

An Chartlann Mhíleata  
Dún Chathail Brugha  
Ráth Maonais  
Baile Átha Cliath 6



Military Archives  
Cathal Brugha Barracks  
Rathmines  
Dublin 6

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**Information Document on the Irish  
Regiments of the British Army up to 31<sup>st</sup>  
July 1922.**

*(Including Notes on How to Source World War I Service  
Records)*

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# **INTRODUCTION**

This information document has been produced for two reasons:

1. To let researchers know that **the Irish Military Archives does not hold records relating to Irish soldiers who were members of the Irish Regiments of the British Army.** This material is held by such Institutions as the National Archives in Kew, London, with ancillary material held at the National Army Museum and the Imperial War Museum, among others (*please see the note on WWI service records on pages 19 and 20 of this document*).

The National Library of Ireland (NLI) and the Library in Trinity College, Dublin (TCD) have one or two useful sources for looking up Officers and Men of the British Army based in Ireland before the formation of the Irish Free State:

- **NLI: “The Irish Military Guide”**, which is a set of volumes that read like a directory for Officers and some of the staff serving in Ireland from 1892 to 1919. It also lists the regiments based in the various Irish barracks. It was published on a six-monthly basis and broken down internally by month.

**Note:** The Military Archives hold some editions of this guide, namely: 1903; July-December 1908; July-December 1909; January-June 1912; 1913; July-December 1915

- **TCD: “Army Lists”**, i.e. lists of members of various Regiments of the British Army based in Ireland from 1759, which includes lists from the 1<sup>st</sup> World War and a new Honour Roll for those who lost their lives during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. They are held in the Department of Early Printed Books.

(See the websites of the National Library, [www.nli.ie](http://www.nli.ie) or Trinity College [www.tcd.ie](http://www.tcd.ie) for more information.)

2. To give researchers a general idea of the number and type of Irish Regiments in the British Army that were active during the Great War and in prior wars and engagements.

Further detail on the battalions within these regiments and their operational activities is to be found elsewhere, either on the Web, or else in the many books on the subject. Regimental Association contact details, or else potentially useful Web links, are included at the end of each regiment note (**The Military Archives is not responsible for the content of any of these websites**).

*A very short bibliography and a note on sourcing WWI service records is also included at the end of this document to help get the researcher started.*

While it was not an issue at the time of the Great War (when the island of Ireland was still part of Great Britain), the counties of Northern Ireland and the Republic have been separated out (to a degree) in the organisation of this document.

The layout is split into Sections dependent on the regiment's depot and recruitment area during the Great War (used as an arbitrary focus for the purposes of this document). Section 1 being for those regiments that could, at the time of the Great War, be considered to have undertaken most of their recruitment in Ireland, while Section 2 covers those regiments that mostly recruited, or were based, in Northern Ireland or Great Britain. The sections are then subdivided by whether they were infantry or cavalry regiments. Section 3 is a short note on the "Irish Divisions" which were set up at the start of the Great War.

Almost all of these regiments contained a significant majority of Irish soldiers, regardless of where they lived. However, some of these regiments, particularly one or two of the cavalry regiments in Section 2, were only Irish in name, which should be considered when researching your military ancestor.

Hopefully this summary document will prove to be an effective starting-point for researchers to undertake general and genealogical research into the Irish Regiments of the British Army up to 1922.

For information on the material held by, and the services available from, the English National Archives in Kew, London, please visit: [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

## **SECTION 1A**

### **Regiments that recruited during the Great War from Counties now in the Republic, or had their Regimental Depots on the island of Ireland.**

#### **\_\_\_\_\_INFANTRY\_\_\_\_\_**

##### **The Connaught Rangers**

This regiment was first raised in 1793 by John Thomas de Burgh, the 13<sup>th</sup> Earl of Clanrickard, from men recruited in Connaught and were later renamed the 88<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot. Under the Childers Reforms it was amalgamated with the 94<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot and it retained the title Connaught Rangers. On 12<sup>th</sup> June 1922 the colours of the Connaught Rangers were laid up at a ceremony in St. George's Hall, Windsor Castle and the regiment was disbanded on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1922.

