

01 Mar.	1873	RALEIGH, frigate, launched from No 7 Slip, being named by Mrs.Chamberlain, wife of the Captain Superintendent, Captain William Chamberlain RN. Ref; RDL.
01 Mar.	1906	Financial Secretary to Admiralty said in Parliament ---“fair wages should be paid, the difference between Dockyard and outside work being taken into account”. Ref; JDC 3-76.
01 Mar.	1942	ENCOUNTER (1934), destroyer, sunk by Japanese warships in the Java Sea. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
01 Mar.	1953	Nore Sea Fort hit by Swedish MV. BAALBECK; two towers collapsed and four civilian caretakers killed. Fort fully dismantled 1959-60. Ref; RDL.
01 Mar.	1967	Mrs.Parker, wife of the Admiral Superintendent, laid foundation stone for 10 storeys Nuclear Facilities Building, between Nos 6 & 7 Docks. Ref; Peri 2-18.
02 Mar.	1698	TRIUMPH, 2 <sup>nd</sup> rate, launched
02 Mar.	1859	RATTLESNAKE, screw corvette, keel laid on No 1 Slip. Ref; RDL.
02 Mar.	1872	HECATE (1871), turret ship, delivered from her builders, Dudgeon of Poplar, and put into No8 Dock to be fitted out for sea service. Ref; MALSC.
02 Mar.	1875	UNDAUNTED (1861), Chatham built frigate, left here on her first and only commission, as flagship of the East Indies Fleet. She returned in 1979, the last active wooden flagship.
02 Mar.	1880	DOTEREL, sloop, launched from No3 Slip, being named by Miss Hunt-Grubbe, daughter of the Captain of Steam Reserves at Chatham, Captain Walter Hunt-Grubbe RN. Ref; RDL.
03 Mar.	1756	NAMUR, 2 <sup>nd</sup> rate, launched
03 Mar.	1820	Second major fire in the heart of Chatham, 53 houses and 13 warehouses burnt. Ref; Harris.
03 Mar.	1914	CONQUEST, cruiser, keel laid in No 7 Dock. Ref; RDL.
04 Mar.	1884	GLOUCESTER, 3 <sup>rd</sup> rate of 1812, spent 20 years moored by Queens Stairs as a receiving ship. Sold for scrap this day. Ref; JDC 18-9.
04 Mar.	1942	TORBAY (1940), Chatham built submarine. Lieutenant Commander Anthony Miers won the VC making an audacious attack on enemy shipping in Corfu Roads. Ref; RDL.
05 Mar.	1860	MENAI, corvette, ordered by Admiralty. Cancelled 16-12-64 after occupying No 3 Slip for four years. Ref; RDL.
05 Mar.	1873	ALEXANDRA, battleship, keel laid on No 7 Slip. Ref; RDL.
05 Mar.	1901	ALBEMARLE, battleship, launched from No 7 Slip, being named by Lady Kennedy, wife of the C-in-C The Nore, Vice Admiral Sir William.R.Kennedy KCB. Ref; RDL.

06 Mar.	1695	CHICHESTER, 3 <sup>rd</sup> rate, launched
06 Mar.	1730	Navy Board order: shipwrights to be shoaled according to ancient practice; first choices to the mast and boat houses, with a quartermen. Other quartermen to choose their gangs (20) by eldest quartermen choosing a man, then the next quartermen, and so on. Ref; JDC 14-5.
06 Mar.	1934	ARETHUSA, cruiser, launched from No 8 Slip, being named by Lady Tyrwhitt, wife of the former C-in-C The Nore, Admiral Sir Reginald Tyrwhitt GCB.DSO. Ref; RDL.
07 Mar.	1941	SPLENDID, submarine, laid down on No 7 Slip. Ref; RDL.
08 Mar.	1560	There were 427 ship-keepers on HM Ships at Gillingham. Ref; JDC 1-2.
08 Mar.	1743	Navy Board to Resident Commissioner: all Roman Catholic workmen are to be discharged. Ref; JDC 15-17.
08 Mar.	1859	BULWARK, 2 <sup>nd</sup> rate, keel laid on No5 Slip. Ref; RDL.
08 Mar.	1871	GLATTON, battleship, launched from No 3 Dock, being named by Miss Scott, daughter of the Very Reverend Robert Scott DD, Dean of Rochester Cathedral. Ref; RDL.
