

01 Dec.	1588	Chatham Chest charity founded, for the relief of distressed seamen. Ref; RDL.
01 Dec.	1639	Chatham Chest paid £6 to the widow of a Dockyard worker, towards burial of her husband; on condition that she never troubled the Chest again. Ref; JDC 17-7.
01 Dec.	1849	TIGER, paddle frigate, launched
01 Dec.	1853	MAJESTIC, 2 <sup>nd</sup> rate, launched after 12 years on the stocks; having been fitted with machinery for steam propulsion. Ref; RDL.
01 Dec.	1900	CHALLENGER, cruiser, keel laid in No2 Dock. Ref; RDL.
01 Dec.	1913	F1, submarine, laid down on No7 Slip. Ref; RDL.
01 Dec.	1930	SWORDFISH, submarine, laid down on No7 Slip. Ref; RDL.
01 Dec.	1966	RNSTS, ROYAL NAVAL SUPPLY & TRANSPORT SERVICE, formed out of Naval Stores, Armament, and Victualling departments. Top man at Chatham, Principal Supply and Transport Officer (N). Ref; JDC 11-9.
02 Dec.	1860	Metropolitan Police Force took over policing of Chatham Dockyard. Ref; RDL.
02 Dec.	1906	Chatham beat Plymouth in the Inter Port soccer cup competition. Ref; RDL.
02 Dec.	1940	FORFAR (1920), armed merchant cruiser, sunk by German submarine, west of Ireland. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
03 Dec.	1715	ORFORD (1698), 3 <sup>rd</sup> rate, ordered to Chatham, to be fitted and stored in all respects to do duty as guardship. Ref; JDC 20-16.
03 Dec.	1940	German bombers attacked the Yard, around 8pm; bombs hit rigging house, locomotive shop, and the factory, (8 killed and 63 injured). Ref; RDL.
03 Dec.	1965	YAXHAM (1958), inshore minesweeper, completed conversion to survey vessel and re-commissioned as WOODLARK. Ref; RDL.
04 Dec.	1888	RESEARCH, survey vessel, launched from No5 Slip, being named by Miss Daisy Kelly, youngest daughter of Rear Admiral Edward Kelly, the Admiral Superintendent. Ref; CO.
04 Dec.	1893	MINERVA, cruiser, keel laid in No2 Dock. Ref; RDL.
04 Dec.	1951	24 Royal Marine cadets killed by a bus in Dock Road, as they were marching to a boxing tournament in PEMBROKE. Ref; RDL.

05 Dec.	1630	Phineas Pett, master shipwright, received his Letters Patent, to become the first Resident Commissioner at Chatham Dockyard. Ref; JDC 5-7.
05 Dec.	1837	DASHER, paddle packet, launched
06 Dec.	1668	DEFIANCE (1666), 3 <sup>rd</sup> rate, burnt by accident at Chatham. Samuel Pepys sat on court martial, being temporary rated captain of the JERSEY (1664) 4 <sup>th</sup> rate. Ref; JDC 5-16
06 Dec.	1923	General Election polling day; Dockyard closed for the afternoon to allow voting. JDC 3-87.
06 Dec.	1944	BULLEN (1943), frigate, sunk by German submarine off Cape Wrath, Scotland. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
06 Dec.	1946	ARGUS (1917), aircraft carrier, left the Dockyard for ship-breakers, having been here for two years as accommodation ship in basin one. Ref; RDL.
07 Dec.	1942	Admiralty Floating Dock No XX11, launched from No8 Slip. Designed for emergency docking of escort vessels; sent to Rosyth. Ref; RDL.
07 Dec.	1967	First payment to Dockyard employees by use of computer (LEO 360); ref Peri 2-26.
08 Dec.	1862	No1 Dock filled in, floored and roofed, ready to become a workshop for the building of the iron battleship ACHILLES. Ref; JDC 1-84.
08 Dec.	1888	Approximately 2,000 dockyard employees left the Yard this Saturday afternoon, to watch a football match on the Great Lines; Chatham V Saracens of Essex, a game in the early stages of the All England Challenge Cup. Ref; CO.
08 Dec.	1949	Royal Marines, Chatham Division, granted the Freedom of the Borough of Chatham. RDL.
09 Dec.	1700	Navy Board Order; in future, three apprentice servants allowed to master ropemaker and two to foremen, none to other ropemakers. Ref; JDC 4-3.
09 Dec.	1893	FORTE, cruiser, launched from No6 Slip, being named by Mrs. Morant, wife of Rear Admiral G.B.Morant, Admiral Superintendent. Ref; RDL.
09 Dec.	1897	VINDICTIVE, cruiser, launched from No2 Dock, being named by Lady Nicholson, wife of Vice Admiral Sir Henry Nicholson. KCB. C-in-C at The Nore. Ref; RDL.
09 Dec.	1936	SEAL, submarine, laid down on No7 Slip. Ref; RDL.
09 Dec.	1942	MARIGOLD (1940), corvette, sunk by Italian aircraft off Algiers. Chatham manned and

		recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
09 Dec.	1981	TRIUMPH (1944), aircraft carrier, left for Spanish ship-breakers, after 8 years in reserve here, moored near Boathouse, north of Basin 3. Ref; RDL.
10 Dec.	1694	SQUIRREL, yacht, launched
10 Dec.	1768	RAISONNABLE, 3 <sup>rd</sup> rate, launched
10 Dec.	1924	L 53 (1919), submarine, having been built by Armstrong's on Tyneside, was brought to Chatham to be fitted out for sea service. She commissioned here on this day. Ref; RDL.
10 Dec.	1977	HRH The Duke of Edinburgh made his first and only visit to Chatham Dockyard, primarily to see the Nuclear Refitting Complex. Ref; Peri 13-148.
11 Dec.	1695	ROYAL TRANSPORT, 6 <sup>th</sup> rate, launched. Given to Czar of Russia. Ref; RDL.
11 Dec.	1875	OCEAN (1805), 3 <sup>rd</sup> rate, completed being broken up in No8 Dock at Chatham; figurehead remained in the Dockyard. Ref; JDC 18-5.
11 Dec.	1942	TRADEWIND, submarine, launched from No7 Slip, being named by lady Lyons, wife of the C-in-C at The Nore. Admiral Sir George H.D.Lyons. KCB. Ref; RDL.
11 Dec.	1942	BLEAN (1942), destroyer, sunk by German submarine west of Oran, Algeria. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
11 Dec.	1951	PEMBROKE Gunnery School, 21 gun Royal Salute fired to honour 15 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the King's Accession; all ships in Dockyard and river dressed overall. Ref; C.O.
12 Dec.	1626	Council of the Sea, headed by Phineas Pett, appointed to survey the King's ships at Chatham, following criticism from ships officers. Ref; JDC 1-11.
12 Dec.	1745	Two day strike by Yard workmen, because their pay was five quarters in arrears and traders were cutting off credit. Ref; JDC 3-35.
12 Dec.	1818	BUSTARD, brig-sloop, launched
12 Dec.	1874	VOLAGE (1825), 6 <sup>th</sup> rate, brought to the Yard to be broken up, after 10 years off Upnor as a powder hulk. Ref; JDC 18-8.
12 Dec.	1925	M 1 (1917), submarine, sunk off Start Point. Stained glass window dedicated in St Georges to St Ambrose, patron Saint of submariners, and to Chatham ratings lost with M1. Ref; RDL.

