

01 Apl.	1696	Navy Board Order. Foremen of shipwrights to be limited to 4: two on old work, one on work afloat, and one for caulkers. Ref; JDC 14-1.
01 Apl.	1708	SUFFOLK (1680), 3 rd rate, ordered to be made ready for sea service in the Channel. Clerk of the Cheque to enter men for her crew until they number 440. JDC 10-3.
01 Apl.	1802	Title of Porter, at the Dockyard, changed to Warden; perks abolished for tending the clock and the selling of beer. Ref; JDC 15-2.
01 Apl.	1856	Post of Accountant appointed to Chatham Yard. Ebenezer Clatworthy was provided with a house and £500 per annum salary. Ref; JDC 10-10.
01 Apl.	1861	Admiralty Order to Chatham Yard to build the ACHILLES. Ref; JDC 1-112.
01 Apl.	1865	Post of Cashier established at Chatham Yard, for pay, pensions, allotments, etc. House and salary of £500 per annum. Ref; JDC 10-11.
01 Apl.	1875	Master Shipwright assumed title of Chief Constructor. Ref; JDC 24-24.
01 Apl.	1961	Admiral Superintendent of Chatham Dockyard, assumed title of Flag Officer, Medway. RDL.
02 Apl.	1707	Purveyor of Timber set out for a week of surveying trees in Kent and Sussex, for shipbuilding. His expenses for the week, £2/7s. Ref; JDC 5-42
02 Apl.	1801	LONDON (1766), 2 nd rate, flagship of Admiral Sir Hyde Parker, C-in-C at the Battle of Copenhagen; flew the signal recalling Nelson – which he famously chose to ignore. Ref; RDL.
02 Apl.	1813	CHATHAM, sheer hulk, launched
02 Apl.	1954	VIDAL (1951), survey vessel, formally adopted by Gillingham Borough Council. Ref; RDL.
02 Apl.	1968	Upper Joiner's Shop now centre for all Joinery production, (C238) including upholstery and polishing. Lower Joiner's Shop now the Joiner's Training Centre. Ref; RDL.
02 Apl.	1974	Paul Harriott, inspector of engine fitters, inaugurated as Mayor of Gillingham. Ref; Peri May '74 p7.
02 Apl.	1983	Historic tours of HM Naval Base commenced. Two tours daily, 90 minutes each, free of charge. Ref; RDL.
03 Apl.	1845	ALECTO (1839), paddle sloop, versus RATTLER (1843), screw sloop; start of Admiralty trials to demonstrate the superiority of screw over paddle propulsion. Ref;

03 Apl.	1948	THUNDERBOLT (1856), pier hulk, struck by tug INTEGRITY and sank at her moorings. Salvaged next year and scrapped. Ref; JDC 18-8.
03 Apl	1970	Start of Dockyard guided tours for the Public, on foot. Three tours daily, 55 minutes each, timed to meet buses at Pembroke Gate. Peri; 5-55p5.
03 Apl.	1973	Admiralty Board directive to Flag Officer Medway; to initiate a Development Plan for HM Naval Base, Chatham. Ref; RDL.
03 Apl.	1974	Ron Foster, Yard safety officer, inaugurated as Mayor of Medway. Ref; Peri May '74 p7.
04 Apl.	1905	Auction at Chatham Dockyard, by Admiralty, of 29 redundant warships from the Steam Reserve. Ref; RDL.
04 Apl.	1939	WOOLSTON (1918), destroyer, taken into No4 dock for conversion to Escort Destroyer, new superstructure and modern armament. Completed 09-10-39. Ref; RDL.
04 Apl.	1961	Parts of PEMBROKE given over to Dockyard control; North Camp, Drill Shed, Commodores Office Block, and half of parade ground. Ref; RDL.
04 Apl.	1963	Payment of wages to men to be made on Thursdays, for the week ending the previous Friday. One week's wages kept in hand. Ref; JDC 3-97.
04 Apl.	1966	FORTH (1938), submarine depot ship; signal from Commanding Officer on sailing from Chatham. "May I express my warm appreciation to all those connected with the modernisation of FORTH. We are most grateful for your skill, ingenuity and workmanship. We leave Chatham in a splendid, well-found and modernised ship". Captain K. Martin RN.
05 Apl.	1695	SERPENT, bomb, launched
05 Apl.	1755	50 independent companies of Marines raised and divided into three Grand Divisions, at Chatham, Portsmouth and Plymouth. Ref; RMM.
05 Apl.	1843	PENELOPE (1829), paddle frigate, launched, after having been lengthened by 63 feet and fitted with paddle propulsion. Originally built at Chatham. Ref; RDL.
05 Apl.	1856	AETNA, floating battery, launched. Designed to combat Russian shore batteries, but built too late for conflict. The first of Chatham's iron-clads. Ref; RDL.
05 Apl.	1942	CORNWALL (1926), cruiser, sunk by Japanese aircraft off Ceylon. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
06 Apl.	1875	In the Mast House, shipwright George Blampied killed fellow shipwright James Catt with