09 Mar.	1804	Admiralty circular; Their Lordships are desirous of giving encouragement to the theoretical as well as the practical part of shipbuilding in HM Dockyards. The most clever boys should be trained in the mould loft and qualify for the higher branches of their profession. Ref; JDC 4-18.
09 Mar.	1863	A Ropery spinner had his chest crushed during out-muster on eve of a national holiday. The spinner died and his widow was granted a pension of £12 per year. Ref; JDC 12-5.
09 Mar.	1871	WOODLARK, gunboat, launched from No 4 Slip, being named by Miss Chamberlain, sister of Captain William Chamberlain RN, the Dockyard Superintendent. Ref; RDL.
09 Mar.	1942	ASPHODEL (1940), corvette, sunk by German submarine off Cape Finisterre. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
10 Mar.	1705	FOWEY, 5 <sup>th</sup> rate, launched
10 Mar.	1710	Navy Board order to Resident Commissioner; to take on a locksmith at 2/6d per week, on contract, to clean weapons, maintain the clock, mend locks and to make keys. Ref; JDC 19-2.
10 Mar.	1781	DOLPHIN, 5 <sup>th</sup> rate, launched
10 Mar.	1863	Wedding of Prince of Wales to Alexandra. All men in the Establishment to be given a day's leave with pay. Ref; JDC 12-5.

11 Mar.	1891	HAWKE, cruiser, launched from No 2 Dock, being named by Mrs Fairfax, wife of Admiral Fairfax. CB. The Second Sea Lord. Ref; RDL.
11 Mar.	1895	ILLUSTRIOUS, battleship, keel laid in No 6 Dock. Ref; RDL.
11 Mar.	1907	Submarines C17 & C18, both laid down on No 7 Slip. Ref; RDL.
11 Mar.	1942	NAIAD (1939), cruiser, sunk by German submarine west of Sollum, Egypt. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
11 Mar.	1943	HARVESTER (1939), destroyer, sunk by German submarine in north Atlantic. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
12 Mar.	1778	VICTORY (1765), 1 <sup>st</sup> rate, first commissioned for sea service, at Chatham, under Captain Jonathan Faulknor RN. Ref; RDL.
12 Mar.	1872	FIDGET, gunboat, launched from No2 Dock, being named by Miss Clavell, daughter of Colonel Clavell RE. Ref; RDL.
12 Mar.	1872	RUPERT, coast defence ship, launched from No2 Dock and named by Lady Harriet Darnley of Cobham Hall. RUPERT launched 15 minutes after FIDGET. Ref; RDL.
12 Mar.	1943	LIGHTNING (1940), destroyer, sunk by Italian MTBs off Bizerta, Tunisia. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
13 Mar.	1663	Smoking banned in Dockyard. First offence, fine of 6 days wages. Second offence, dismissal. Ref; JDC 3-11.
13 Mar.	1872	BADGER, gunboat, launched from No6 Slip, being named by Miss Bernays, daughter of Mr.E.A.Bernays, Head of Civil Engineering (designate) at Chatham Yard. Ref; RDL.
13 Mar.	1878	DOTEREL, sloop, keel laid on No3 Slip.
13 Mar.	1946	BENBECULA (1943), Isle class M/S trawler, completed conversion to HM Customs & Excise Vessel, and left the yard this day, re-named VIGILANT. Ref; RDL.
14 Mar.	1698	ROYAL TRANSPORT (1695), 6 <sup>th</sup> rate, given to Peter the Great, Czar of all Russia. Ref; JJC
14 Mar.	1757	Admiral John Byng, twice MP for Rochester, shot for cowardice. Ref; JDC 23-6
14 Mar.	1933	STARFISH, submarine, launched from No 7 Slip, being named by Mrs Summers, wife of Sidney Summers, Mayor of Gillingham. Ref; RDL.
14 Mar.	1977	Demolition started on two storey iron workshops and museum building, between No 2 and No 3 docks.

14 Mar.	1983	Last departure of Inshore Survey Squadron, after 25 years based at Chatham. HM Ships ECHO, EGERIA & ENTERPRISE. Ref; RDL.