##### **Regimental Depot:**

Renmore, Co. Galway

##### **Counties recruited from:**

Galway, Leitrim, Mayo, Roscommon and Sligo.

##### **Military Service before 1914:**

India and South Africa.

##### **Military Service during the Great War:**

The Western Front, Gallipoli, the Middle East and Salonika.

##### **Association:**

The Connaught Rangers Association

**Websites:**

[www.connaughtrangersassoc.com](http://www.connaughtrangersassoc.com)

[www.kinghouse.ie/connaughtrangers.html](http://www.kinghouse.ie/connaughtrangers.html)

**Postal Address:**

Boyle House  
Boyle,  
Co. Roscommon

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**The Leinster Regiment**

This regiment was formed in 1881 by the amalgamation of the 100<sup>th</sup> (Prince of Wales Royal Canadian) Regiment of Foot and the 109<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot (Bombay Infantry). It then became known as the Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians). The colours of the Regiment were laid up on 12<sup>th</sup> June 1922 at a ceremony in St. George's Hall, Windsor Castle and the regiment was then formally disbanded on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1922.

**Regimental Depot:**

Birr, Co. Offaly

**Counties recruited from:**

Longford, Meath, Westmeath, King's County (Offaly) and Queen's County (Laois).

**Military Service before 1914:**

England, Malta, Bermuda, Jamaica, Barbados, Canada, South Africa and Ireland.

**Military Service during the Great War:**

The Western Front, Gallipoli, the Middle East and Salonika.

**Association:**

The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment Association

**Website:**

<http://www.leinster-regiment-association.org.uk/>

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## **The Royal Dublin Fusiliers**

This regiment was created in 1881 by the amalgamation of two regiments which had origins in the former East India Company, i.e. the 102<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of Foot (The Royal Madras Fusiliers) and the 103<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Foot (The Royal Bombay Fusiliers). On 12<sup>th</sup> June 1922 the colours of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers were laid up at a ceremony in St. George's Hall, Windsor Castle and the regiment was then formally disbanded on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1922.

### **Regimental Depot:**

Dublin

### **Counties Recruited from:**

Dublin, Kildare, Carlow and Wicklow

### **Military Service before 1914:**

Ceylon, Gibraltar, South Africa, Crete, Malta and Egypt

### **Military Service during the Great War:**

The Western Front, Gallipoli, the Middle East and Salonika

**Casualties:** over 4,700.

### **Association:**

The Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association

### **Website:**

[www.greatwar.ie](http://www.greatwar.ie)

### **Email:**

[rdfa@eircom.net](mailto:rdfa@eircom.net)

*Papers for this Association held in the **Dublin City Library and Archive** 138-144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2.*

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## **The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers**

This regiment was created in 1881 by the amalgamation of the 27<sup>th</sup> (Inniskilling) Regiment of Foot and the 108<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot (Madras Infantry). The 27<sup>th</sup> (Inniskilling) Regiment was originally raised in 1689 and fought for King William III at the Battle of the Boyne while the 108<sup>th</sup> Regiment was an Irish regiment in the service of the East India Company.”

### **Regimental Depot:**

Omagh, Co. Tyrone

### **Counties recruited from:**

Derry, Donegal, Fermanagh, Tyrone.

### **Military Service before 1914:**

India and South Africa

### **Military Service during the Great War:**

The Western Front, Gallipoli, the Middle East and Salonika.

### **Regimental Museum:**

The Inniskillings Museum

### **Website:**

<http://www.inniskillingsmuseum.com/>

### **Postal Address:**

The Inniskillings Museum  
The Castle, Enniskillen  
Co. Fermanagh BT74 7HL

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## **The Royal Irish Fusiliers**

This regiment was originally created in 1793 as the 87<sup>th</sup> (Prince of Wales's Irish) Regiment of Foot. It was then given the title of the Royal Irish Fusiliers in 1827. In 1881 this regiment was amalgamated with the 89<sup>th</sup> (Princess Victoria's) Regiment of Foot, which, coincidentally, was also formed in 1793. The new formation retained the title of the Royal Irish Fusiliers.

