled at the outbreak of World War I in 1914. Along with his partner Erich Ludendorff, who was a great tactician, they had victory after victory on the Eastern Front. As his popularity became greater than that of the Kaiser, so did his power. By 1916, he was the real leader of the army and the nation. Appearing before a German investigation into the war in 1919, he claimed that victory was snatched from Germany by traitors. Hindenburg and his deputy Ludendorff were effectively a dictatorship until the end of the war.



### David Lloyd George

Having served as Secretary of State (Minister) for War for just over a year, Lloyd George organised a cabinet coup against Prime Minister Asquith in late 1916. As P.M. he set about streamlining Britain's supplies to the front. He reduced his cabinet to make it more decisive and less of a debating chamber. Germany offered to negotiate peace in late 1916, but Britain insisted on a German surrender. In the first post-war election, Lloyd George had a landslide victory and remained P.M. until 1922.



### Horatio Kitchener

Kitchener was born in Ballylongford in County Kerry. Kitchener was an experienced general and he always felt the war was going to be a long haul. As Secretary of State for War, he made the British Army into the largest volunteer army the world had ever seen. Despite proving himself as one of Britain's most able leaders, he was blamed for a shortage of munitions in 1915. As the war continued his influence waned with the government. He was very popular with the British public and he featured in the iconic recruitment poster 'Your Country Needs You'. He was lost at sea in 1916 when his cruiser hit a mine on the way to Scotland.



## Vladimir Ilyich Lenin

Lenin was born into a well-heeled middle-class family in Russia. After the execution of his brother in 1887, following an attempted assassination of the Czar, he was imprisoned in Siberia. After his release, he travelled Europe preaching revolution. Russia's badly led and ill-equipped troops were no match for the Germans. With the people starving there was a revolution in February 1917. The Germans sent Lenin back to Russia in a sealed train hoping he would urge Russia to pull out of the war. Lenin led a second revolution in October 1917. It resulted in a communist government taking power. Russia withdrew from the war in March 1918.



## Woodrow Wilson

He was elected President of the U.S.A. in 1912. He spent his first term trying to keep America out of the war. After the sinking of the *Lusitania* off Kinsale, County Cork in 1915, with a heavy loss of American lives, attitudes began to change in the U.S.A. The Germans declared that all shipping around Ireland and Britain would be attacked. Eventually in early 1917, America joined the war against Germany and its allies. Fresh, well-armed American troops arriving in Europe hastened the end of the war.



# LIFE IN IRELAND DURING WORLD WAR I

1914 was the year after the Dublin Lockout and there was tension in the city. Some nationalists were busy planning a rebellion, seeing England's difficulty as Ireland's opportunity. There was also a sense that many people were happy with British rule. In 1911, King George V visited Dublin and thousands lined the streets to view his arrival. Many of the professional people who came out to see him had grown in political importance. Grand houses in places like Fitzwilliam Square were home to leading lawyers, businessmen and civil servants. As well as that, during the 19th century, the wealthy began moving to suburbs such as Blackrock, Monkstown and Rathmines. They built their lives around golf clubs, tennis clubs, yachting and sailing. Houses were run with the



RATHMINES, A SUBURB OF DUBLIN. (NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND)

help of servants who often lived in. Trams, horses and bicycles dominated transport, but cars were growing in importance.

## Slums and poverty

The former homes of the wealthy, especially on the north-side of the city, became home to thousands of the city's poorest. These houses became known as tenements. Dublin's slums were among the worst in Europe with thousands of manual and unskilled workers living in terrible conditions. A third of families lived in one room and in one case, five families were living in one large room.

The slums were disease-ridden and the death rate in Dublin at that time was 75% higher than in any British city. Those who had work worked very long hours for low wages.

## Employment

There was no major industrial area in Ireland at that time except in north-east Ulster. Dublin's employment depended on administration and commerce. Dublin Port was busy with many British goods imported into the country and the bulk of agricultural goods leaving through Dublin for foreign markets. Up to seven cattle



A TENEMENT ROOM IN FRANCIS STREET, 1913.  
(ROYAL SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF IRELAND)

boats a day left Dublin for England. Work in the port, construction and administration could not absorb the huge number of available workers. Good jobs with employers such as Guinness were dreamed of, but were not a reality for most people. Employment in Cork centred around the major breweries such as Murphy's and Beamish and Crawford.



THE SHIPS OLYMPIC AND TITANIC BEING BUILT IN BELFAST IN 1910.

People living in the county depended on agriculture and fishing. Galway was a county in decline with a birth - rate below the average and no industrial base. Waterford was equally poor with evictions of families from their homes common- place. It was a mainly rural county with only Dungarvan and Waterford City having a population greater the 2,000. Belfast was booming due to the shipyards, the linen mills and associated industries.

The war affected Irish life in other ways. Agricultural prices increased as the war went on due to the demand for food to feed the huge British Army. Middle and upper-class women in Ireland as in other countries took up new roles. They worked as nurses or in charity work in support of war victims. Many women worked in

munitions factories also. As the war continued, life began to improve in Dublin. Living standards rose and mortality rates fell with money flowing into the tenements in separation payments to soldiers' wives. Every woman whose husband was at the front got an allowance collected at the post office. The army provided a new source of steady income for the vast number of unemployed, unskilled workers.

### **Home Rule and the Easter Rising**

The outbreak of World War I may have postponed another war in Ireland. Moderate nationalist leader John Redmond of the Irish Parliamentary Party had achieved Home Rule with the Liberals agreeing to introduce it. Ulster Unionists, led by Edward Carson, rejected Home Rule and formed the Ulster Volunteer Force, a 90,000 strong well-armed force which intended to fight to prevent it. Nationalists founded the Irish Volunteers to support Home Rule. In September 1914, Redmond urged nationalists to enlist and fight for Britain in the war. Two days before his speech, Home Rule was granted but it was not to be enacted until the war was over.

Some of the Irish Volunteers who refused to support Britain planned a rebellion. They were joined by the Irish Citizen Army in staging a rising at Easter 1916. Redmond saw the rebellion as a 'German intrigue' and Carson saw the leaders as traitors. Both men urged caution in the treatment of the leaders and prisoners when the rising ended. The British authorities ignored Redmond and Carson and after the execution of the leaders, public opinion rejected moderate nationalism in favour of militant republicanism. The Irish Parliamentary Party continued to push for Home Rule, but the British authorities did not grant it. In the 1918 general election, the people switched to Sinn Féin and Home Rule was no longer an option. World War I, the Home Rule campaign and the Easter Rising changed life in Ireland for decades to come.



A GUINNESS BARGE ON THE RIVER LIFFEY.

# SONGS OF WAR

A part of how we remember war are the songs that come from it. All types of songs for all types of reasons grew up around World War I.

## 'It's a Long Way to Tipperary'

'It's a Long Way to Tipperary' was first performed in Cheshire in 1912. Jack Judge and Harry Williams were behind the hit. It was given a marching beat and shot to fame after Irish troops from the Connaught Rangers were heard singing it as they marched to the Western Front. In November 1914 John McCormack recorded it and it was later picked up and sung by French, Russian and German armies. The song is played on Remembrance Sunday in Britain every year.

## 'Danny Boy'

'Danny Boy' was released just prior to World War I. Its images of loss and hints at reunion became an anthem for the troops. The melody has been traced back to blind Ulster Harpist Rory Dall O'Caahan in the late 16th or early 17th century. The words were written in 1910 and a revised version was published in 1913. It became a huge hit. It was recorded by Bing Crosby, Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, John McCormack, The Pogues and The Muppets. It was played at the funerals of President Kennedy and Princess Diana.



## 'Waltzing Matilda'

This song was written in Australia by Banjo Paterson whose great-great-grandfather came from Donegal. It was sung in a Sydney army



camp at the start of World War I. It went on to become an anthem and battle-cry not just in World War I but in World War II also.

## 'The Green Fields of France'

'The Green fields of France' was written in 1915 by Eric Bogle, a Scottish singer. The song tells the story of 19-year-old Private Willie McBride who was killed in France in 1916. Nineteen Willie McBrides were killed in World War I, all of Irish descent. It is believed that William McBride buried in Authuille, France, is the one on which the song was based. He was from County Armagh and a cobbler who served his time in County Cavan and County Fermanagh. He died nine months after enlisting and he went onto inspire one of the great songs about the war.