12 Dec.	1934	ARK ROYAL (1914), seaplane carrier, came into Yard for the last time with that famous name. She sailed again 16 January 1935 as PEGASUS, thus releasing her original name for a new aircraft carrier being ordered from Cammel Lairds.
12 Dec.	1939	DUCHESS (1932), destroyer, sank after collision with battleship BARHAM, off western Scotland. Chatham manned but not recorded in St Georges, because DUCHESS had recently come under Plymouth Command. Ref; RDL.
12 Dec.	1944	TUNSBURG CASTLE (1943), corvette, sunk by mine in Kola Inlet, Russia. Chatham and Norwegian manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
12 Dec.	1951	Burials of 20 Royal Marine Cadets in Gillingham Cemetery, following the Memorial Service in Rochester Cathedral. Ref; C.O.
12 Dec.	1966	VALIANT (1963), nuclear submarine arrived in Chatham Dockyard (No9 dock) for Christmas leave, and to test facilities for berthing such vessels. Peri, 1-12.
13 Dec.	1715	Navy Board Order; the workmen are to be exercised and formed into Companies for the better defence of the magazines and ships in Ordinary, in the manner proposed by the Commissioner at Chatham. To exercise every Saturday afternoon. Ref; JDC 15-22.
13 Dec.	1871	Factory Basin, No2, completed ready for service. Ref; JDC1-102.
13 Dec.	1939	Battle of The River Plate. Memorial Board dedicated in St Georges to the three RN ships involved, and to the Chatham sailors who died on AJAX (1934), cruiser. Ref; RDL.
14 Dec.	1799	ACTIVE, 5 <sup>th</sup> rate, launched
15 Dec.	1699	Navy Board Order; that the chain across the Medway at Upnor be unrigged and put into store. Ref; JDC 20-13.
15 Dec.	1898	IRRESISTIBLE, battleship, launched from No7 Slip, being named by Princess Christian, wife of a Prussian Prince, but had been Helena, 5 <sup>th</sup> child of Queen Victoria. Ref; RDL.
15 Dec.	1941	Apprentices went on strike over inadequate canteen facilities; it lasted only 5 hours and the ringleader was suspended for a week. Ref; JDC 4-73.
15 Dec.	1954	No3 Dock caisson broke free, allowing the river to flood the dock and TALENT (1943), submarine, was swept out. 4 Dockyard workers killed and 33 injured. Ref; RDL.
16 Dec.	1702	NIGHTINGALE, 5 <sup>th</sup> rate, launched

16 Dec.	1706	Letter appointing Mrs Anne Crisp, daughter of Commissioner Peter Pett, as house- keeper of Hill House; salary £30 and £15 for a servant. Ref; JDC 21-3.
16 Dec.	1896	PIONEER, cruiser, keel laid in No2 Dock. Ref; RDL.
16 Dec.	1912	E12 & E13, submarines, laid down on No7 Slip. Ref; RDL.
17 Dec.	1689	EXPERIMENT, 5 <sup>th</sup> rate, launched
17 Dec.	1914	CALLIOPE, cruiser, launched from No8 Slip, being named by Lady Poore, wife of the C-in-C at The Nore, Admiral Sir Richard Poore KCB CVO. Ref; RDL.
17 Dec.	1942	FIREDRAKE (1934), destroyer, sunk by German submarine in western Atlantic. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
18 Dec.	1741	Navy Board Order; warders at the Gate are to be allowed scavelmen pay and overtime for attending at breakfast and dinnertime. Ref; JDC 15-5
18 Dec.	1832	MONARCH, 2 <sup>nd</sup> rate, launched
18 Dec.	1893	MAGNIFICENT, battleship, keel laid in No7 Dock. Ref; RDL.
18 Dec.	1942	PARTRIDGE (1941), destroyer, sunk by German submarine off Oran, Algeria. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
18 Dec.	1943	FELIXSTOWE (1941), minesweeper, sunk by mine off Sardinia. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
18 Dec.	1956	Ships badge approved for HMS PEMBROKE, the RN Barracks. Ref; RDL.
18 Dec.	1970	BBC local radio, Radio Medway took to the air; the inaugural programme included a feature on Chatham Dockyard, "Sails to Nuclear Power". Peri 5-62p12
19 Dec.	1695	Navy Board announced increase in salaries of superior officers and wages of inferior officers, to prevent the recurrence of the many embezzlements and frauds practiced. Ref; JDC 5-18.
19 Dec.	1782	DIADEM, 3 <sup>rd</sup> rate, launched
19 Dec.	1894	MAGNIFICENT, battleship, launched from No7 Dock, being named by the Countess Spencer, wife of John, Earl Spencer, First Lord of The Admiralty. Ref; RDL.
19 Dec.	1906	PEMBROKE, RN Barracks; opening ceremony and dedication of St.Georges Church, by