**Regimental Depot:**

Armagh

**Counties recruited from:**

Armagh, Cavan, Monaghan, and Louth

**Military Service before 1914:**

South Africa and India

**Military Service during the Great War:**

The Western Front, Salonika, India and Burma.

**Useful Web Links:**

<http://www.1914-1918.net/rifus.htm>

[http://www.trav.freeuk.com/rish\\_fusiliers.htm](http://www.trav.freeuk.com/rish_fusiliers.htm)

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**The Royal Irish Regiment**

This Regiment was raised in 1684 by the Earl of Granard from a number of independent Companies based in Ireland and in 1695 it became known as the Royal Regiment of Ireland. The Regiment served in Europe during the Wars of the Spanish Succession, in America during the Revolution, in the Crimean War and in Egypt and Afghanistan. Under the 1881 Childers Reforms it was renamed the Royal Irish Regiment. On 12<sup>th</sup> June 1922 the colours of the Royal Irish Regiment were laid up at a ceremony in St. George's Hall, Windsor Castle and the regiment was formally disbanded on 31 July 1922.

Note: The Royal Irish Regiment was reformed on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1992 when the Ulster Defence Regiment and the Royal Irish Rangers were amalgamated.

**Regimental Depot:**

Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

**Counties recruited from:**

Tipperary, Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford

**Military Service before 1914:**

South Africa and India

**Military Service during the Great War:**

The Western Front and Gallipoli.

**Regimental Association website:**

[www.firstandlast.ie](http://www.firstandlast.ie)

**Useful web links:**

[http://gallipoli-association.org/forum/forum\\_posts.asp?TID=473&OB=DESC](http://gallipoli-association.org/forum/forum_posts.asp?TID=473&OB=DESC)

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**The Royal Irish Rifles**

This regiment was created in 1881 by the amalgamation of the 83<sup>rd</sup> (County of Dublin) Regiment of Foot and the 86<sup>th</sup> (Royal County Down) Regiment of Foot, both of which were originally raised in 1793 when the British Army was enlarged to counter the threat posed by France. When the Irish Free State came into being in 1921, the title of the regiment was changed to the Royal Ulster Rifles.

**Regimental Depot:**

Belfast

**Counties recruited from:**

Antrim and Down

**Military Service before 1914:**

South Africa and the Middle East

**Military Service during the Great War:**

The Western Front, Gallipoli, the Middle East, Salonika and India

**Useful Web Links:**

<http://www.1914-1918.net/ririfles.htm>

<http://northirish.net/rirhistory.html>

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## **The Royal Munster Fusiliers**

This regiment was formed in 1881 by the amalgamation of two regiments which had their origins in the former East India Company; the 101<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Foot (Royal Bengal Fusiliers) and the 104<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot (Bengal Fusiliers). In September 1918 Arthur Lynch, the M.P. for West Clare, attempted to raise a 10<sup>th</sup> service battalion but it was disbanded on 14 March 1919 before it ever saw active service. On 12<sup>th</sup> June 1922 the colours of the Royal Munster Fusiliers were laid up at a ceremony in St. George's Hall, Windsor Castle and the regiment was formally disbanded on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1922.

### **Regimental Depot:**

Tralee, Co. Kerry

### **Counties Recruited from:**

Cork, Limerick, Kerry and Clare

### **Military Service before 1914:**

India, Burma and South Africa.

### **Military Service during the Great War:**

The Western Front, Gallipoli, the Middle East and Salonika.

**Casualties:** over 3,000.

### **Regimental Association:**

The Royal Munster Fusiliers Association

### **Website:**

[www.rmfa92.org](http://www.rmfa92.org)

### **Telephone Number:**

00353 61 303147

### **Honorary Secretary:**

Mr. Tadhg Moloney, M.A.

### **Postal Address:**

86 High Meadows  
Gouldavoher  
Limerick  
Ireland

## **SECTION 1B**

### **CAVALRY**

#### **The North Irish Horse**

This unit was created in January 1902 and it was originally known as the North of Ireland Imperial Yeomanry. In July 1908 the unit was redesignated to become a special reserve cavalry regiment as part of the Haldane Reforms and it was renamed the North Irish Horse. In June 1916 the 2<sup>nd</sup> North Irish Horse Regiment was formed, but it was subsequently broken up in August 1917 and many of its members formed the 9<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion of the Royal Irish Fusiliers. The North Irish Horse Regiment was demobilised in August 1919 and was re-established in 1921 as a cavalry militia regiment.