# ACTIVITIES

## A. Find these names hidden in the box

Redmond, Carson, Lloyd George, Kitchener, Hindenburg, Lenin, Danny Boy, W. McBride

H	I	N	D	E	N	B	U	R	G	A	L
B	C	D	A	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
M	N	O	N	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	O
W	X	Y	N	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	Y
G	H	I	Y	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	D
W	M	C	B	R	I	D	E	R	S	D	G
Q	T	U	O	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	N	E
B	C	D	Y	E	F	G	H	L	I	O	O
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	E	R	M	R
S	T	U	C	A	R	S	O	N	V	D	G
W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	I	E	E	E
F	G	K	I	T	C	H	E	N	E	R	H

## B. Number the events in the correct order

- There was a rising at Easter 1916.
- The Dublin Lockout took place.
- The outbreak of W.W.I delayed Home Rule.
- The 1918 election was a great success for Sinn Féin.

## C. Match each action/event to its cause

King George V visited Dublin in 1911.	Unemployment levels were very high.
Wealthy people began to move to the suburbs.	Thousands lined the streets to watch.
There was no major industrial area around Dublin.	Agriculture prices increased.
The war increased the demand for food to feed the army.	Houses became vacant in the city centre.

**D. Crack the code to find the name of a song connected with World War I**

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
N	O	O	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

7	18	5	5	14		6	9	5	12	4	19		15	6		6	18	1	14	3	5	

**E. True or False**

1. Waltzing Matilda is an Australian song. \_\_\_\_\_
2. ‘Danny Boy’ became an anthem for the troops. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Carson and Redmond called for execution of the 1916 rebels. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The 1918 general election was a huge success for Sinn Féin. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The U.V.F. was formed in Ulster. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Separation payments improved living standards in Dublin. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Seven cattle boats per day left Cork for England. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Murphy’s was a big employer in Cork during W.W.I. \_\_\_\_\_
9. The *Lusitania* sank in 1912. \_\_\_\_\_
10. President Wilson was elected in 1912. \_\_\_\_\_

# NOTES

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## UNIT 3

# WOMEN IN WORLD WAR I

The vast majority of those who fought in World War I for both the Allied armies and the Central Powers were men.

However, women still played an important part in the war.

### Nurses

Most Irish women who served with the British and other Commonwealth armies (e.g. Canadian, Australian and New Zealand) in the Great War were nurses. Over 100,000 women served as nurses for those armies during the war. Approximately 8,000 of these were from Ireland. About 6,000 Irish nurses joined the Red Cross. The Red Cross was a neutral organisation dedicated to providing medical assistance to civilians and soldiers on all sides. Another 2,000 nurses served in Voluntary Aid Detachments (V.A.D.) for the British Army and primarily treated their own troops. Thousands of other Irish born nurses probably served with similar medical teams for other armies.

### Nurses uniforms

The nurses wore distinctive uniforms so that they could be identified as non-combatants. The uniforms were based on those found in Florence Nightingale's hospitals and comprised:

- A grey, blue or navy calico or cotton long-sleeved dress, with petticoats beneath.
- A large white apron or pinafore.



A BRITISH AMBULANCE USED IN THE WAR.

- Starched white cotton collars and cuffs.
- Elasticised cotton armbands to hold the sleeves out of the way during work.
- A head-dress of various designs to cover the head and keep the hair clean.
- An overcoat or cape which could be blue, navy or scarlet.



NURSES AND A DOCTOR TREATING A WOUNDED SOLDIER.



MEMBERS OF THE WOMEN'S ROYAL AIR FORCE.



A MEMBER OF THE WOMEN'S LAND ARMY AT WORK.



WOMEN WORKING IN A MUNITIONS FACTORY IN ENGLAND. (IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM)

### **Women's Royal Air Force**

The Women's Royal Air Force (W.R.A.F.) was founded in 1918 as an auxiliary or supporting unit of the Royal Air Force. Its purpose was to recruit women as drivers and mechanics. This would free-up more men for combat. This first W.R.A.F. was disbanded in 1920.

### **The Women's Land Army**

The Women's Land Army was a civilian organisation set-up to maintain food production during the war years. It was organised by the Board of Agriculture in Britain in 1915. Almost 20,000 women, known as 'land girls', enrolled with many thousands more working as farm labourers.

### **Women in the workforce**

Prior to World War I, employment for women was limited. In the countryside many worked on farms or small holdings. Those in formal employment were usually in domestic service, acting as servants to the middle and upper classes. In towns and cities many young women worked in shops. Working-class women also worked in factories making clothes, hats, matches and other items. Match-making was dangerous because of the poisonous chemicals being used. One such chemical which caused much ill-health was

phosphorous. Middle-class women were engaged in teaching and charity work.

During the war all this changed, especially in Britain. As more and more men enlisted, over 1.5 million women stepped-in to fill the gaps in the workforce. They worked in the civil service, postal service, transport and assisting the police on patrols. Fewer women were needed in Ireland as conscription (compulsory military service) was not introduced here.

### **Munitions**

During World War I, an Act of Parliament limited the number of men working in munitions factories to just 5%. Munitions included shells, bullets and bombs. Ireland was very important in the supply of arms for the British and their allies. There were a number of munitions factories in the country. The largest one was in Arklow which had a workforce of 2,000. Although women made up most of the workforce, they earned only half of what men earned. After the war, it was presumed that men would return to their old jobs and women would return to their families. One change that came in 1919 was an Act of Parliament which made it illegal to exclude women from their jobs because of their gender.



SHELLS IN AN ENGLISH MUNITIONS FACTORY.

### Women soldiers in Russia

In Russia, women fought unofficially as soldiers in World War I. They often disguised themselves as men but not all the time. In March 1917, fifteen women's battalions were formed in Russia. Over 200 women joined up first and 300 fought in battle. By October 1917, Russia was weary of war and after the overthrow of the Tsar or Czar, it withdrew from the war. In November 1917, the women's battalions were disbanded.

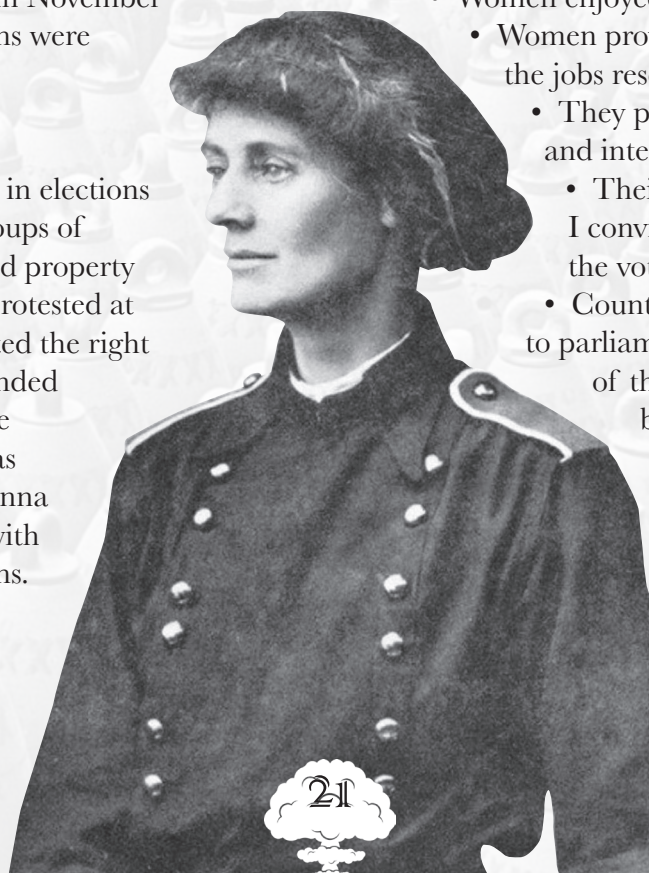
### Women's suffrage

Before World War I, voting in elections was restricted to certain groups of men. Only men who owned property could vote. Many groups protested at this unfair system and wanted the right to vote (suffrage) to be extended to everyone in Ireland. The Irish suffrage movement was founded by Francis and Hanna Sheehy Skeffington along with Margaret and James Cousins. Women who campaigned for the right to vote were known as suffragettes. The most famous suffragettes in

England were members of the Pankhurst family. As a result of the suffrage movement, there was a limited extension of the right to vote to women. Women over 30 voted for the first time in 1918.