15 Mar.	1693	ROCHESTER, 4 <sup>th</sup> rate, launched
15 Mar.	1976	YARMOUTH (1959), frigate, arrived for repairs following collisions with Icelandic gunboats, during Cod War. Ref; RDL.
16 Mar.	1917	Signal to Admiral Superintendent. Additional draughtsmen required at Kingsnorth Naval Air Station. Candidates eligible for airship flying and special bonus. JDC 24-25.
16 Mar.	1926	KENT, cruiser, Launched from No 8 Slip, being named by Lady Stanhope, wife of the Civil Lord to the Admiralty. Ref; RDL.
17 Mar.	1800	QUEEN CHARLOTTE (1790), Chatham built 1 <sup>st</sup> rate, destroyed by accidental explosions while moored at Leghorn, Italy. Lord Keith's flagship. Ref; RDL.
17 Mar.	1873	BULWARK, 2 <sup>nd</sup> rate, breaking up completed, having lain on No5 Slip for 14 years and construction suspended in March 1861. Ref; RDL.
18 Mar.	1915	Kingsnorth RN Air Station; maiden flight of non-rigid naval airship SS 1(Submarine Scout), over River Medway. Ref; FAAM.
19 Mar.	1670	Navy Board order; two Watchmen to be employed to watch the safety of the Yard, from the time the workmen leave till the coming of the workmen. They are to be paid 12d per night. Ref; JDC 15-3.
19 Mar.	1694	LIZARD, 5 <sup>th</sup> rate, launched
19 Mar.	1942	Finance Committee reported that Warship Week savings totalled £806,359, resulting in the adoption proposals of three submarines for the Medway Towns. HMS SPLENDID (P228) for Chatham HMS SPORTSMAN (P229) for Gillingham HMS SIBYL (P217) for Rochester Ref; MALSC.
20 Mar.	1667	Meeting at Chatham Yard between William Penn of Navy Board, Commissioner Pett, and Edward Spragge commanding ships in the Medway. To discuss means of fortifying the river Medway by chain at the Stakes, to keep the enemy from coming up to burn our ships. Ref; JDC 20-5.
20 Mar.	1855	HAWKE (1820), 3 <sup>rd</sup> rate, launched from dock having been converted to take steam propulsion. Originally built at Woolwich. Ref; RDL.
20 Mar.	1901	PRINCE of WALES, battleship, keel laid on No 7 Slip. Ceremony performed by Lady Wharton, wife of Rear Admiral Sir William Wharton; the Hydrographer. Ref; RDL.
20 Mar.	1909	C19, submarine, launched from No 7 Slip, being named by Miss De Salis, daughter of

		Captain William De Salis. MVO. RN. Captain of The Dockyard. Ref; RDL.
20 Mar.	1942	HEYTHROP (1940), destroyer, sunk after being torpedoed, northwest of Sollum, Egypt. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
21 Mar.	1859	TRAFALGAR (1841), 1 <sup>st</sup> rate, launched from dock having been converted to take steam propulsion. Originally built at Woolwich. Ref; RDL.
21 Mar.	1942	Start of Warship Week for Strood Rural District Council, local savings committee, with a target of £55,000, to warrant adoption of a corvette. Ref; MALSC.
22 Mar.	1924	OBERON, submarine, laid down on No 7 Slip. Ref; RDL.
22 Mar.	1924	Admiralty Floating Dock (section 3) launched from No 8 Slip. Ceremony by Mrs Royds, wife of the Admiral Superintendent. Ref; RDL.
23 Mar.	1796	Order in Council; appointed Samuel Bentham to the new post of Inspector General of HM Navy Works. Ref; JDC 8-1.
23 Mar.	1835	Admiralty order; convicts are to be included in employment of labourers. Ref; JDC 9-16.
23 Mar.	1863	The three separate classes of clerks to be abolished and new denominations substituted of Clerks and Senior Clerks. £300 and £450 per year. Ref; JDC 13-5
23 Mar.	1898	GOLIATH, battleship, launched from No 7 Slip, being named by Lady Hotham, wife of Vice Admiral Sir Charles Hotham. KCB. C-in-C at The Nore. They had arrived from Sheerness in the Admiralty steam yacht WILDFIRE. Ref; RDL.