#### **Regimental Depot:**

Belfast

#### **Counties recruited from:**

Antrim, Armagh, Cavan, Derry, Donegal, Down, Monaghan and Tyrone.

#### **Military Service during the Great War:**

The Western Front

#### **Association:**

The North Irish Horse Regimental Association

#### **Website:**

<http://northirishhorse.com>

#### **Useful Web Links:**

<http://northirishhorse.net>

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## **The South Irish Horse**

This unit was created in January 1902 and was first known as the South of Ireland Imperial Yeomanry. In the 1908 reforms under the Secretary of State for War, Richard Haldane, yeomanry and militia regiments were reorganised into a new Territorial Force. This legislation did not apply to Ireland and the South of Ireland Imperial Yeomanry, which was designated as a special reserve cavalry regiment and subsequently renamed the South Irish Horse.

The regiment was split into two during the Great War and in September 1917 the dismounted officers and men of both regiments were retrained as infantry and amalgamated to form the 7<sup>th</sup> (South Irish Horse) Battalion of the Royal Irish Regiment.

### **Regimental Depot:**

Clonmel

### **Area recruited from:**

The south of Ireland

### **Military Service during the Great War:**

The Western Front

### **Regimental Association website:**

[www.firstandlast.ie](http://www.firstandlast.ie)

### **Useful Web links:**

<http://southirishhorse.com/>

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## **SECTION 2A**

**Regiments which were either originally raised in Ireland, but later transferred to Northern Ireland or other parts of Britain, or were raised in Britain and recruited mostly Irishmen who had emigrated outside the counties of the Republic.**

### **\_\_\_\_INFANTRY\_\_\_\_**

#### **The Irish Guards**

This Regiment was formed by order of Queen Victoria on 01 April 1900 as a response to the numerous courageous actions carried out by soldiers of the Irish regiments in the Second Boer War. This unit is still active today.

#### **Regimental Depot:**

Caterham Barracks, Surrey

#### **Recruited from:**

Great Britain and Ireland

#### **Military Service prior to 1914:**

The later stages of the Second Boer War, and ceremonial duties in Britain.

#### **Military Service during the Great War:**

The Western Front

**Casualties:** over 2,300

#### **Regimental Website:**

<http://www.army.mod.uk/infantry/regiments/3482.aspx>

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## **The Liverpool Irish**

This Regiment was raised as an infantry corps in 1860 from Liverpool's large Irish community and was first named the 64<sup>th</sup> Lancashire Rifle Volunteer Corps. It became the 5<sup>th</sup> (Irish) Volunteer Battalion of the King's (Liverpool Regiment) under the 1881 Childers reforms. The unit was not mobilised during the Second Boer War but sent drafts to other regiments at the time. In 1908 it became part of the Territorial Force and was renamed the 8<sup>th</sup> (Irish) Battalion, the King's Regiment (Liverpool). After the war the Liverpool Irish returned to England and were subsequently disbanded on 31<sup>st</sup> March 1922.

### **Regimental Depot:**

Seaforth Barracks, Liverpool

### **Area recruited from:**

Liverpool's northern suburbs

### **Military Service during the Great War:**

The Western Front and recruit training

### **Useful Web Link:**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Liverpool\\_Irish](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Liverpool_Irish)

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## **The London Irish Rifles**

This unit was created in 1860 and named the 28<sup>th</sup> Middlesex (London Irish) Rifle Volunteer Corps. In 1908 it was transferred to the Territorial Force and became the 18<sup>th</sup> (County of London) Battalion, the London Regiment (London Irish Rifles). A third, reserve, battalion was raised in London in 1915 and served in England for the rest of the war. After the war the unit was reduced to cadre strength but it was then later reconstituted as part of the London Regiment.

### **Regimental Depot:**

Duke of York Barracks, London

### **Area recruited from:**

London

### **Military Service during the Great War:**

The Western Front, Salonika and the Middle East.