		his adze. Ref; JDC 1-41
06 Apl.	1942	HAVOCK (1936), destroyer, Wrecked off Cape Bon, Tunisia, after damage by enemy aircraft. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
07 Apl.	1875	ALEXANDRA, battleship, launched from No 7 Slip. Royalty, Board of Admiralty and guests came by train to Chatham. Horse drawn carriages brought them through a gate specially cut in the Dockyard wall, Alexandra Gate. Ref; RDL.
07 Apl.	1875	At the launch of ALEXANDRA, by Alexandra, Princess of Wales, a religious ceremony was incorporated. Objections were raised in the House of Commons but rejected. Archbishop of Canterbury came to officiate. Ref; JDC 1-116.
08 Apl.	1648	Committee of The Navy ordered £100 to be paid to Jane Pett, widow of Phineas Pett, for fees many years in arrears. Ref; JDC 5-8
08 Apl.	1661	First visit to Chatham Yard by Samuel Pepys, as Clerk of The Acts. Lodged at Hill House, in the Treasury Chamber. Ref; JDC 21-3.
08 Apl.	1859	BELVIDERA, frigate, ordered by Admiralty. Cancelled 16-12-1864 after occupying No 4 Slip for four years. Ref; RDL.
08 Apl.	1941	MARMION (1906), paddle minesweeper, sunk by German aircraft off Harwich. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
08 Apl.	1959	ONSLAUGHT, submarine, laid down on No 7 Slip. Ceremony performed by Mrs Thompson, wife of Rear Admiral J.Y. Thompson CB. (the Superintendent) Ref; RDL.
08 Apl.	1964	HMS PEMBROKE granted Freedom of the City of Rochester. Ref; RDL.
09 Apl.	1723	Navy Board order; smiths to work 6am to 6pm and to be allowed one gallon of beer per day; to be drunk in the Smithery. Ref; JDC 3-34.
09 Apl.	1940	TORBAY, submarine, launched from No7 Slip, being named by Lady Drax, wife of the C-in-C at The Nore, Admiral The Hon. Sir Reginald A.R.Plunkett-Ernle-Erle-Drax. KCB.DSO. Ref; RDL.
10 Apl.	1841	National Census returns show, in the river Medway; three convict ships moored off Upnor; 951 prisoners and 69 staff. Ref; JDC 18-4.
10 Apl.	1883	Leading men of the Trades to be paid before the workmen. Ref; JDC 14-7.
10 Apl.	1918	EXE (1903), destroyer, entered No3 Dock, after extensive damage by mine in Dover Straits. She undocked 10-08-1918. Ref; Peri.9-103.

11 Apl.	1693	SUSSEX, 3 rd rate, launched
11 Apl.	1715	Admiralty Letter requested Commissioner Littleton, to inspect conditions at the Rochester Hospital for Seamen, following complaints by the inmates. JDC 12-9.
11 Apl.	1812	BRITON, 5 th rate, launched
11 Apl.	1812	TENEDOS, 5 th rate, launched
11 Apl.	1884	HERO, battleship, keel laid in No2 Dock. Ref; RDL.
11 Apl.	1898	IRRESISTIBLE, battleship, keel laid on No7 Slip. Ref; RDL.
11 Apl.	1974	Petty Officer Arthur Dodd murdered in the PEMBROKE Po's Mess, by a fellow Petty Officer. Ref; RDL.
12 Apl.	1823	PRINCE REGENT, 1 st rate, launched after 8 years on Slip. Ref; RDL.
12 Apl.	1906	Chatham Council petitioned Admiralty to prepare Slips in the Dockyard, to enable them to build battleships of the DREADNOUGHT class. The question of the prosperity of the Dockyard means the prosperity of the Borough. JDC 3-112.
12 Apl.	1955	PEMBROKE Blue jacket Band played at opening of Mid Kent College, Rochester, by HRH Duke of Edinburgh. Ref; RDL.
12 Apl.	1956	No 3 Dock; new design caisson fitted, to replace the one damaged in accident 15-12-55.
13 Apl.	1805	REVENGE, 3 rd rate, launched
13 Apl.	1972	PERISCOPE; title change, from Newspaper of HM Dockyard, to Newspaper of HM Naval Base, Chatham. Ref; Peri, 7-78.
13 Apl.	1983	DREADNOUGHT (1960), submarine, towed away from Chatham, bound for Rosyth to await disposal. Ref; RDL.
14 Apl.	1613	King James I came to Rochester to show his Fleet to Frederick, future king of Bohemia, who was taking home Princess Elizabeth, the King's eldest daughter, to be his bride. Ref; Harris.
14 Apl.	1711	Near end of war with France; 1287 workmen in Dockyard, 600 shipwrights. Just over a year later, workforce reduced by a third. Ref; JDC 3-31.
14 Apl.	1759	SANDWICH, 2 nd rate, launched
14 Apl.	1812	Master Attendant to Admiralty: you ask what can we spare to go to Hull to attend launching of the ANSON, 3 rd rate, and navigate her to Portsmouth. We submit; 20 Rigging House