### Outcomes of World War I for women:

- Masses of women joined the paid workforce for the first time.
- Women enjoyed a degree of independence.
- Women proved they could do many of the jobs reserved for men.
- They proved their responsibility and intelligence in the workplace.
- Their efforts during World War I convinced politicians to grant the vote to some women.
- Countess Markievicz was elected to parliament. She was a member of the First Dáil Éireann and became a government minister.



COUNTESS MARKIEVICZ, WHO CAMPAIGNED FOR VOTES FOR WOMEN.



# ACTIVITIES

## A. Find these words hidden in the box

Commonwealth, air force, munitions, suffrage, Pankhurst, Russia, Tsar, nurses, Land Army, bullets

P	A	R	E	D	C	R	O	S	S	B	L
A	B	U	L	L	E	T	S	C	U	D	A
N	W	W	E	A	V	I	N	G	F	F	N
K	E	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	F	N	D
H	G	O	R	P	L	Q	R	E	R	S	A
U	A	T	U	A	V	W	Z	C	A	Y	R
R	R	Z	R	A	S	E	S	R	U	N	M
S	F	M	U	N	I	T	I	O	N	S	Y
T	F	B	N	C	D	E	F	F	G	H	I
J	U	K	A	I	S	S	U	R	L	M	N
O	S	P	Q	R	S	T	U	I	V	W	A
C	O	M	M	O	N	W	E	A	L	T	H

## B. Pick the correct answer to each statement

- Most Irish women who served in World War I were  
doctors  soldiers  nurses
- The Red Cross was a \_\_\_\_\_ organisation.  
Military  medical  farming
- Nurses wore a large white  
jumper  trouser  apron
- The Women's Royal Air Force was founded in  
1920  1940  1918
- Munitions factories made  
clothes  bombs  boxes

**C. Match each event to its cause**

Russians were weary of war	Created more work for women
The suffragettes protested	They proved they could do men's work
Many women joined the workforce	Russia withdrew from the war
The outbreak of World War I	Women were given the vote in 1918

**D. True or False.**

- 1) Many Irish nurses joined the Red Cross. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Nurses wore red aprons. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) The W.R.A.F. was founded in 1920. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) The Women's Land Army was set up in 1915. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Many young women worked as shop-girls. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) Match-making was very dangerous. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) Mrs Pankhurst was a pilot. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) Hanna Sheehy Skeffington was a suffragette. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) The vote was granted to women over 30 in 1916. \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) Countess Markievicz was elected to Parliament. \_\_\_\_\_

**E. Crack the code to find the name of a suffragette**

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

13	1	18	7	1	18	5	20		3	15	21	19	9	14	19



## UNIT 4

# FOOD AT HOME AND AT THE FRONT

**N**apoleon once said that ‘an army marches on its stomach’, meaning that an army needs to be well fed if it is to be successful. Feeding 2 million soldiers of the British Army at the height of the war was an enormous task. It was the aim of the British army that each soldier should consume 4,000 calories a day.



A BISCUIT OF THE KIND EATEN BY  
BRITISH SOLDIERS.

bully beef or Maconochie. The men also received biscuits made from salt, flour and water. They were produced under government contract by Huntley and Palmers, which in 1914 was the world's largest biscuit manufacturer. The biscuits were extremely hard and could crack teeth if they were not first soaked in tea or water.

### At the Front

Daily rations at the front consisted of 9oz (252gm) of tinned meat. Today, it would be known as corned beef but then it was called

Other rations included cheese, tea, jam, sugar, salt and condensed milk. Tea was a vital part of the British soldier's rations. Tea concealed the taste of the water



SOLDIERS EATING WHILE SERVING ON THE SOMME, 1916.



PEOPLE QUEUING FOR FOOD IN BLACKBURN, ENGLAND. (IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM)

which was often transported to the front in petrol tins. Troops sometimes got bacon, which they cooked over a candle. The troops in the trenches did not die of hunger but they hated the monotony of their food. As the war dragged on, it became more difficult to feed the troops. Meat rations were reduced, and flour was hard to come by. German bread, known as K-Brot, was made from dried potatoes, barley and even pulverised straw.

### **Away from the Front**

Soldiers away from the front enjoyed a more varied diet. They went fishing and poached game and chickens from French farms. Cafés sprang up in villages and they served eggs and chips in many cases. The British preferred this to the local French cuisine. Cooks avoided waste by selling leftovers to local farmers. Stale bread was soaked in milk or water and re-baked. By the end of the conflict, there were 5 million British soldiers dotted around the world with more than 2.3 million on the Western Front alone. A small army of more than 320,000 men and 12,000 officers existed simply to keep them all fed.

### **Maconochie**

Maconochie got its name from its manufacturer, the Maconochie Company, based in Aberdeen in Scotland. It made a number of tinned soups and stews for the front. Their most famous product was a largely vegetable stew made from carrots, turnips and potatoes in a thin soup. It was supposed to be heated in the tin and placed in boiling water for 30 minutes to reheat. However, this was difficult to do in the trenches and it was often eaten cold.

### **Maconochie beef stew**

- 340g of Beef
- 140g of waxy potatoes
- 30g of onions
- 30g of turnips
- 30g of beans
- 60ml of beef stock or water
- 15ml of fat or oil
- 15ml of flour
- Salt and pepper

If you want to recreate this taste of the trenches use the ingredients above and follow the instructions below:

- Chop the beef (corned or fresh) into cubes.
- Dice the potatoes, turnips and carrots.
- Chop the onions.
- Place the above ingredients into a steamer or pot with a small amount of water and cook until tender.
- Heat the fat in a pan.
- Add cooked vegetables and beef over a medium heat.
- Mix the stock/water with flour to a smooth paste.
- Add the paste to the stew and cook until thickened.
- Season to taste.

### Rationing and food shortages

All the nations involved in World War I faced the threat of starvation. Agriculture and food distribution suffered during the war. The war

took men and horses away from farm work. Naval blockades reduced food imports and fertilisers. Reduced agricultural output forced up prices and encouraged hoarding. Governments then put price controls on basic foodstuffs so there was no point in hoarding after that. Food queues became a common sight in many European cities.

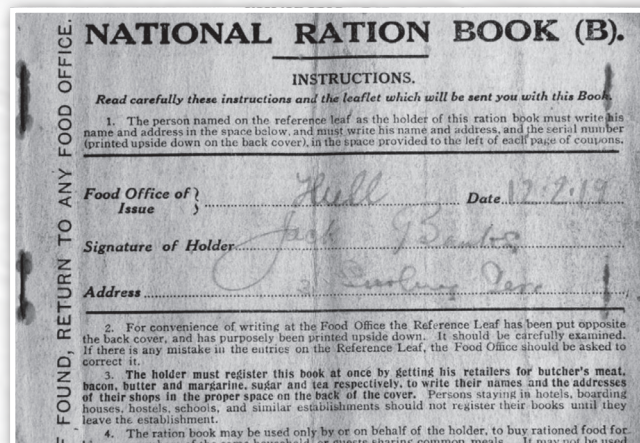
In Russia and Turkey, the distribution of food broke down. The Russian Revolution was encouraged by food riots. Many people starved in Turkey and Austria-Hungary ended up in the same situation. Germany introduced numerous government controls on the production and the sale of food. Germany's campaign of submarine warfare was intended to create food shortages in France, Italy and Britain. All three countries depended on imported grain. These countries tried to increase their own food production, but their main success was in introducing successful systems of rationing. Britain introduced rationing in London early in 1918 and it was extended nationwide by the summer.

### Ration books

Foods that the general public relied on such as wheat for bread, and sugar and butter, were in short supply. The rationing system was to allow the limited supply of important foods to be shared out more fairly between the rich and the poor. Every person had their own ration book even the king and the queen. The rules for using the ration cards were strict. They could only be used in certain shops and a person could not shop around for the best price. People had to be registered with butchers, greengrocers and bakers to make sure that the demand was evenly spread. There were fines and even imprisonment for anyone caught cheating or breaking the rules.