**Casualties:** over 1,000.

**Association:**

The London Irish Rifles Association

**Website:**

<http://www.londonirishrifles.com/>

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**The Tyneside Irish**

The Tyneside Irish Battalions were raised in September 1914 as so-called ‘Pals’ battalions from Irishmen living in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. There was a War Office stipulation that they must form part of the county regiment – the Northumberland Fusiliers and by January 1915, four battalions had been raised.

In June 1915 these battalions were grouped together to form the 103<sup>rd</sup> Brigade (Tyneside Irish), but by May 1918 they had been reduced to cadre strength and tasked with training freshly arrived British and American troops. After the war the cadre returned to Tyneside where the colours were laid up and the unit disbanded.

**Military Service during the Great War:**

The Western Front, with heavy casualties, including approximately 2,100 in the Battle of the Somme alone.

**Useful Web Links:**

<http://www.tyneside-scottish.co.uk/>

[http://www.stmaryscathedral.org.uk/history\\_architecture/tyneside\\_irish/history.html](http://www.stmaryscathedral.org.uk/history_architecture/tyneside_irish/history.html)

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## **SECTION 2B**

### **CAVALRY**

#### **4<sup>TH</sup> Royal Irish Dragoon Guards**

This unit was formed in 1685 as the Earl of Arran's Regiment of Curassiers and was ranked as the 6<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Horse at the time. By 1691 it was ranked as the 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Horse and in 1746 it was transferred to the Irish Establishment where it ranked as the 1<sup>st</sup> Horse Regiment. The unit returned to the British Establishment in 1788 and became the 4<sup>th</sup> Royal Irish Dragoon Guards. The regiment holds the distinction of having fired the first shot by the British Expeditionary Force, while also conducting the last British cavalry charge of the war. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1922 it was amalgamated with the 7<sup>th</sup> Dragoon Guards to become the 4/7<sup>th</sup> Dragoon Guards.

#### **Regimental Depot:**

Newport, Wales

#### **Military Service during the Great War:**

The Western Front

#### **Regimental Museum:**

The Regimental Museum of the Royal Dragoon Guards

#### **Web Site:**

<http://www.rdgmuseum.org.uk/history.htm>

#### **Postal Address:**

The Curator – Captain (Retired) W A Henshall  
The Regimental Museum of the Royal Dragoon Guards  
3a Tower Street  
York YO1 9SB  
England

**Please Note:** The Museum has a very small staff, so it does not have the facilities to entertain detailed queries. They suggest visiting the following website for information if trying to track relatives in the regiment: [www.armymuseums.org.uk](http://www.armymuseums.org.uk)

## **5<sup>th</sup> Royal Irish Lancers**

This unit was raised in 1689 as Owen Wynne's Regiment of Dragoons. In 1704 it became the Royal Dragoons of Ireland and in 1756 it was renamed the 5<sup>th</sup> (Royal Irish) Regiment of Dragoons. After being disbanded in 1799 it was reformed as a lancer regiment in 1858. Following this, in 1861, it became the 5<sup>th</sup> (Royal Irish) Lancers. After the war it returned to England and in April 1922 it was amalgamated with the 16<sup>th</sup> (The Queen's) Lancers, to form the 16/5<sup>th</sup> Lancers.

### **Regimental Depot:**

Woolwich, London

### **Military Service prior to 1914:**

Battle of the Boyne, India, Egypt and South Africa

### **Military Service during the Great War:**

The Western Front

### **Useful Web Link:**

<http://www.royalirishlancers.co.uk/>

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## **6<sup>th</sup> (Inniskilling) Dragoons**

This unit was raised by Sir Albert Cunningham as a regiment of dragoons in 1689 from a number of independent troops and was ranked as the 6<sup>th</sup> Dragoons. In 1751 its title was changed to the 6<sup>th</sup> (Inniskilling) Regiment of Dragoons, but this was later shortened to the 6<sup>th</sup> (Inniskilling) Dragoons. A service squadron was raised at Enniskillen in 1914 for the 36<sup>th</sup> (Ulster) Division. This squadron served on the Western Front up until the summer of 1917 when it was broken up and its troops were dismounted and transferred to the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Irish Fusiliers. After the war the regiment went to England and in 1922 it merged with the 5<sup>th</sup> Dragoon Guards to become the 5/6<sup>th</sup> Dragoons.

