

01 Feb.	1717	Commissioner Littleton given rank of Rear Admiral of the Red and told to hoist his Flag on any third rate ship in the Medway. Admiralty feared another attack on ships in the Medway, this time by Sweden. Ref; JDC 2-16.
01 Feb.	1833	CALYPSO (1826), Chatham built brig sloop, foundered after collision with an iceberg in the North Atlantic. Ref; RDL.
01 Feb.	1843	Order in Council, authorising the appointment of a schoolmaster at Chatham Dockyard, salary £70 to £100 per year. Ref; JDC 4-18.
01 Feb.	1866	HERCULES, battleship, keel laid in No 2 Dock. Ref; RDL.
01 Feb.	1896	Storehouse clock is to be taken as standard, but clock over boiler-shop is to be correct with it. Both clocks are to be put right daily between 10 and 11am. Ref; JDC 3-95.
01 Feb.	1943	WELSHMAN (1940), minelayer, sunk by German submarine in Western Mediterranean. Chatham manned, recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
01 Feb.	1949	Woman's Royal Naval Service became an integral part of the Royal Navy. Ref; RDL.
01 Feb.	1953	Dockyard flooded again; tide gauge reading 24'4" (7.5m) at Thunderbolt pier, the highest ever recorded. Tide mark reached 2 feet up wall of AQHM's office. Ref; RDL.
01 Feb.	1961	WRNS moved into Blake block in PEMBROKE, closing down the hutted Wrennery at East Camp. Ref; RDL.
01 Feb.	1973	MINERVA (1964), frigate, sailed to rejoin the Fleet. Onboard as Forecastle Officer (among other duties) was HRH Lieutenant The Prince of Wales. RN. Ref; RDL.
02 Feb.	1582	Queen Elizabeth visited her ships at Chatham, accompanied by the Duke of Anjou, after which the ships fired their great ordnance. Ref; Harris.
02 Feb.	1832	CONWAY, 6 th rate, launched
02 Feb.	1901	Saturday, funeral of Queen Victoria. Dockyard workmen were given 5 hours liberty, with pay, for mourning. Ref; RDL.
02 Feb.	1927	Model of the GOLDEN HIND (1577) presented to the Dockyard Church by its maker, Mr J.J.Hardman, a Dockyard craftsman. Ref; RDL.
02 Feb.	1953	Assistance given to victims of extensive flooding, especially on Isle of Sheppey. In Sheerness Dockyard, SIRDAR, submarine, and BERKELEY CASTLE, corvette, capsized in their docks. Flood defence walls constructed in both Dockyards. Ref; RDL.

03 Feb.	1652	Letter from Chatham; the Generals-at-Sea have gone to Queenborough to prepare the Fleet, 60 odd sail of goodly vessels, well manned, victualled and fully resolved, to find out and engage the Dutch Fleet. Ref; RDL. NRS.
03 Feb.	1807	Commissioner to his Principal Officers. "Every artificer of every class who is deserving of the indulgence, shall be rewarded with an apprentice. Ref; JDC 4-18.
03 Feb.	1940	SPHINX (1939), sloop, sunk by German aircraft in the Moray Firth. Chatham manned, recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
03 Feb.	1951	Sheer-legs demolished from south side of Basin 1. Then taken by floating sheers to No9 Dock for scrapping. Ref; JDC 1-106.
04 Feb.	1917	Submarines R1, R2, R3 and R4, laid down on No 7 Slip. Ref; RDL.
04 Feb.	1918	ZUBIAN (1917), destroyer, sank German submarine UC50, in North Sea. Ref; RDL.
05 Feb.	1836	Navy Board order. The keys of the Dockyard should be in the possession of the Director of Police from 11pm to 6am. He could entrust them to the duty Inspector. Ref; JDC 15-7.
05 Feb.	1904	First appointment of a Captain of the Dockyard. Ref; RDL.
05 Feb.	1920	VANGUARD (1909), battleship, stained glass window unveiled in Rochester Cathedral, by Admiral Sir Doveton Sturdee, C-in-C at The Nore. To commemorate the officers and men who lost their lives when their ship blew up at Scapa Flow, 09-07-1917. Ref; RDL.
05 Feb.	1935	DEPTFORD, sloop, launched from No 4 Dock; being named by Mrs Pearson, Mayoress of Deptford. Ref; RDL.
05 Feb.	1942	ARBUTUS (1940), corvette, sunk by German submarine, in North Atlantic. Chatham manned, recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
05 Feb.	1961	Trade Union pickets posted outside Dockyard's three gates, when a token strike affected most Medway Towns factories. Ref; JDC 3-127.
06 Feb.	1844	JANUS, paddle sloop, launched
06 Feb.	1882	RODNEY, battleship, keel laid on No 7 Slip. Ref; RDL.
06 Feb.	1941	FAME (1934), destroyer, towed into the Yard for major repairs following collision in the North Sea, fire and grounding. (In until 04-09-42). Ref; RDL.
07 Feb.	1793	AGAMEMNON (1781), 3 rd rate, commissioned at Chatham Yard under Captain Horatio Nelson RN, with orders to join the Mediterranean Fleet. Ref; RDL.

