

The people of Ireland played a significant role in World War I. Irish men, women, and children, sacrificed together in support of the British imperial war effort (Connolly, 1998). Some joined the armed forces because it was a paying job; others joined because they were obligated. Because many men were away at war, the women of Ireland took over the men's jobs, and even the children worked to help Ireland fight the German forces.

The Irish had three military divisions: the Tenth Division, the Sixteenth Division, and the Thirty-Sixth Division. The Tenth Division included the Twenty-Ninth Brigade, the Thirtieth Brigade, and the Thirty-First Brigade. Artillery, engineer, army service corps, and medical units came from Scotland and England. After training in Ireland, the Tenth Military Division moved to Basingstoke in May 1915. Then, on July 1, 1915, they were ordered to fight in Gallipoli, Turkey. The soldiers fought boldly through harsh conditions like thirst, hunger, flies, and heat. Following the March 1918 German offensive, the battalions were transferred to France and replaced by Indian troops; the division ceased to be Irish. (The 10th Irish Division)

The Sixteenth Irish Military Division was formed in September 1914. The Sixteenth Division included the Forty-Seventh Brigade, the Forty-Eighth Brigade, and the Forty-Ninth Brigade. Once the men of the Sixteenth Division trained in Ireland, they were deposited in Aldershot in September 1915. After the New Year, they were moved to France. From the twenty-seventh to the twenty-ninth of April, the Sixteenth Irish Division endured the pain of mass casualties from gas attacks at Hulluch. Five hundred and seventy officers and men were killed. One thousand four hundred and ten men were injured. The Sixteenth Irish Division took part in the third battle of Ypres in July. That battle took its toll, and, by August, the Sixteenth Division had suffered more than four thousand two hundred casualties. (The 16th Irish Division)