### **Military Service prior to 1914:**

Battles of the Boyne, Waterloo and Balaklava, and service in India.

### **Military Service during the Great War:**

The Western Front.

**Useful Web Link:**

[http://www.absoluteastronomy.com/topics/6th\\_\(Inniskilling\)\\_Dragoons](http://www.absoluteastronomy.com/topics/6th_(Inniskilling)_Dragoons)

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**8<sup>th</sup> (The King's Royal Irish) Hussars**

This unit was raised in Ireland in 1693 as Henry Conyngham's Regiment of Dragoons. In 1775 it was reclassified and the name was changed to the 8<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Light Dragoons. Three years later it was again renamed as the 8<sup>th</sup> (The King's Royal Irish) Regiment of (Light) Dragoons. In 1822 a further reclassification occurred and the title became the 8<sup>th</sup> (The King's Royal Irish) Regiment of (Light) Dragoons (Hussars). Later, in 1861 this was simplified to the 8<sup>th</sup> (The King's Royal Irish) Hussars. After the war the regiment returned to England and in 1921 its name was changed to the 8<sup>th</sup> King's Royal Irish Hussars.

**Military Service prior to 1914:**

Egypt, the Crimea, India, Afghanistan and South Africa.

**Military Service during the Great War:**

The Western Front

**Useful Web Link:**

[http://www.absoluteastronomy.com/topics/8th\\_King%27s\\_Royal\\_Irish\\_Hussars](http://www.absoluteastronomy.com/topics/8th_King%27s_Royal_Irish_Hussars)

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## **SECTION 3**

### **The Irish Divisions**

Following the outbreak of war in August 1914 Earl Kitchener of Khartoum was appointed British Secretary of State for War. Kitchener correctly predicted a long conflict that would require the creation of a new large, well-trained army to defeat the Central Powers. On 7<sup>th</sup> August 1914 the press published his call for 100,000 volunteers for the British Army. These new recruits were formed up into various new infantry battalions, artillery batteries and cavalry squadrons.

These units in turn were formed into a number of new divisions, which formed the basis of the two 'New Armies' (as they were termed at the time). Two of the new divisions, the 10<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, were known as 'Irish' Divisions and one, the 36<sup>th</sup>, was known as the 'Ulster' Division. These three divisions fought with great valour and distinction on battlefields throughout Europe and the Middle East and collectively suffered more than 69,000 casualties during the war.

#### **Useful Web links:**

##### **10<sup>th</sup> Division**

<http://www.1914-1918.net/10div.htm>

[http://www.absoluteastronomy.com/topics/British\\_10th\\_\(Irish\)\\_Division](http://www.absoluteastronomy.com/topics/British_10th_(Irish)_Division)

##### **16<sup>th</sup> Division**

<http://freespace.virgin.net/sh.k/xvidiv.html>

##### **36<sup>th</sup> (Ulster) Division**

[http://www.absoluteastronomy.com/topics/British\\_36th\\_\(Ulster\)\\_Division](http://www.absoluteastronomy.com/topics/British_36th_(Ulster)_Division)

<b><u>Short Bibliography of Titles for Researching the Irish Regiments in the British Army</u></b>				
<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>ISBN</b>	<b>Publication Date</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Irishmen in War: From the Crusades to 1798. Essays from the Irish Sword Volume 1	The Military History Society of Ireland	0716528169	2006	
Irishmen in War: 1800 - 2000. Essays from the Irish Sword Volume 2	The Military History Society of Ireland	0716528177	2006	
A Military History of Ireland	Editors: Thomas Bartlett and Keith Jeffery	0521415993	1996	
The Barracks: A History of Victoria/Collins Barracks, Cork	Dan Harvey and Gerry White	1856351947	1997	
A Great Sacrifice: Cork Servicemen Who Died in the Great War	Editors: Gerry White and Brendan O'Shea	0956244314	2010	
Irish Winners of the Victoria Cross	Richard Doherty and David Truesdale	1851824421	2000	
Orange Green and Khaki: The Story of the Irish Regiments in the Great War, 1914-1918	Tom Johnstone	0717119947	1992	
The Micks: The Story of the Irish Guards	Peter Verney	432186506	1970	Publisher: Peter Davies
A History of the Irish Soldier	Brigadier A.E.C. Bredin	0903152185	1987	
Images of Sarsfield Barracks	Denis Carroll, Michael Deegan, Stephen Kelly, William Sheehan	9781845889395	2008	