CANADIAN POSTER ASKING PEOPLE NOT TO WASTE FOOD. (CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM)



RATION BOOK FROM JUST AFTER THE WAR. (HULL MUSEUMS)



BOY SCOUTS WORKING IN ALLOTMENTS DURING THE WAR. (IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM)

### Grow your own

People were encouraged to grow their own vegetables with advertising campaigns. This happened in Britain, Ireland, France, U.S.A. and Canada. By 1917, gardening advice was promoted through local newspapers. In 1918, the local Parks Committees were asked to consider removing flower beds and growing vegetables instead. People were encouraged to grow essentials on allotments rather than luxuries. Many families kept pigs in their backyards.

### War on Waste

There was also a propaganda campaign to drive down waste with the public being told it was their patriotic duty to not throw food away. This was very evident in Britain and the U.S.A. with one poster even calling it the 'Greatest Crime in Christendom - to buy, to cook, to eat more than you need.'



GREATEST CRIME IN CHRISTENDOM POSTER.

## Rationing and recipes

In response to rationing, many government ministries as well as many food companies published recipes. A variety of books, magazines and food companies did likewise. With less ingredients available the aim was to provide new ways to cook basic foods.

### Australia and New Zealand

#### ANZAC biscuits

These chewy oat biscuits were believed to have been sent out to the front with departing ANZAC soldiers. It is more likely they were made to be sold at church fêtes and fundraising drives to benefit the soldiers. They remain popular in Australia to this day.

#### Ingredients:

85g porridge oats  
85g desiccated coconut  
100g plain flour  
100g caster sugar  
100g butter  
1 tbsp golden syrup  
1 tsp baking soda

#### Method:

Heat oven to 180c/fan 160c/gas 4. Mix the oats, coconut, flour and sugar in a bowl. Melt the butter in a small pan and stir-in the golden syrup. Mix the baking soda with 2 tbsp of boiling water, then stir into the golden syrup and butter mixture. Make a well in the middle of the dry ingredients and pour in the butter and golden syrup mixture. Stir gently to incorporate the dry ingredients. Put dessert spoonfuls of the mixture on to buttered baking trays about 2.5cm/1 inch apart as they will spread during baking.

Bake for 8-10 minutes until golden. Transfer to a wire rack to cool. They may be still quite soft when coming out of oven, but they will harden as they cool.



ANZAC BISCUITS.

### Germany

#### 1914 German Army kriegesbrot

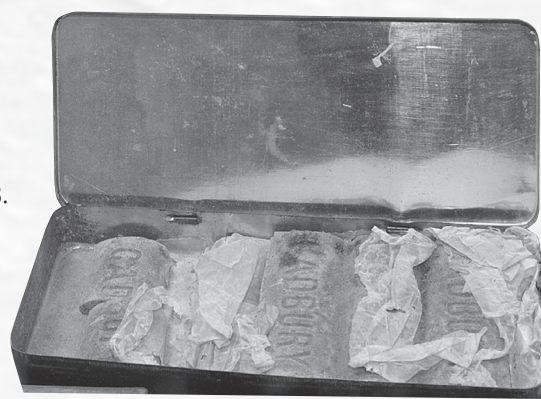
This bread recipe is based on one found in the trenches at Verdun in northern France. The ingredients consisted of rye flour, white flour, cocoa, yeast, caraway seeds, salt, brown sugar, vegetable oil, butter and water. Sugar was rationed in Germany as it was in Ireland and Britain during the war. The recipe probably used a beetroot syrup as a sugar substitute.

#### Sweets

Sugar was highly rationed during the war and the British government allowed 1 ounce / 28 grammes or 2 tablespoons per person per day. France and Italy had even smaller rations. Chocolate was a rare luxury generally kept for soldiers or nurses. Books such as *Foods That Will Win The War and How To Cook Them* (1918) were popular.

A variety of sweets were made from ingredients such as corn syrup, corn flour, nuts, dates, raisins, vanilla extract, corn syrup, water, vinegar, peanuts, coconut, rice and fat.

A SOLDIER'S  
CHRISTMAS  
RATION OF  
CADBURY  
CHOCOLATE,  
FOUND IN 2018.  
COPYRIGHT:  
EURONEWS.





# ACTIVITIES

## A. Find these words hidden in the box

Maconochie, rations, ANZAC, submarine, allotments, Napoleon, shortage, riots, syrup

A	M	A	C	O	N	O	C	H	I	E	B
X	W	A	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	F	L
R	C	N	D	E	F	G	H	I	E	J	K
A	Y	Z	Z	H	I	J	K	E	L	M	U
T	N	A	S	O	P	Q	B	R	S	T	S
I	U	C	T	V	W	Y	Z	Y	Z	A	T
O	B	C	O	D	L	E	F	G	H	I	N
N	J	K	I	L	L	M	N	O	P	Q	E
S	H	O	R	T	A	G	E	R	S	T	M
A	V	W	U	X	Y	Z	A	B	P	C	T
S	U	B	M	A	R	I	N	E	U	D	O
E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	R	N	L
O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	Y	X	L
N	A	P	O	L	E	O	N	Y	S	Z	A

## B. Pick the correct answer to complete each sentence

- An army marches on its \_\_\_\_\_  
hands    knees    stomach
- Soldiers in the trenches complained that food was \_\_\_\_\_  
hot    tasty    monotonous
- Maconochie was a \_\_\_\_\_  
biscuit    stew    a cake
- All nations involved in World War 1 faced threat of \_\_\_\_\_  
education    starvation    cold
- The Russian Revolution was encouraged by food \_\_\_\_\_  
riots    manufacturers    prices

**C. Match each event to its cause**

World War 1 biscuits were very hard.	Farmers were very busy rearing beef animals.
Beef was in great demand by the army.	Then food was divided more fairly.
Government introduced price controls.	They could break teeth.
Food was rationed.	Hoarding of food stopped.

**D. True or False**

1. It was the aim of the British Army that each soldier should consume 4,000 calories a day. \_\_\_\_\_
2. K-Brot was a type of bread. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Cooks gave away leftover food. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The Maconochie company were based in Aberdeen. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Naval blockades increased food shortages. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Britain introduced rationing in 1918. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Many families kept cows in their back-garden. \_\_\_\_\_
8. ANZAC biscuits are still popular in Australia. \_\_\_\_\_
9. The world's largest biscuit maker in 1914 was Jacobs. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Coffee was a popular drink at the Front in World War I. \_\_\_\_\_

**E. Crack the code to name the foods from World War I trenches**

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

2	5	5	6			2	1	3	15	14			2	9	19	3	21	9	20





## UNIT 5

# THE TOOLS OF WAR

When we think of the tools of war, we usually think of weapons. Horses, cars, trucks and maps were also tools of war, each playing its own role. The great powers entered World War I expecting it to be much the same as previous conflicts. Typically what happened was that cavalry and infantry would engage in some battles after which the loser would look for peace talks. This is what usually happened in Europe in the 19th century. Instead, they soon found-out that recent technological developments had changed everything. You now had two well-armed, evenly matched sides facing each other in networks of muddy trenches hundreds of miles long.

### Rifles

The standard rifle of the British Army during World War I was the Lee Enfield .303. It was a sturdy, reliable rifle well-suited to the harsh