07 Feb.	1848	VIVID, paddle packet, launched.
07 Feb.	1914	Winston Churchill, First Lord of The Admiralty, visited RN Air Stations at Grain, Eastchurch, and Kingsnorth. He returned to London in Admiralty yacht ENCHANTRESS (1903).
07 Feb.	1940	EDGEHILL (1928), decoy ship, sailed on completion of 4-month conversion from merchantman, the WILLAMETTE VALLEY. Fitted with concealed guns and torpedo tubes.
08 Feb.	1726	UNION (1680), 2 nd rate, re-launched, having been rebuilt and enlarged. Originally named ALBEMARLE but renamed in 1709. Ref; RDL.
08 Feb.	1816	First appointment of a Master of the Sawmills. Ref; RDL.
08 Feb.	1849	ELFIN, Royal paddle yacht, launched. Destined for duties between Cowes, Isle of Wight, and mainland. Ref; RDL.
08 Feb.	1871	RALEIGH, frigate, keel laid on No7 Slip. Ref; RDL.
09 Feb.	1831	ARGONAUT (1782), 3 rd rate, completed breaking up at Chatham; she had been a Hospital Ship on the Medway since 1797, until Melville Hospital opened in 1828. Ref; RDL.
10 Feb	1702	Instruction from Lord High Admiral to Captains of HM Ships; to respect authority of Resident Commissioners. Ref; JDC 2-2
10 Feb.	1738	Distribution of labourers at Chatham. 15 categories, 81 labourers. Ref; JDC 3-38.
10 Feb.	1819	BRISK, brig-sloop, launched
10 Feb.	1868	HERCULES, battleship, launched from No 2 Dock, being named by Miss Corry, daughter of the Hon. Henry T L Corry, First Lord of the Admiralty. Ref; RDL.
10 Feb.	1891	APOLLO, cruiser, launched from No 6 Slip, being named by Dorothea the Countess of Glasgow, wife of Captain the Earl of Glasgow RN. Ref; RDL.
10 Feb.	1971	MAC 1012, nuclear pipe cleansing vessel, launched from No 7 Slip, ceremony performed by Miss Chatham Dockyard, Ann Webb. Ref; Peri. 6-65p2.
11 Feb.	1845	Fire in Joiners Pound, soon spreading to Joiners Shop and to Treenail House, over which was the apprentices school. All were gutted. Ref; JDC 4-28.
11 Feb.	1873	ARIEL, gunboat, launched
11 Feb.	1873	ZEPHYR, gunboat, launched

11 Feb.	1916	ARETHUSA (1913), cruiser, struck a mine near Harwich and sank; after only 18 months of very active service and two Battle Honours won. Ref; RDL.
11 Feb.	1941	SNAPPER (1934), Chatham built submarine, sunk by three German minesweepers, south of Ushant, France. Ref; RDL.
11 Feb.	1942	TRADEWIND, submarine, laid down on No 7 Slip. Ref; RDL.
12 Feb.	1694	SERPENT (1693), Chatham built bomb, wrecked near Gibraltar.
12 Feb.	1841	ARDENT, paddle sloop, launched
12 Feb.	1942	Fleet Air Arm 825 Squadron, six Swordfish torpedo bombers, took off from Manston, Kent, to attack German warships SCHARNHORST, GNIESNAU & PRINZ EUGEN. All the aircraft failed to return. Ref; RDL.
12 Feb.	1956	Caisson No3 launched from No7 Slip. New design to replace No3 Dock caisson following the disaster of 15/12/1954. Ref; Peri 11-123.
12 Feb.	1975	St.George`s Church, PEMBROKE, Chancel set apart as a memorial to sailors of Chatham Port Division. To be called Nore Memorial Chapel. Ref; RDL.
13 Feb.	1782	ATLAS, 2 nd rate, launched
13 Feb.	1938	WALRUS (1917), destroyer, under tow from Rosyth to Chatham for conversion, ran aground off Scarborough and had to be scrapped. Ref; RDL.
14 Feb.	1710	Board of Ordnance were requested to put firearms of watchmen in good order, having refused to exchange them. Ref; JDC 15-5.
14 Feb.	1797	VICTORY (1765), Chatham built 1 st rate, flagship of Admiral Sir John Jervis at the Battle of Cape St.Vincent. Ref; RDL.
14 Feb.	1813	Hire of coach from Chatham Dockyard to Navy Board in London cost 16s, plus 1s to the coachman. Ref; JDC 3-120.
14 Feb.	1910	Submarines D7 & D8 laid down on No 7 Slip. Ref; RDL.
14 Feb.	1911	Submarines E1 & E2 laid down on No 7 Slip. Ref; RDL.
15 Feb.	1709	Bill for stores from a Mrs Gregory of Chatham: to supply soap, 2 firkins, at 20/6d each, for launching of a new 60 gun ship (the LION). Ref; JDC 19-5.
15 Feb.	1730	GREENWICH (1666), re-launched, having been rebuilt and enlarged for the second time.