## Irish Regiments in British Army/ BIBLIOGRAPHY

A Coward if I Return, A Hero if I Fall: Stories of Irishmen in World War I	Neil Richardson	1847171311	2010	
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*For listings and details of how to order old and rare books regarding Irish Regiments of the British Army, please consult the following websites:*

[www.schullbooks.net](http://www.schullbooks.net)

[www.deburcararebooks.com](http://www.deburcararebooks.com)

*For details of a guide to Regimental and Military Museums:*

<http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/militarymuseums/index.html>

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## **Note on World War I Personnel Records**

*(I would like to thank Paul Turnell for his helpful correspondence in this regard, and for providing the detail for this note concerning the records of soldiers who served in the British Army during the 1<sup>st</sup> World War (WWI) - Hugh Beckett)*

Many of the WWI service records that survive have been digitised and are available to view on [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) for a charge, unless you are accessing the site directly from an Archives or Library which has a subscription.

There are two sets of digitised personnel records extant for those who served in the British Army during WWI. These records have varying content and levels of detail due to the mixture of types of printed form used at the time and the significant proportion of files which were subsequently damaged by fire.

### **1. The British Army WWI Service Records 1914-1920 (also known as the ‘Burnt Documents’)**

These relate to approximately two million soldiers who were demobilised (released from service after the end of the War), or died between 1914 and the end of 1920 (including both regular soldiers and those who enlisted or were conscripted for the duration of the War). These service records are what remained after a fire caused by a German Bomb striking the British War Office file store in London in 1940. It is reckoned that up to 60% of the records were destroyed and the condition of the rest varies, making some of them incomplete or difficult to read.

### **2. The British Army WWI Pension Records 1914-1920 (also known as the ‘Unburnt Documents’)**

These relate to about 750,000 soldiers medically discharged as a result of wounds received or sickness contracted between 1914 and 1919, and includes regular soldiers discharged at the end of their period of service and those who rejoined to serve in the War after being discharged to pension before it began. These records were held in a different location and escaped any damage during WWII.

### **Medal Index Cards.**

These cards were created after the War to help the Army administration issue campaign and gallantry medals to those soldiers entitled to them. They contained each soldier's regiment, rank, army number, medal entitlement and the theatre of war in which they served. Sometimes the address to which the medals were sent was included on the back of the card.

The cards were only created for soldiers who were in active service outside the United Kingdom (which included the island of Ireland at that time). Those who served within the United Kingdom during the War do not have a card associated with them (although it should be noted that there were also some omissions, where soldiers who served in theatres of war abroad never had a card created for them).

The Medal Index Cards have also been digitised and are available (for a charge) on [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) where they are described as "*British Army Medal Rolls Index Cards 1914-1920*". They are also available to view (for a charge) on the website of the English National Archives [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk) although the scanned images on this site do not include the backs of the cards.

### **Examples of Service Records that have not been digitised as yet.**

1. The records for soldiers who served in the Household Cavalry (including the Life Guards, the Royal Horse Guards and the Household Battalion) and who were demobilised, or died, between 1914 and the end of 1920, have not been digitised. They are kept at the English National Archives in Kew, London.
2. The majority of records for those who remained in the British Army after the end of 1920 are held at the Army Personnel Centre in Glasgow. Please see the following link for further information:  
[www.gov.uk/requests-for-personal-data-and-service-records](http://www.gov.uk/requests-for-personal-data-and-service-records)
3. The records for soldiers who served in the Grenadier, Coldstream, Scots, Irish, or Welsh Guards are available by applying to the relevant Regimental Headquarters at:

Wellington Barracks  
Birdcage Walk  
London SW1E 6HQ  
England