

STAND UP AND FIGHT

**Limerick's Military Tradition
from the Wild Geese to Gallipoli**



LIMERICK
MUSEUM &
ARCHIVES



HELL IS COMING

Since the Treaty of Limerick in 1691 thousands of Limerick men have fought and died in armies all over the world. Limerick's location means that it has always defended the West and a fighting spirit is part of Limerick's history most often now seen on the rugby field.

1915 marks the centenary of the Gallipoli Campaign of the First World War in which large numbers of Limerick soldiers fought and died.

This war changed the world forever. Millions suffered death on a scale never before seen. Many Limerick soldiers returned suffering severe wounds and also lost their peace of mind. Survivors were witnesses to the carnage of Gallipoli and the Somme.



**The R. A. M. C. are “holding
their own” at LIMERICK.**

464



Soldier taking the chance to wash at one of the many shell holes on the Western Front.

Image: Imperial War Museum

VC 164388

Without the Great War, there could have been no Easter Rising, and no gallant allies to support it. Yet it had nonetheless been completely forgotten, and so totally that not merely had people forgotten, but they'd forgotten that they'd forgotten.

Kevin Myers, 2015



The trenches at the front stretched over 440 miles from the North Sea to the Swiss border. While on the front this is where soldiers on both sides ate, slept and many died. 8 April 1916

Image: Imperial War Museum



A moment alone. The full horror of the casualties would not sink in for months to come.
Aveluy Wood, September 1916

Image: Imperial War Museum

Weight to the grey skies, grey mud where goes.

An army of grey bedrenched scarecrows in rows

Careless at last of cruellest Fate-sending.

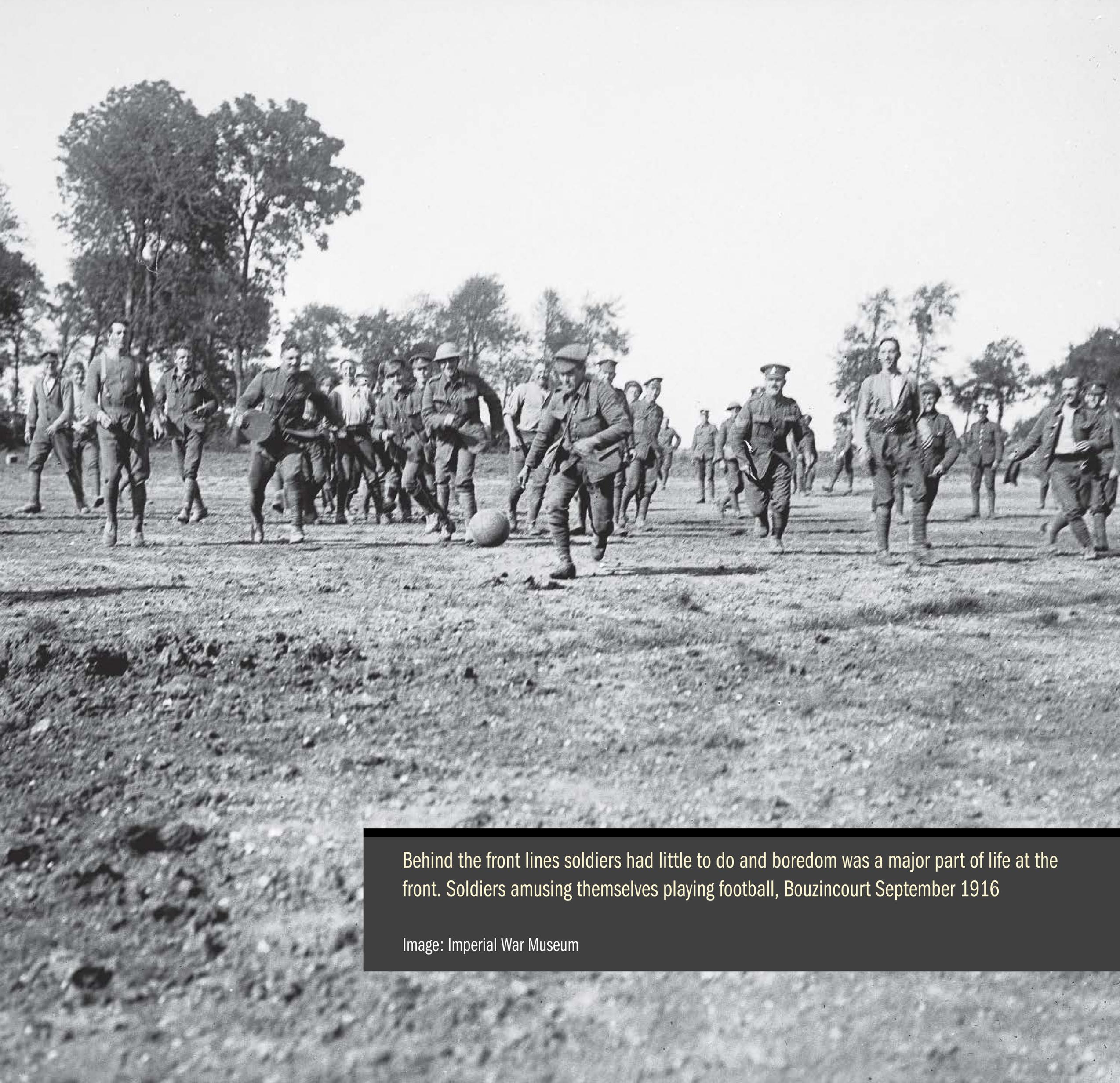
Seeing the pitiful eyes of men foredone,

