

Royal Marines Corps Memorial Dates

28 April 1915 - Gallipoli

During February and March 1915 elements of the 3rd Royal Marines Brigade (Brigadier C N Trotman RMLI), which was made up of Chatham and Portsmouth battalions RMLI, landed largely unopposed on the Gallipoli peninsular to dismantle Turkish defensive positions. After the unsuccessful Naval attempts to force the Narrows in March the Turkish Army re-informed the peninsular strength. Thereafter a major amphibious operation was required. The Plymouth battalion RMLI took part in the initial landing on 25 April but the Brigade did not land until the night of 28 / 29 April when it went ashore at Anzac cove to relive 1 and 3 Australian Brigades. On 30 April it was joined in the line by 1 Royal Navy Brigade (Brigadier D Mercer RMLI) which contained the Deal RMLI battalion. For the next 13 days both brigades were engaged in continuous, heavy fighting bearing the brunt of the Turkish attacks and displaying great resolution. After a counter-attack on the Monash Valley by Chatham and Portsmouth battalions on 3 May 1915, the Turks were driven back with heavy losses. Major Quinn, a grate Australian VC, said to Major Jerram of RM Brigade *"The bravest thing I've seen so far was the charge of your two battalions up that hill on Bloody Sunday."* In another incident Lance Corporal R W Parker (Portsmouth Battalion RMLI) was awarded the Victoria Cross for his gallantry in evacuating a party of wounded men under fire.

The Royal Marines Brigade's casualties during this period were 21 officers and 217 men killed, 29 officers and 764 men wounded and 122 men missing. On 12 May both brigades were deployed to Cape Helles to rejoin the Royal Naval Division for the remainder of the campaign.