23 Mar.	1950	TRUCULENT (1943), submarine, taken into No3 Dock at Sheerness for examination. She was condemned, de-stored, and sold for scrap 08-05-1950. Ref; RDL.
24 Mar.	1943	TRENCHANT, submarine, launched from No 7 Slip, being named by Lady Danby, wife of the former Admiral Superintendent, Vice Admiral Sir Clinton Danby KBE.CB. Ref; RDL.
24 Mar.	1961	Ceremonial Parade at PEMBROKE by sailors past and present of the Nore Command, a week before its demise. Queens Colours of Nore Command laid up in St Georges. Ref; CO.
25 Mar.	1667	By order of Duke of York; an iron chain to be made and stretched across the Medway, from a point below Gillingham Church, to a position mid-way between Hoo Ness and Folly Point. Ref; JDC 20-5.
25 Mar.	1719	SWALLOW (1703), 4 <sup>th</sup> rate, re-launched, having been rebuilt and enlarged
25 Mar.	1821	Dickens family moved from Ordnance Terrace to St Mary's Terrace on The Brook, to "down-size" and be nearer to the Dockyard Pay Offices. Ref; MALSC.
25 Mar.	1871	SNAKE, gunboat, launched from No 6 Slip and named by Miss Clatworthy, daughter of the

		Accountant of the Yard. Ref; RDL.
25 Mar.	1871	SCOURGE, gunboat, launched from No 6 Slip and named by Miss Churchward, daughter of the Cashier of the Yard. Ref; RDL.
25 Mar.	1902	DEVONSHIRE, cruiser, keel laid on No 7 Slip. Ceremony by HRH George Prince of Wales on the same day as PRINCE of WALES launched. Ref; RDL.
25 Mar.	1902	PRINCE of WALES, battleship, launched from No 7 Slip, being named by Mary, Princess of Wales. Ref; RDL.
25 Mar.	1902	Opening of Dockyard Museum by Prince of Wales. Situated in top floor of workshops building between Nos 2 and 3 docks. Ref; RDL.
25 Mar.	1947	ACHERON, submarine, launched from No 7 Slip and named by Mrs Middleton, wife of the Admiral Superintendent, Rear Admiral Gervase B.Middleton.CBE.Ref; RDL.
25 Mar.	1958	Advert in The Times, for sale of Sheerness Dockyard. 60 acres. JDC 24-18.
25 Mar.	1965	OKANAGAN, submarine, laid down on No 7 Slip. Ref; RDL.
25 Mar.	1966	EXMOUTH (1955), frigate, arrived for conversion to gas turbine propulsion. Ref; RDL.
26 Mar	1796	TAMAR, 5 <sup>th</sup> rate, launched
26 Mar.	1796	CLYDE, 5 <sup>th</sup> rate, launched
26 Mar.	1814	Chatham Dockyard work force, numbered 2,672 men. Detail of their trades from JDC 3-60.
26 Mar.	1822	WEAZLE, brig-sloop, launched
26 Mar.	1822	RATTLESNAKE, 6 <sup>th</sup> rate, launched
26 Mar.	1866	St. Mary's Island; Victorian Extensions, brick fields produced first bricks from the kilns. They averaged 23,000 bricks per week during construction of the Basins. Ref; RDL.
26 Mar.	1941	YORK (1928), cruiser, beached in Suda Bay, Crete, after terminal damage by Italian vessels. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
26 Mar.	1942	LEGION (1939), destroyer, irreparably damaged by enemy air attacks at Malta. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
27 Mar.	1762	PEARL, 5 <sup>th</sup> rate, launched
27 Mar.	1795	Strike by 300 shipwrights because of house carpenters being employed finishing ships refitting. William Dann, High Constable of Gillingham, brokered a return to work in April. Ref; JDC 3-54.

27 Mar.	1865	LORD WARDEN, battleship, launched from No 7 Slip, being named by Lady Ernestine Edgecumbe. Ref; RDL.
27 Mar.	1943	DASHER (1941), aircraft carrier, sunk by internal explosion in the Firth of Clyde. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
28 Mar.	1815	HOWE, 1 <sup>st</sup> rate, launched
28 Mar.	1857	RENOWN, battleship, launched
28 Mar.	1903	Order in Council. Introduction of Artificer Apprentices for the RN. To be trained at Chatham on TENEDOS hulks. Ref; JDC 4-60.