15 Feb.	1743	Shipwright appealed to local Magistrate's Court to discharge his apprentice, who, after 3 years servitude, grew immoral and disorderly of life and conversation, dissolute and idle. He was successful. Ref; JDC 4-6.
15 Feb.	1942	Chatham Mayor and Corporation attend in State a Church Parade at St John's, to mark the start of Medway Towns Warship Week. A savings target of £750,000 had been set by National Savings Committee, enough for the adoption of 3 submarines. Ref; MALSC.
15 Feb.	1943	MODESTE & NEREIDE, sloops, keels laid on No 8 Slip. Ref; RDL.
15 Feb.	1952	Funeral of King George VI. Chatham sailors pulled the gun carriage through the streets of London. Ref; RDL.
16 Feb.	1704	Riggers petition to Navy Board against Commissioner St.Lo; who forces them to work longer hours, driving them from the Dockyard Gate with his sword, and threatening to send them all to the West Indies. Ref; JDC 3-30.
16 Feb.	1937	WILDFIRE, RN Base Sheerness; introduction of Special Service for new entry junior seamen. 12 year engagement, 7 years in the Fleet, 5 years in reserve.
16 Feb.	1940	ARETHUSA (1934), Chatham built cruiser, sighted the German supply ship <i>Altmark</i> .
17 Feb.	1945	LARK (1943), sloop, torpedoed by German submarine at Kola Inlet. Chatham manned, recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
17 Feb.	1950	Holy Trinity Church, Montevideo, Uruguay; unveiled this day a carved oak Memorial to the sailors from HM Ships who died at the Battle of the River Plate, 13-12-1939. The joiners of this Dockyard had completed it in December 1948. Ref; RDL.
18 Feb.	1696	Navy Board; allowed £50 to be paid to Mary Poulden of Gillingham, for information concerning the burning of the ROYAL SOVEREIGN, on 29 th January. Ref; JDC 15-16
18 Feb.	1958	Announcement by Government of sweeping closures and changes in Nore Command. Nore Command itself to cease in 1961. RN Hospital to the National health. Sheerness Dockyard to close in 1960. M.T.E. to transfer to Gosport.
19 Feb.	1760	BELLONA, 3 rd rate, launched
19 Feb.	1829	EUROTAS, 5 th rate, launched
20 Feb.	1695	Treasury report on agreement for rent of Victualling Office land, £100 per year. Sited facing Limehouse Reach, Chatham/Rochester border. Ref; JDC 24-27.
20 Feb.	1825	LAPWING, brig-sloop, launched

