



Royal Naval Division at Gallipoli

Landings

The division was shipped to Egypt and fought at the Battle of Gallipoli at Anzac and Helles. Casualties before the hostilities included officer and poet, Rupert Brooke, who died at sea on 23 April 1915. The RND was one of two British divisions (the other being the Regular Army 29th Division) at the Gallipoli landings. Eleven troopships and *Canopus*, *Dartmouth* and *Doris*, two destroyers and trawlers rendezvoused off Bulair before dawn and the warships began a day-long bombardment just after daybreak. A destroyer made a close pass off the beach and later on, ships' boats were swung out from the troopships and lines eight cutters pulled by a trawler made as if to land. In the late afternoon men began to embark on the boats, which headed for the shore just before dark and returned after night fell. During the night Lieutenant-Commander B. C. Freyberg swam ashore and lit flares along the beach, crept inland and observed the Ottoman defences, which he found to be dummies and returned safely. Just after dawn the decoy force sailed south to join the main landings, coming ashore on 30 April.