Or horses shot, too tired merely to stir,

Dying in shell-holes both, slain by the mud.

Men broken, shrieking even to hear a gun

Ivor Gurney, 'Pain,' 1917



Behind the front lines soldiers had little to do and boredom was a major part of life at the front. Soldiers amusing themselves playing football, Bouzincourt September 1916

Image: Imperial War Museum



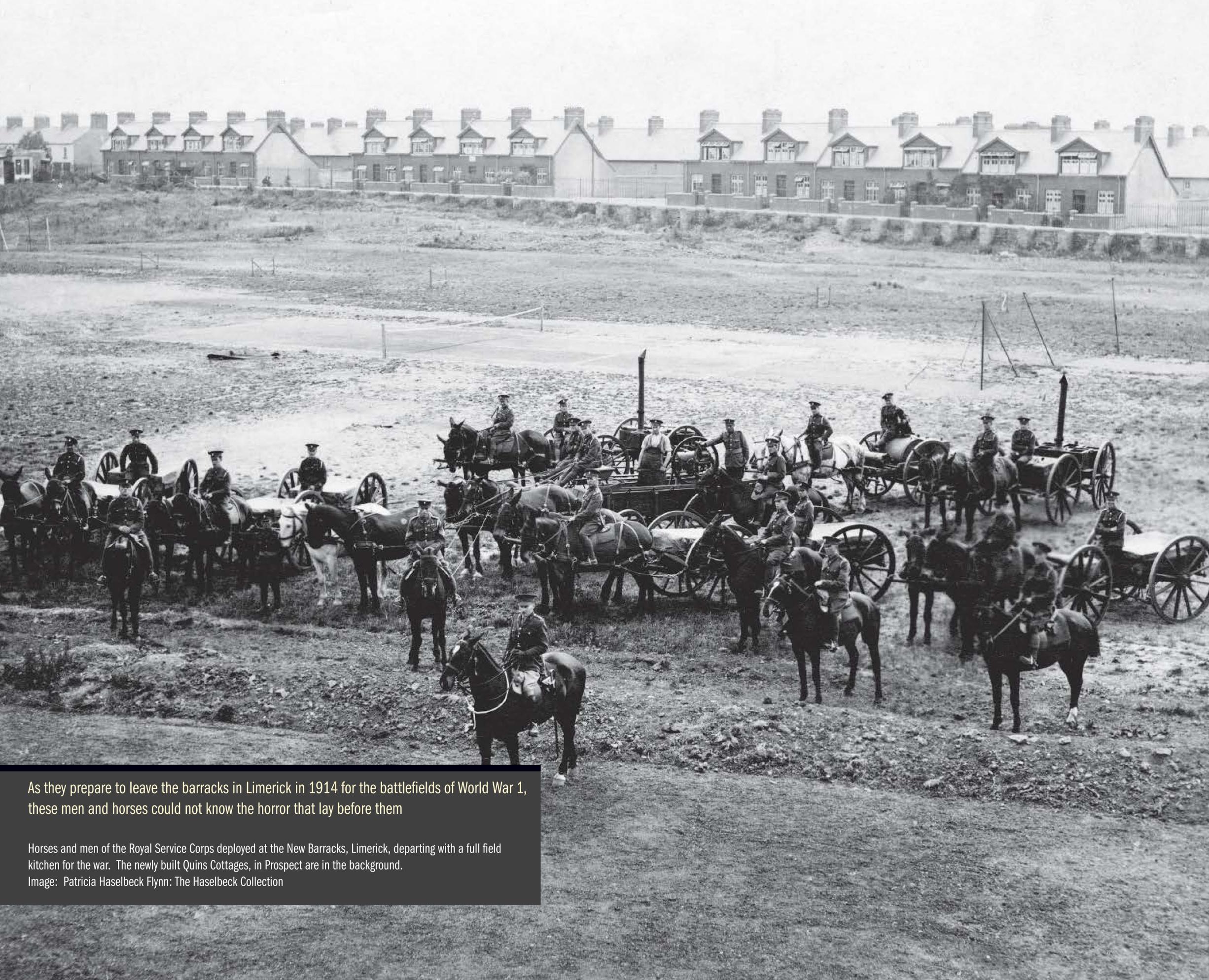
Shortly after this image was taken by John Warwick Brooke, a shell fell killing seven men