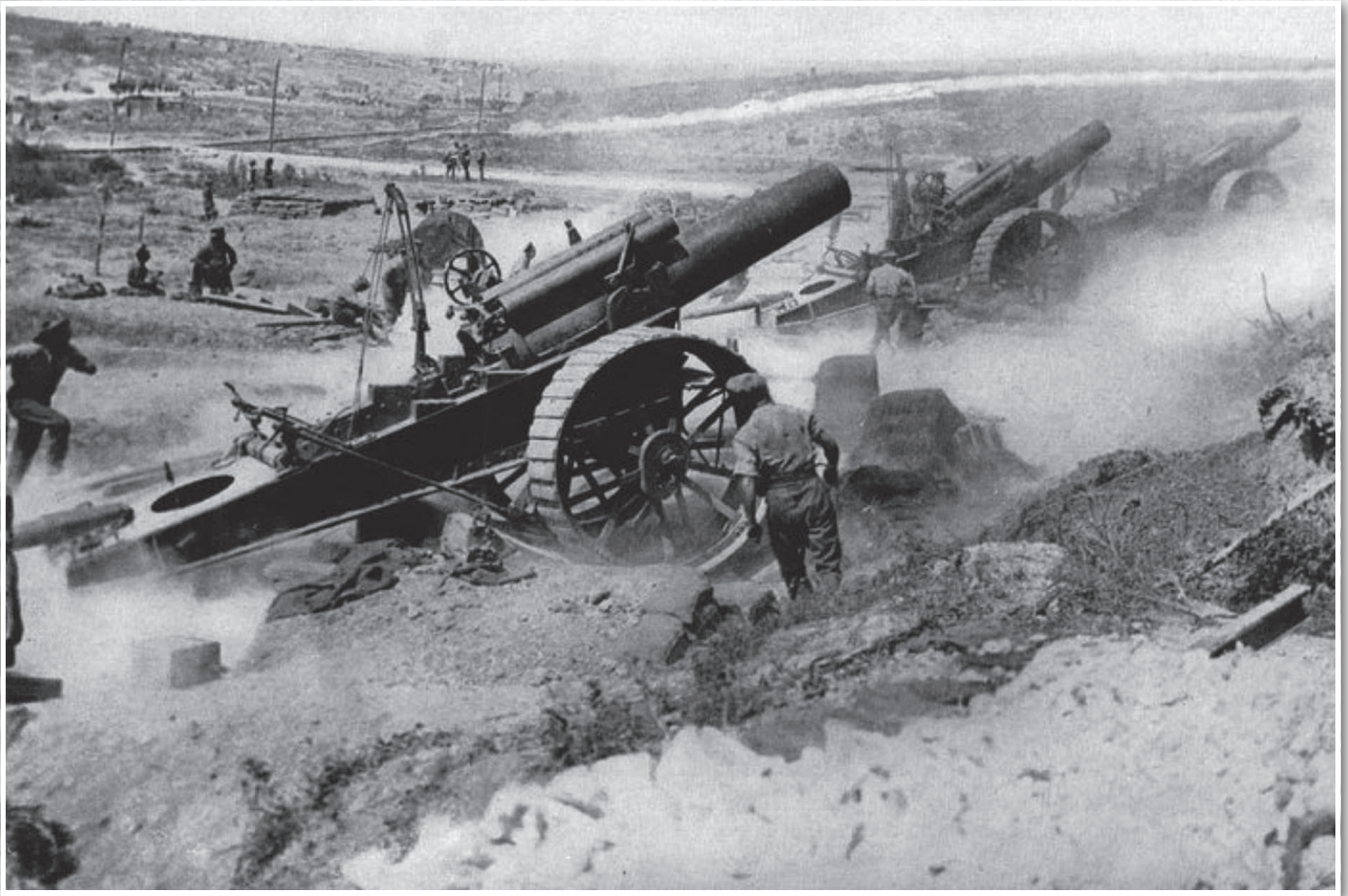
FRENCH SOLDIERS USING A NEW TYPE OF MACHINE GUN.  
(BRITISH LIBRARY)

conditions of the trenches. A soldier could fire 15 rounds per minute with the weapon. The Germans used the Gewehr 98, designed by the Mauser Company. It was well-made and accurate, but longer than the Lee Enfield. It was awkward to use in the trenches.



RUSSIAN TROOPS WITH RIFLES AND BAYONETS.





ARTILLERY.

### **Machine guns**

The machine gun was invented in 1884 by an American named Hiram Maxim. It was refined and made easier to carry during World War I. Both sides used it to deadly effect across 'No man's land'. The machine guns used on both sides could fire up to 500 bullets a minute.

### **Artillery**

Most of the casualties on the battlefields of World War I were caused by artillery shelling. Artillery fire was used to 'soften up' enemy lines before an infantry assault. A bombardment of German trenches during the Battle of Passchendaele in 1917 lasted two weeks, with 4.5 million shells fired from 3,000 guns.

### **Barbed wire**

Barbed wire was originally devised to control cattle in the American West. It became a very useful defensive weapon on the Western Front in World War I. It got tangled in equipment and clothing and slowed down attackers. This made them targets for snipers as they tried to disentangle themselves. Barbed wire, often in double rows, made advancing short distances over 'No man's land' very difficult.



BARBED WIRE BEING BLOWN-UP BY SHELLS.



A DRAWING OF A GAS ATTACK.

### **Poison gas**

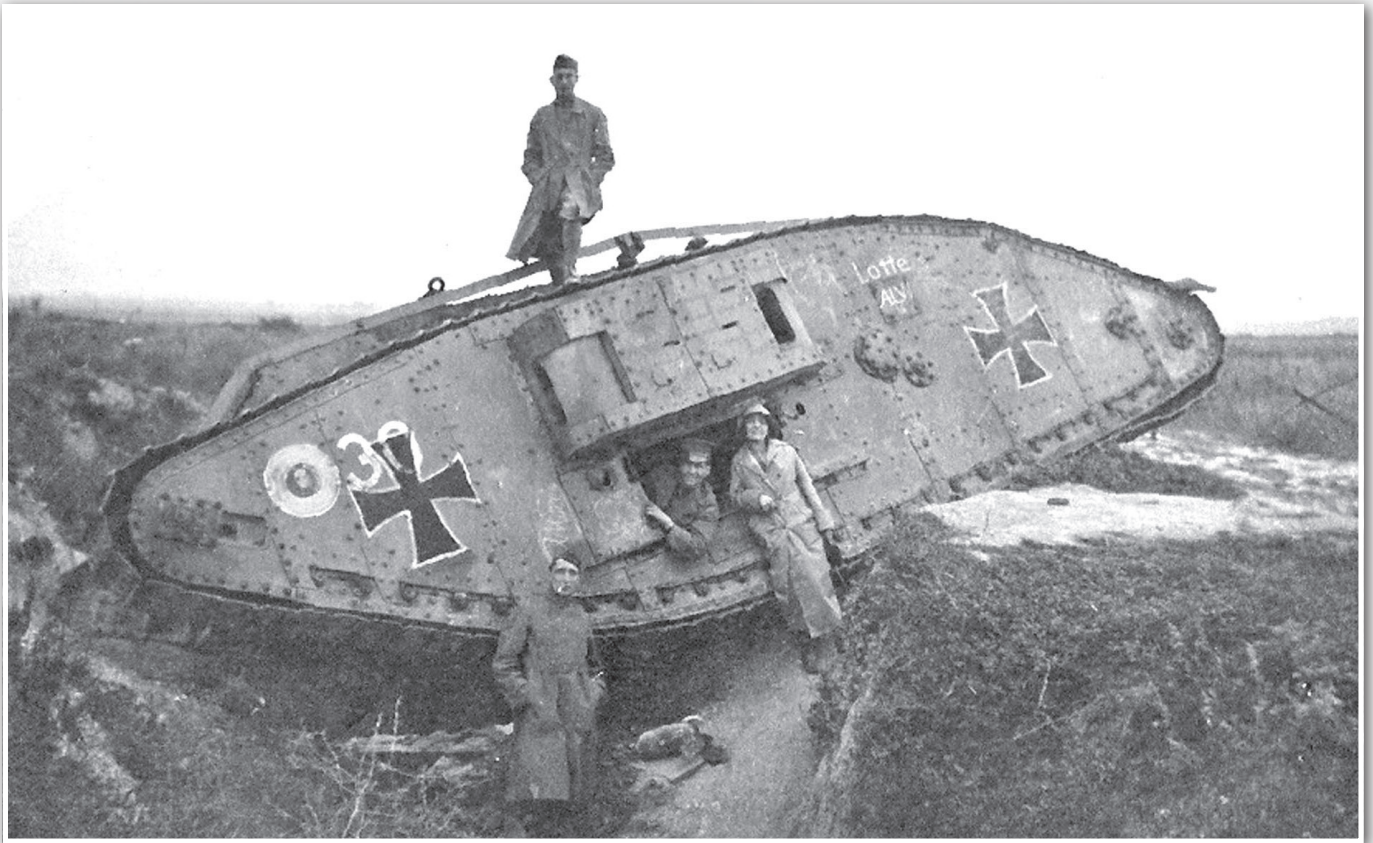
This was a new and deadly weapon used in World War I. Chlorine gas was first used by the Germans at the Second Battle of Ypres in April 1915 and it killed hundreds of French troops. The British also used chlorine gas and later in the war they used deadlier phosgene and mustard gas, which blinded those it came into contact with. There were an estimated 1 million gas casualties on all sides during the war.