20 Feb.	1861	Chatham marine chandler found guilty of possession of 35cwt of naval metal. Resident Commissioner, in his capacity as JP, sentenced the man to 3 months hard labour. Ref; JDC 15-18.
20 Feb.	1917	LIGHTFOOT (1915), destroyer, entered No6 dock with extensive bow damage, after hitting a mine in North Sea. Undocked 20-03-1917. Ref; RDL.
21 Feb.	1811	Foreman of Sailmakers retired. The 3 apprentices to whom he was instructor were offered to other sailmakers. Ref; JDC 4-18.
21 Feb.	1878	Admiral Superintendent, ordered a shipwright apprentice to forfeit one day's pay and his entire summer holiday, for absenting himself from work onboard the GARNET, corvette, fitting out. Ref; JDC 4-38.
21 Feb.	1940	Visit by King George VI to HM Dockyard and RN Barracks. Ref; RDL.
22 Feb.	1873	FLYING FISH, sloop, laid down on No3 Slip. Ref; RDL.
22 Feb.	1917	LIBERTY (1913), destroyer, completed repairs in No8 dock, new bows required after ramming a German submarine. Ref; RDL.
22 Feb.	1980	Demolition of No2 Smithery completed; site designated for car park. Ref; RDL.
23 Feb.	1633	Letter from Lord High Admiral: to pay Master Shipwrights an extraordinary payment of 2s per day, by way of reward. Ref; JDC 5-3.
23 Feb.	1754	Navy board Order: Stragglng seamen fit for HM Service found by "Admirals of Maritime Counties", are to be sent to the nearest Yard. Clerk of Cheque will pay a reward of £1 per man. Ref; JDC 10-7.
23 Feb.	1918	SHARPSHOOTER (1917), destroyer, completed repairs, mainly in No4 dock, after major damage by enemy mine. Ref; RDL.
23 Feb.	1943	Visit by Duchess of Kent to the WRNS at Chatham. Ref; RDL.
24 Feb.	1889	ALBATROSS (1873), sloop, completion of breaking up for scrap, in No3 Dock. Ref; RDL.
25 Feb.	1758	LENNOX, 3 rd rate, launched
25 Feb.	1936	GRAMPUS, submarine, launched from No 7 Slip, being named by Lady Evans, wife of the C-in-C at The Nore, Vice Admiral Sir Edward R.G.R.Evans.KCB.DSO. Ref; RDL.
25 Feb.	1936	George Cross medal awarded to Mr. Edward Crossley, Constructor, for rescuing three men overcome by fumes in a vessel.

25 Feb.	1941	EXMOOR (1940), destroyer, sunk by mine off Lowestoft. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
26 Feb.	1716	ST.GEORGE (1701), discovery ship, sunk as foundation at Chatham. JDC 1-28.
26 Feb.	1940	AJAX (1934), cruiser, came into Chatham Yard for repairs, following the Battle of The River Plate. AJAX sailed again 23-07-40, bound for the Mediterranean. Ref; RDL.
27 Feb	1747	Navy Board approved of employment of apprentices. "When an apprentice had served 3 years he was an able man; and his labour the cheapest. JDC 4-4.
27 Feb.	1758	Navy Board Order: When vacancy occurs for a Quarterman, the Master Shipwright is to acquaint us with choices giving age, service, and to whom apprenticed. Ref; JDC 14-5.
27 Feb.	1848	An Admiralty Circular changed conditions for promotion in Dockyards. Promotion to be by merit, based on personnel trade reports and examinations. Political favour is no longer paramount. Ref; JDC 4-30.
27 Feb.	1942	ELECTRA (1934), destroyer, sunk by Japanese warships in the Java Sea. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
27 Feb.	1968	MAC 1010, 200-ton generator load test barge, launched from No 7 Slip. Actually floated off, no ceremony. Ref; Peri. 3-29, p3.
28 Feb.	1842	Experimental vessel BEE launched, only 42 tuns, fitted with paddle wheels and screw propeller. Ref; JJC.
28 Feb.	1868	SULTAN, battleship, keel laid in No 2 Dock. Ref; JDC 1-115.
29 Feb.	1868	Water Police Division instigated; to be accommodated in the hulks HELENA and THUNDERBOLT. Ref; RDL.
29 Feb.	1872	FROLIC, gunboat, launched from No3 Dock, being named by Miss Eames, daughter of Mr William Eames, Chief Engineer at Chatham Dockyard. Ref; RDL.
29 Feb.	1872	KESTREL, gunboat, launched from No3 Dock, being named by Miss May Harding, niece of Captain S. Spain RN, Master Attendant at Chatham Dockyard. Ref; MALSC.
29 Feb.	1964	OJIBWA, submarine, launched from No 7 Slip, for the Royal Canadian Navy; being named by Lady Miers, wife of Admiral Sir Anthony C.C.Miers.VC.DSO*. Ref; RDL.
Feb.	1872	ARIEL, READY and RIFLEMAN, gunboats, had their keels laid. Ref; RDL.
Feb.	1902	The Royal Sailors Home opened by Earl of Selborne, First Lord of Admiralty. Initiated by Captain G.L.Atkinson RN, of the Dockyard Reserve Fleet. Situated behind Chatham Town

		Hall it was a modern wonder for sailors and marines. Ref; CN.
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