

1914

Viribus Unitis

Release date: November 14, 2025

Trench Warfare Meets Blackened Death-Doom: 1914 Unleash Their Fourth Onslaught of War-Torn Fury!

Ukrainian blackened death/doom metal formation **1914** return with unrelenting force on their fourth studio album, ***Viribus Unitis***, Latin for "*With United Forces*." Far more than a historical reference to the personal motto of Franz Joseph I of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the title reflects the band's resilience through war, loss, and upheaval – a powerful symbol of survival and solidarity. Releasing on November 14, 2025 via Napalm Records, ***Viribus Unitis*** builds on the band's acclaimed conceptual approach, pushing even deeper into emotional and musical intensity.

Continuing their chronicle of World War I, **1914** shift their focus slightly, from the raw portrayal of death and destruction to themes of camaraderie, endurance, and the emotional landscapes of those who endured the horrors. While previous releases like ***The Blind Leading the Blind*** (2018) and ***Where Fear and Weapons Meet*** (2021) centered on the futility and finality of war, ***Viribus Unitis*** explores the human bonds forged under fire and the strength of those who returned: broken, changed, yet still alive.

Musically, **1914** remain true to their identity – brutal mixture of blackened death metal, slow-burning doom, and ambient war soundscapes. This time, however, their sound gains a broader dynamic range, with soaring melodic leads, orchestral textures, and haunting clean vocals that provide dramatic contrast to the crushing heaviness. One of the album's highlights is a collaboration with Aaron Stainthorpe (ex-**My Dying Bride**, **High Parasite**) on "1918 Pt. 3: ADE (A Duty to Escape)," whose mournful voice adds a solemn, almost liturgical quality to this elegy of grief and brotherhood on the front lines.

Viribus Unitis deepens **1914**'s commitment to historical authenticity, both lyrically and conceptually. Told through real events and personal accounts of a Ukrainian soldier in the K.u.K. army, the album traces a timeline from 1914 to 1919, painting a grim journey through the war's rise, climax, and hollow aftermath.

From the brooding opener "War In" to the bleak closer "War Out (The End?)", each track captures a moment in time: the brutal "1914 (The Siege of Przemyśl)", the frostbitten "1915 (Zwinin Ridge)", the crushing Alpine combat of "1916 (Südtirol Offensive)", and the madness of "1918 Pt. 2: POW (Prisoner of War)" featuring Christopher Scott of Precious Death.

The album ends with "1919 (The Home Where I Died)," featuring **Rome**'s Jérôme Reuter, a haunting portrait of a soldier who survived the war, but not its shadow. This emotional song deals with the soldier's will to live and his family values, seeing him escape from captivity to finally return home to embrace his wife and daughter. **1914** fuse blackened death metal, doom, and atmospheric textures with dramatic flourishes and guest vocals, creating their most dynamic and emotionally resonant record to date.