Image: Imperial War Museum



Soldier stands guard over the body of a fallen comrade awaiting burial near Domart, France, 3 April 1918

Image: Imperial War Museum



As they prepare to leave the barracks in Limerick in 1914 for the battlefields of World War 1, these men and horses could not know the horror that lay before them

Horses and men of the Royal Service Corps deployed at the New Barracks, Limerick, departing with a full field kitchen for the war. The newly built Quins Cottages, in Prospect are in the background.

Image: Patricia Haselbeck Flynn: The Haselbeck Collection

In Flanders fields the
poppies blow,

Between the crosses,
row on row,

That mark our place;
and in the sky,

The larks, still bravely
singing, fly

Scarce heard amid the
guns below

John McCrae

'In Flanders Fields,'

May 1915



Patrick McMahon enlisted in Limerick in November 1915 at the age of 21. He was typical of the one in ten Limerick men aged between 15 and 60 who enlisted in World War 1. Patrick survived the war and was discharged from service in April 1919. Most of those fortunate to survive were unable to talk about what they had witnessed.



Son of a confectioner, John Dawson, Shannon Street served in the 7th Battalion with the Royal Irish Regiment. He enlisted in the army three times, but his mother Nora bought him out twice. John was shot and killed by a sniper in February 1918. His cousin, also called John Dawson, standing beside him in the photograph survived the war. Each of the thousand men killed in the war left behind a circle of friends and family. Everyone in Limerick knew someone that died.

Image: Jack Dawson



Patrick Murphy, a labourer from Castle Lane, of St. Michael's Parish served with the Royal Munster Fusiliers 6th Infantry Battalion. Patrick was badly injured by a shrapnel wound and was medically discharged from the army in August 1923. Many Limerick men came home with permanent reminders of the horrors of war.

"We have loved him in life, let us not forget him in death, until we have con-
ducted him by our prayers into the
eternal abode of bliss."



SACRED HEART OF JESUS,
have mercy on the soul of

James Paul Meehan,

Who died on September 27th, 1918
in Noble Hospital, France,
from wounds received in action.

AGED 29 YEARS

"Welcome, O Lord, this heart which
these words were designed to bless.
Give us strength to say them aloud,
Throughout our lonely years."

James Paul Meehan from Careys Road enlisted with the 138th Infantry Regiment of the American army. He died of wounds received during the Meuse – Argonne Offensive in 1918. This battle stretched the entire western front lasting 47 days and was part of the final Allied offensive. After his death his mother Mary Anne was the beneficiary of his life insurance policy of \$10,000. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.

Image: Joyce Olsthoorn & Noreen Maloney