### **Aircraft**

At the beginning of the war most of the countries involved had a limited number of wood and canvas aircraft. As the war went on, aircraft became more important. In 1915, planes were using mounted machine guns in aerial battles. This led to an era of 'dog fights' which were dominated by the German pilot Manfred Von Richtofen known as the 'Red Baron'. By 1917, the British introduced better planes such as the SES and Sopwith Camel. The 'Red Baron' was shot down and killed in April 1918.



AIRCRAFT IN BATTLE IN BELGIUM IN 1918.



A BRITISH TANK CAPTURED BY THE GERMANS.

### **Tanks**

Tanks were originally called land battleships. They were developed on the orders of Winston Churchill and first used on the Somme battlefield in 1916. The tanks were expected to break the stalemate of trench warfare by crossing trenches and barbed wire. Their armour could stand up to machine gun fire. At first, they were slow and had mechanical problems. By 1918, they had improved and were used to greater effect.

### **U-boats**

The 'u' stands for 'untersee', the German word for 'undersea'. Germany had 33 U-boats or submarines in operation in 1914. The German navy saw an opportunity to starve Britain. Its aim was to sink ships bringing food supplies to Britain. At first the U-boats were careful not to sink American ships. They worried less about this in 1916 and by 1917, they were sinking more and more merchant ships. Food queues became a common sight in Britain as a result. As the number of U.S. casualties on ships increased, America entered the war against the Germans.

### **Airships**

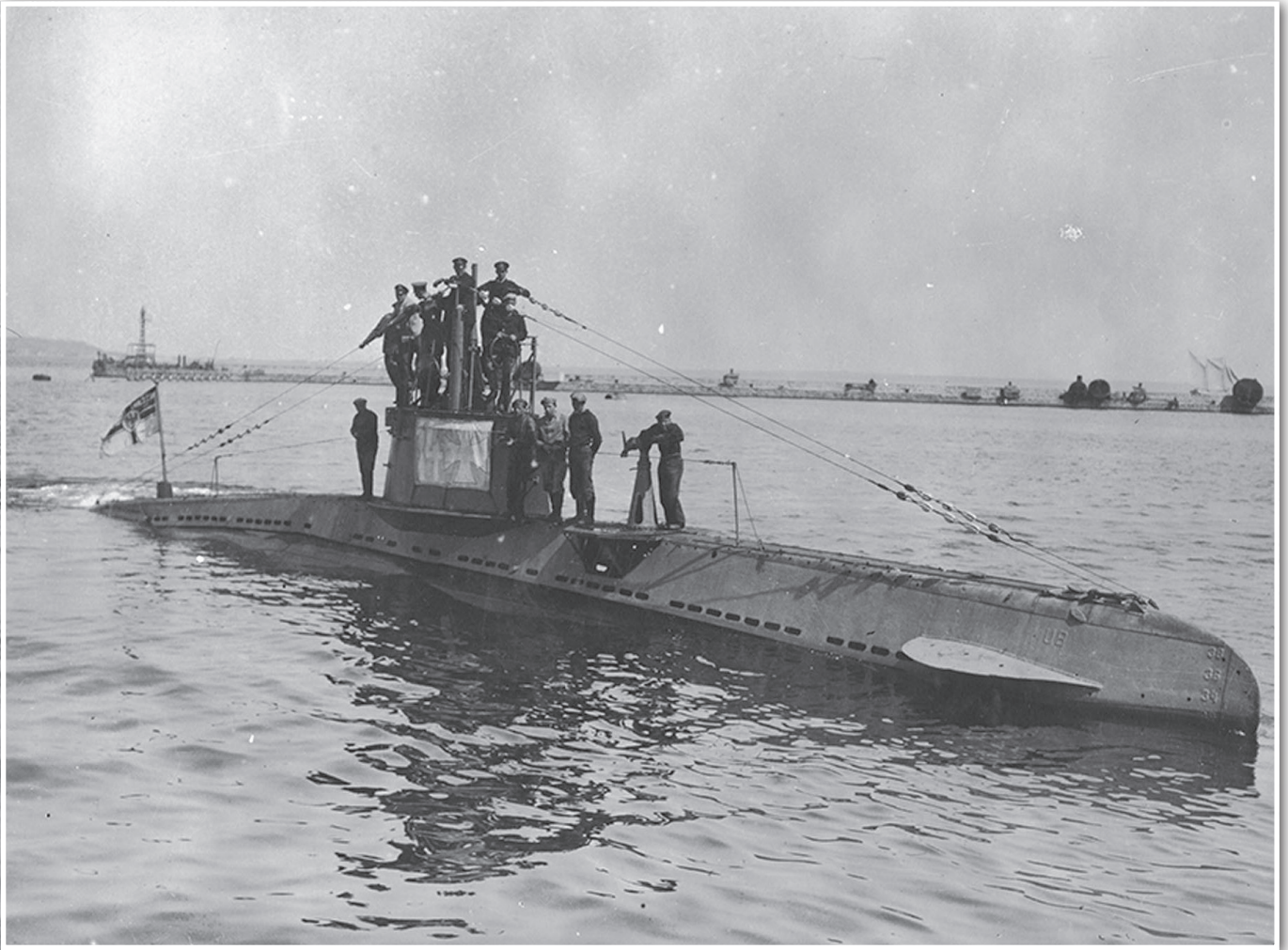
Airships were originally designed for passengers. They were also known as Zeppelins, after Count

Von Zeppelin, who was one of the first to design one. The military began to use them for bombing missions over Britain in 1914. They flew above the reach of British aircraft until the introduction of the high-flying Sopwith Camel aircraft in 1917.