28 Mar.	1905	Introduction of Women Tracers to the Drawing Office (constructive). Seven of them appointed, including a supervisor. Ref; Peri. 3-34 p10.
28 Mar.	1942	Strood Rural District achieved savings of £109,557 during Warship Week. Admiralty proposed the adoption by Strood of two HM trawlers. Ref; RDL. HMS SWORD DANCE (1940) HMS SCALBY WYKE (1935).
28 Mar.	1942	CAMPBELTOWN (1919), destroyer, expended during RN raid on St.Nazaire Dock. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
28 Mar.	1984	Chatham Naval Base; Auction of surplus stores to be held in the former Works Department Depot, by Pembroke Gate. Viewing by catalogue only. Ref; RDL.
29 Mar.	1690	DOLPHIN, fireship, launched
29 Mar.	1866	REINDEER, sloop, launched
29 Mar.	1909	Submarines C33 and C34 laid down on No 7 Slip. Ref; RDL.
29 Mar.	1966	First use of DAMET, Dockyard and Aircraft –yard Maths and English Test. To replace separate exams and aptitude tests for apprentices. Ref; Peri; 1-4.
30 Mar.	1741	Dockyard worker, apprehended by a Watchman, was found guilty of stealing 20lb of sheet lead from the NEWARK at Chatham. His sentence was to be publicly whipped. Ref; JDC 15-16.
30 Mar.	1824	UNICORN, 5 <sup>th</sup> rate, launched. She was never commissioned. Now restored and preserved afloat at Dundee, Scotland. Ref; RDL.
30 mar.	1839	HECATE, paddle sloop, launched
30 Mar.	1889	SHELDRAKE, torpedo gunboat launched, being named by Miss Glenn, daughter of Mr

		C.T.Glenn, Chief Constructor at Chatham Dockyard. Music by the Dockyard Police Band. Ref; RDL.
30 Mar.	1912	Submarines E7 and E8 laid down on No7 Slip. Ref; RDL.
30 Mar.	1984	Locking the Gate ceremony at Pembroke Gate. Control passed to Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust, English Estates and Chatham Docks Ltd. HM Dockyard, Chatham ceased to exist. Ref; RDL.
31 Mar.	1847	ARAB, brig-sloop, launched
31 Mar.	1885	MERSEY, cruiser, launched from No 6 Slip, being named by Lady Cooper-Key, wife of Admiral Sir Astley Cooper-Key.GCB. Principal Naval ADC to Queen Victoria. Ref; RDL.
31 Mar.	1893	Closure of Chatham Convict Prison. Ref; RDL.
31 Mar.	1915	Submarine, F1, launched from No 7 Slip, being named by Lady Callaghan, wife of the C-in-C at The Nore. Admiral Sir George A. Callaghan. GCVO. KCB. Ref; RDL.
31 Mar.	1960	Closure of HM Dockyard at Sheerness. Ref; RDL.
31 Mar.	1961	The Nore Command ceased to exist, and C-in-Cs flag struck. The Commodore's flag also struck from the RN Barracks, which then became a Captains command and known only as HMS PEMBROKE, Fleet Accommodation Centre.Ref; RDL.
31 Mar.	1964	Last meeting of the Board of Admiralty; after 336 years, its flag hauled down from Whitehall. Tomorrow they are a committee in the Ministry of Defence. Ref; RDL.
31 Mar.	1970	Completion of new pontoon for Gillingham Pier; 200 tons, in two sections, constructed on No7 Slip, fitted out in No2 Dock and decked in No1 Basin. Ref; Peri 5-54p12
31 Mar.	1976	Publication of HM Naval Base, Chatham, Development Plan. Report in three volumes, signed by Flag Officer Medway, Rear Admiral Stephen Berthon RN. Ref; RDL.
Mar.	1872	ZEPHYR, screw gunboat, keel laid. Ref; RDL.
Mar.	1875	GARNET, corvette, keel laid. Ref; RDL.