		Bishop of Rochester. Ref; RDL.
20 Dec.	1800	Part of Indentures of a Dockyard apprentice; “his master faithfully serve, his secrets keep, he shall not commit fornication, nor contract matrimony; he shall not play at cards, dice, table, nor haunt taverns or playhouses”. All that for seven years! Ref; JDC 4-9.
20 Dec.	1827	AFRICAINE, 5 <sup>th</sup> rate, launched
21 Dec.	1940	MERCURY (1934), paddle minesweeper, sunk by mine south of Ireland. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
22 Dec.	1701	Assistant master shipwright appointed to Harwich, on promotion; his apprentices were allowed to remain at Chatham. Ref; JDC 4-8.
22 Dec.	1710	First Quarantine Act of Parliament; mainly as a result of plague in the Baltic. Ship from Baltic to spend 40 days in Quarantine at Stangate and Sharpfleet Creeks. Ref; JDC 18-6.
22 Dec.	1875	GOLIATH (1842), 3 <sup>rd</sup> rate, destroyed by fire in river Thames; whilst training ship off Grays, Essex. Ref; JDC 1-96.
22 Dec.	1888	Burial at Gillingham Cemetery of Sir William Pearce, an 1847 entry shipwright apprentice. He became a millionaire and shipbuilding magnate on Clydeside. Ref; JDC 4-32.
23 Dec.	1805	At The Nore anchorage, the body of the late Vice Admiral Viscount Nelson was transferred from VICTORY to CHATHAM (1741), the Commissioner’s yacht, for passage up the river Thames to Greenwich. Ref; RDL.
23 Dec.	1813	First piles driven in re-construction of Sheerness Dockyard. Ref; JDC 24-9.
23 Dec.	1863	ACHILLES, ironclad, launched from No2 Dock. Ref; RDL.
23 Dec.	1915	G2, submarine, launched from No7 Slip, being named by Miss Callaghan, daughter of the C-in-C at The Nore. Admiral Sir George A. Callaghan. GCVO.KCB. Ref; RDL.
24 Dec.	1863	Mr Degee, the master Rigger, relieved of his post by the Captain Superintendent, following the grounding of ACHILLES after her launch. Ref; JDC 1-113.
24 Dec.	1863	LORD WARDEN, battleship, keel laid on No7 Slip. Ref; RDL.
24 Dec.	1943	HURRICANE (1939), destroyer, sunk by German submarine, north-east of the Azores. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
25 Dec.	1981	Last regular religious services held in the Dockyard Church. Ref; RDL.

26 Dec.	1921	Exhibition at Gieves Gallery, London, to show Admiralty's new official Ship's Badges; 15 completed brass castings and 98 carved moulds went from the Foundry. Ref; RDL.
27 Dec.	1738	Fire gutted the old joiners' workshop. Ref; JDC 1-59.
27 Dec.	1776	PEGASUS, sloop, launched
27 Dec.	1776	ARIADNE, 6 <sup>th</sup> rate, launched
27 Dec.	1780	AMPHION, 5 <sup>th</sup> rate, launched
28 Dec.	1863	BELLEROPHON, battleship, keel laid in No2 Dock. Ref; RDL.
28 Dec.	1967	First use of subway under Dock Road, by the Main Gate. Part of improvements of access to Dockyard, including making the main road into dual carriageway. Ref; RDL.
29 Dec.	1745	Commissioner sent to Navy Board a petition of complaints from rope-makers, against their master ropemaker. They objected to his vilest usage of them. Ref; JDC 3-35.
29 Dec.	1962	TID 97, dockyard tug, sunk in Basin 3, while trying to berth RFA HEBE (1962), storeship, 3 of crew lost. Ref; RDL.
30 Dec.	1778	Navy Board Order; workmen who keep public houses, or who are concerned therein, are to be discharged next Lady Day. Ref; JDC3-53.
30 Dec.	1940	UMPIRE, submarine, launched from No7 Slip, being named by Mrs Elizabeth Hawes, wife of the Mayor of Chatham; Councillor John T Hawes. Ref; RDL.
31 Dec.	1701	PRINCE GEORGE (1682), 2 <sup>nd</sup> rate, re-launched and renamed, having been rebuilt and enlarged. Originally named DUKE.
31 Dec.	1771	Navy Board Order; measurers to be put on same footing as quartermen, paid 2/-6d per day and allowed a servant. Ref; JDC 14-9.
31 Dec.	1802	All apprentices are to be re-bound to the principal officer of their department, and allotted to workmen who are to be termed instructors. Ref; JDC 3-55.
31 Dec.	1942	ACHATES (1929), destroyer, sunk by German cruiser ADMIRAL HIPPER, off North Cape. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
31 Dec.	1942	BRAMBLE (1938), minesweeper, sunk by German cruiser ADMIRAL HIPPER, off North Cape. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.

31 Dec.	1942	CLACTON (1941), minesweeper, sunk by mine, east of Corsica. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
31 Dec.	1965	Dockyard Incentive Bonus Scheme replaced old Job Price contract scheme. Ref; JDC 3-137.