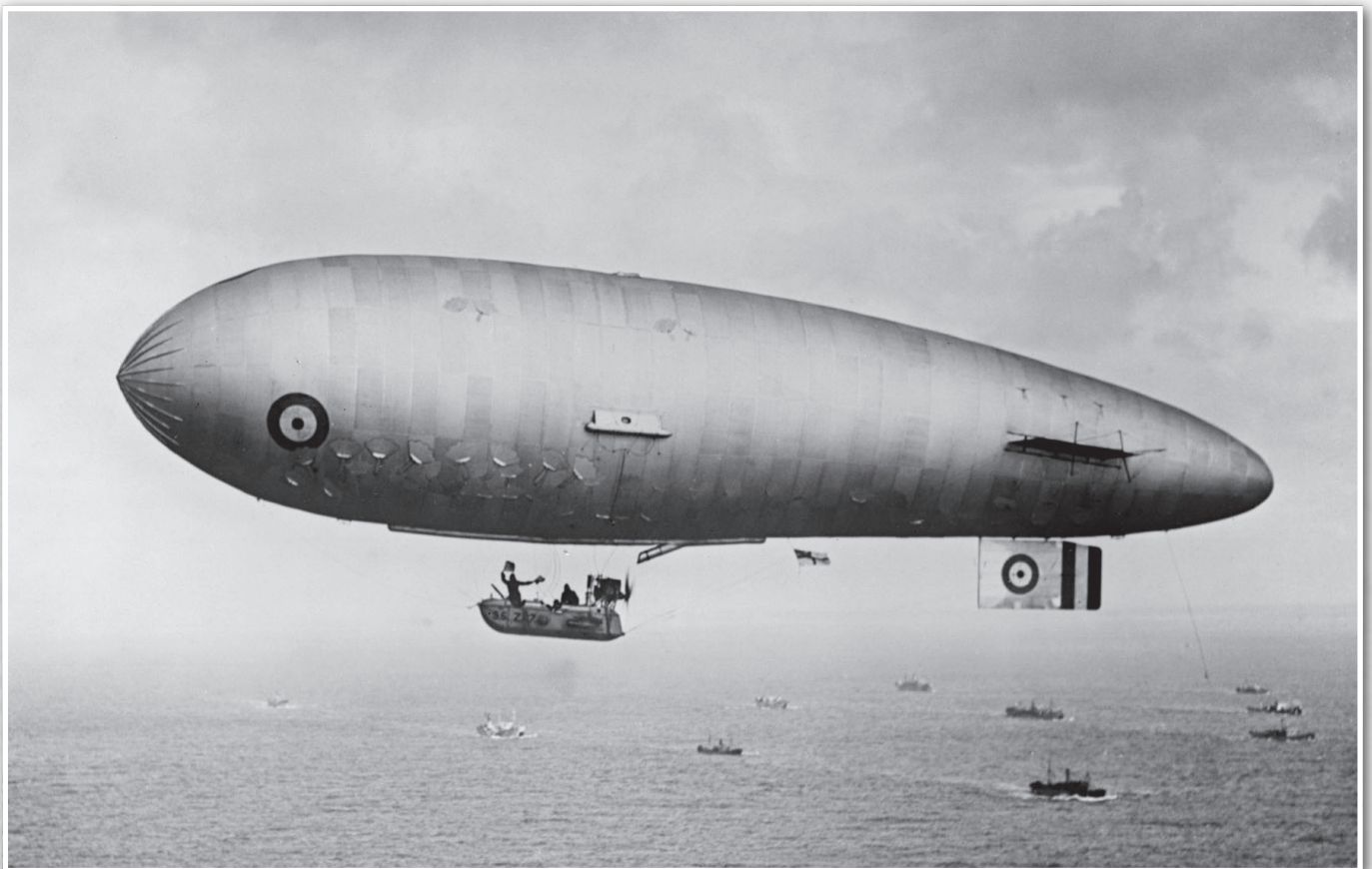
### **Animals**

Pigeons, mules, horses and dogs were all used in World War I. Killing a homing pigeon during World War I could result in six months in prison and a £100 fine. About 100,000 homing courier pigeons were used by all sides during the war. Pigeons were superior to telegraph lines and motorised vehicles for sending messages. At the First Battle of Marne in 1914, pigeon messages enabled the French to move swiftly to cut-off the German advance.

When the Great War broke out, the cavalry charge was still widely used. The last charge on the Western Front in March 1918 resulted in 146 horses killed out of 150 at the start of the charge. Horses and mules played key roles in transporting materials to the front, especially over muddy terrain. More than 8 million horses died in total on the Western Front.



A GERMAN U-BOAT WITH ITS CREW, 1918.



AN AIRSHIP FLYING OVER SHIPS.



SOLDIERS FROM NEW ZEALAND WATERING THEIR HORSES IN A FRENCH TOWN.

Dogs were widely used in the war. Up to 30,000 were used by both sides. The German Shepherd and the Dobermann Pinscher were the most useful. They were agile and smart, and they could carry messages, stand guard and sniff-out enemy scents. Terriers were very popular as they kept down the population of vermin in the trenches. Dobermanns were considered the best sentries. Messenger dogs were specially trained to carry messages. They were faster than human runners and were less of a target for a sniper. Mercy dogs were dogs which were sent out to seek out the wounded and dying on the battlefields. They carried medical supplies to soldiers and provided comfort to the dying.

### **Bullets and shells**

Ordnance is the group term for bullets and shells of different types. These ranged from small bullets used in handguns to the big 9kg shells which were fired from cannon-type guns. The big explosive shells were used so often by the British Army that in 1915, there was a danger of them running out. Ireland produced huge quantities of ordnance in World War I. Factories were located in the following places:

- Dublin - 2 factories with 1,363 employees
- Waterford - 519 employees
- Cork - 2 factories, with 220 employees

- Galway - 115 employees
  - Arklow, Co. Wicklow - 5,000 employees
- Only 5% of the workforce could be men. The munitions factories were dangerous places to work in and explosions were common.



WOMEN WORKING ON SHELLS IN THE NATIONAL SHELL FACTORY, PARKGATE STREET, DUBLIN.  
(IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM)

When the guns fell silent on 11 November 1918, up to 20 million people had died directly or indirectly due to the war. Many of these deaths were due to the weapons of war which were now more powerful than ever before.



# ACTIVITIES

## A. Find these words hidden in the box

Artillery, munitions, rifles, aircraft, gas, tanks, pigeons, ordnance, Lusitania, submarines, horse.

A	R	T	I	L	L	E	R	Y	P	A	B
I	I	O	A	C	D	E	F	G	I	H	I
N	F	R	J	K	L	M	N	O	G	P	Q
A	L	D	C	R	S	T	S	U	E	V	S
T	E	N	W	R	X	Y	K	Z	O	Z	N
I	S	A	G	Z	A	X	N	X	N	X	O
S	A	N	Y	Y	Y	F	A	B	S	B	I
U	A	C	C	D	D	E	T	E	F	F	T
L	A	E	G	G	H	O	R	S	E	H	I
I	J	J	K	D	O	B	E	R	M	A	N
M	L	L	K	N	N	N	O	P	P	Q	U
S	U	B	M	A	R	I	N	E	S	R	M

## B. Pick the correct word to finish each sentence

- The standard rifle of the British Army in World War I was the \_\_\_\_\_  
Lee Enfield   Ak47   Winchester
- Most of the casualties in World War I were caused by \_\_\_\_\_  
rifles   submarines   artillery
- Chlorine gas in World War I was first used by the \_\_\_\_\_  
Spanish   Germans   French
- The Red Baron was a/an \_\_\_\_\_ pilot  
Irish   British   German
- \_\_\_\_\_ dogs were considered to be the best sentries  
Terrier   sheepdogs   Dobermann

**C. Match each event to its cause**

Pigeons were used in World War I	The U.S.A. entered the war
Terriers were used in World War I	There was much employment for women
Many Americans were killed due to U-boat attacks	To carry messages
There were 7 munition factories in Ireland during World War I	They kept vermin down in the trenches

**D. True or False**

- The Lee Enfield rifle was awkward to use in the trenches. \_\_\_\_\_
- Artillery bombardments often lasted for weeks during World War I. \_\_\_\_\_
- Barbed wire was first used in the American West. \_\_\_\_\_
- In 1915 machine guns were mounted on aircraft. \_\_\_\_\_
- Tanks were developed on the orders of King George. \_\_\_\_\_
- U - boats were used for fishing. \_\_\_\_\_
- German airships were known as Zeppelins. \_\_\_\_\_
- Killing a pigeon in World War I resulted in a reward. \_\_\_\_\_
- Mercy dogs carried medical supplies to the wounded on the battlefield. \_\_\_\_\_
- 95% of workers in munition British factories in World War I were women. \_\_\_\_\_

**E. Crack the code to find the names of these weapons.**

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

13	1	3	8	9	14	5		7	21	14

1	18	20	9	12	12	5	18	25

3	8	12	15	18	9	14	5		7	1	19



## UNIT 6

# LONGFORD AND WORLD WAR II

There was a long history of men from County Longford joining the British Army. From the early 19th century, Longford town had two military barracks: one for cavalry (soldiers on horses) and the other for artillery (large guns). Granard also had an army barracks. The army was a great source of employment. There was also the chance for adventure because soldiers were sent to many parts of the British Empire. In some families there was a tradition of men joining the army and it was not unusual for the sons, grandsons and brothers of soldiers to enlist.

### **The British forces**

Longford was one of the counties where the

Leinster Regiment recruited men. The others were: Westmeath, King's County (now Offaly), Queen's County (now Laois) and Meath. Those who joined the Leinsters trained in Crinkill Barracks, near Birr, County Offaly. Longford men served in other regiments too, including the Connaught Rangers, which was recruited in the west. Many Longford men who lived in other parts of Ireland or in Britain also joined the army. Normally, a soldier served in the regiment of the place where he enlisted. However, that was not always the case.

Local men also joined the navy and a small number served in the Royal Flying Corps and later the Royal Air Force.



MAIN STREET, LONGFORD IN THE EARLY 1900S.





BADGE OF THE LEINSTER REGIMENT.

We do not know exactly how many local men served in the British forces in the war. One estimate is 2,500. The war memorial on the Market Square in Longford town says that 284 died as a result of the war. The number could be slightly higher.

### Other armies

Due to emigration, Longford people lived in many parts of the world. Natives of the county served in the armies of countries including Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. Many were also in the U.S. Army and were sent to France and Belgium, mostly in 1918. It is difficult to say precisely how many there were in these different armies. Again, we do not know exactly how many of them were killed or died of wounds.

### Some interesting stories

Thomas Leavy  
(1885-1916)

Thomas was born in Longford town. He enlisted in the army in Longford in 1902 and served for seven years. After that, he was in the reserve, meaning



that he would be expected to re-join the army if a war began. Thomas moved to England. He was called-up on the outbreak of war in August 1914 and served in the Leinster Regiment. Three of his brothers also served in the war and one of them, James, was also in the Leinsters. Thomas was promoted to the rank of sergeant and was awarded two medals for bravery: the Distinguished Conduct Medal (a British medal) and the Croix de Guerre (a French medal). Thomas was killed at Ypres in Belgium on 7 March 1916. He was shot by a sniper while attending to a wounded comrade.

Michael Reilly  
(died 1944)

Michael was from Longford town. He joined the Connaught Rangers in 1914. He was shot in battle in Belgium in 1915 and a bullet lodged in his heart. An X-ray failed to find the bullet and later, after treatment, Michael was sent back to fight. He was wounded in the Battle of the Somme in 1916 and sent to hospital. Again, the bullet in his heart was not discovered. He could not go back to normal army service. Much later, in 1925, Michael suffered from heart problems and he went to hospital in Dublin. This time, the bullet was found, and he was sent to London. There he had a major operation to remove it. His story was told in many newspapers! Michael died at his home in Legion Terrace, Longford in 1944. Today, members of his family are the proud owners of the bullet, a souvenir of his amazing story!



COURTESY OF PADDY NOLAN

Sir Henry Wilson  
(1864 – 1922)

Born at Currygrane, Ballinalee, Wilson served in the British Army for most of his life. He was promoted many times and was a very senior officer during World War I. He was particularly interested in working with the



French Army. In 1918, he became Chief of the Imperial General Staff, which meant that he was the chief of the entire British Army.

After the war, he was appointed to the rank of field marshal. Wilson was a unionist and strongly against the War of Independence. He later an M.P. for North Down and a military adviser to government of Northern Ireland. He was assassinated by the I.R.A. in London on 22 June 1922.

### Nurses

Several women from Longford served as nurses in the war. Many were with the British forces, but some were with the armies of other Allied countries.

Sophia Violet Barrett (1884-1918)

Sophia Violet Barrett was the only woman from Longford to die in the First World War. She was born in Ballintava, Co. Galway. She inherited Lislea House, Kenagh, on the death of her brother George. During the war, Violet served as a nurse. She worked in Dublin, then in Leeds (England) and finally in France. She returned to Ireland on leave from France in early October 1918 and stayed with her aunt in Dublin. She left to return to France on the ship R.M.S. *Leinster*, which sailed from Kingstown (now Dún Laoghaire) on 10 October. Soon after setting sail, the ship was torpedoed by a German submarine. It sank and 569 people (out of 813) died. Violet was one of six Longford people to die in the sinking.



Turkey. Many members were local, and money was raised to send them parcels. Soldiers always loved to get presents from home including sweets and cigarettes. There was also money collected for the Red Cross, which was treating wounded and sick men.

### Remembering the dead

The war memorial on the Market Square in Longford commemorates the soldiers from the county who died in World War I. It is a fine Celtic Cross and was unveiled in 1925. There are smaller memorials in Kenagh, Edgeworthstown and Legan. They were erected during the centenary commemorations of the war.



THE WAR MEMORIAL, MARKET SQUARE, LONGFORD.

### The Home Front

Longford people were well-informed about the war. One reason for that was that *The Longford Leader* had many articles about it. There were many fundraising events to help the soldiers who were fighting. In 1914, there was a collection to purchase an ambulance for the front, which raised £600. In 1915, Lord Granard, who lived in Castleforbes, Newtownforbes, led a battalion of the Royal Irish Regiment to fight in Gallipoli,

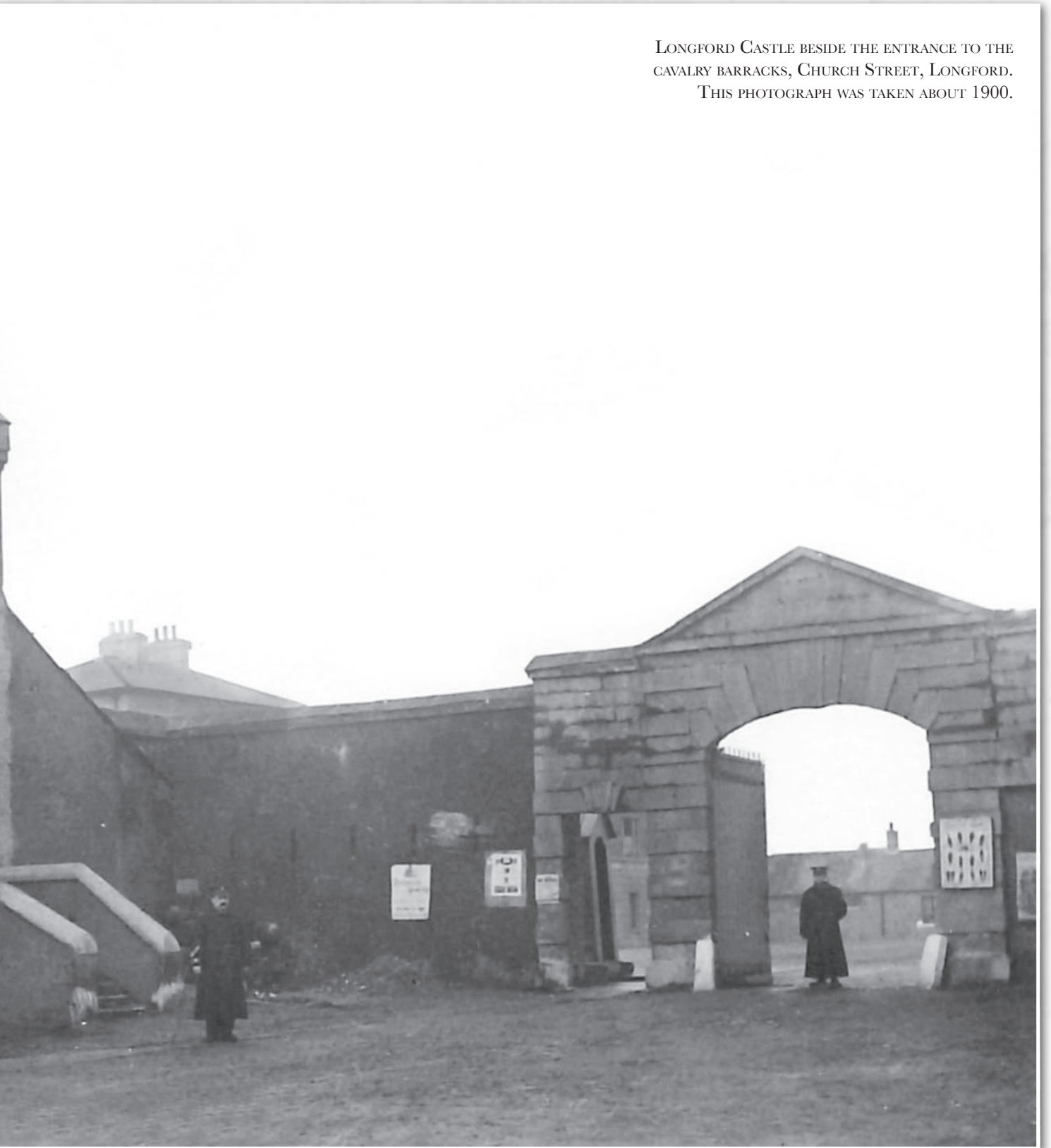
### Activity

Browse [www.longfordatwar.ie](http://www.longfordatwar.ie) to see information on many Longford soldiers who served in World War I, including those who were killed in action or died of wounds.

**Can you find anyone from your area?**



LONGFORD CASTLE BESIDE THE ENTRANCE TO THE  
CAVALRY BARRACKS, CHURCH STREET, LONGFORD.  
THIS PHOTOGRAPH WAS TAKEN ABOUT 1900.





MEDALS GIVEN TO A SOLDIER WHO SERVED IN THE BRITISH ARMY IN WORLD WAR I. THESE WERE KNOWN COLLECTIVELY AS 'PIP, SQUEAK AND WILFRED'.



THE IRISH NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL GARDENS IN ISLANDBRIDGE, DUBLIN.



An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,  
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán  
Department of Tourism, Culture,  
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta  
The Heritage Council



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