		men, Boatswain and Master. They will put in the lower masts before launch and rig them, then take on anchors, ballast and stores before proceeding. Ref; RDL.
14 Apl.	1859	Letter from Admiralty to Commissioner, authorising rewards to Police Constables for the conviction of theft arrests; maximum 50/-. Ref; JDC 15-7.
14 Apl.	1919	Portrait of Bugler Boy Timmins RM unveiled in Napier Road School, Gillingham, by Admiral Sir Frederick Sturdee, C-in-C at The Nore. 14year old Timmins was killed onboard HMS CARDIFF (1917), cruiser, while engaging enemy warships off Heligoland, 7 th November 1917, becoming a hero to local school children. Ref; RDL.
14 Apl.	1940	STERLET (1937), Chatham built submarine, sank the German minelayer <i>Brummer</i> in the Kattegat, between Sweden and Denmark.
14 Apl.	1958	RN Supply & Secretariat School opened in PEMBROKE, mainly in the former Gunnery School. They had moved from CERES (1946), Wetherby, Yorks. Ref; RDL.
15 Apl.	1763	RAMILLIES, 3 rd rate, launched
15 Apl.	1790	QUEEN CHARLOTTE, 1 st rate, launched.
15 Apl.	1816	MINOTAUR, 3 rd rate, launched
15 Apl.	1858	HERO, battleship, launched
15 Apl.	1869	Dockyard artisans encouraged to immigrate to Canada. Good character, clean habits, fitness and a sum of £2/5s will be required. About 60 left. JDC 3-108.
15 Apl.	1893	DRYAD, torpedo gunboat, keel laid in No2 Dock. Ref; RDL.
15 Apl.	1924	SHIKARI (1919), destroyer, having been built by Doxford's of Sunderland, she was brought to Chatham to be completed. She was fitted out to be a wireless remote control ship only; no armament and crew of 60 instead of 90, leaving on this day. Ref; RDL.
16 Apl.	1864	Admiralty order; to expedite building of the steam ram LORD WARDEN now under construction on No7 Slip, their Lordships have granted 6d a day extra exertion money to shipwrights on that vessel. Ref; JDC 3-71.
16 Apl.	1942	King George VI visited Chatham Dockyard workers, sailors and marines. Ref; RDL.
16 Apl.	1964	MYRMIDON (1952), coastal survey vessel, sailed from Chatham. She had arrived earlier in the year as the minesweeper EDDERTON, for conversion. Ref; RDL.
17 Apl.	1813	BACCHUS, brig-sloop, launched,

17 Apl.	1942	SHALIMAR, submarine, laid down on No7 Slip. Ref; RDL.
17 Apl.	1942	SPORTSMAN, submarine, launched from No7 Slip, being named by Mrs White, wife of the Mayor of Gillingham, Francis R.White. Ref; RDL.
17 Apl.	1943	SHROPSHIRE, cruiser, gifted to Australia as a replacement for HMAS CANBERRA. Commissioned into RAN after a refit at Chatham. Ref; RDL.
18 Apl.	1706	Committee of all master shipwrights and Surveyor of the Navy, met to establish ship designs and rates. Ref; JDC 5-5.
18 Apl.	1940	STERLET (1940), Chatham built submarine, sunk by German naval vessels in the Skagerrak strait, between Sweden and Denmark. Ref; RDL.
19 Apl.	1686	Sir Phineas Pett appointed Resident Commissioner for Chatham and Sheerness Yards. To reside in Chatham Dockyard, salary £500. Ref; JDC 2-11
19 Apl.	1699	A shipwright was discharged from the hulk at Sheerness, by reason of age and inability to do his job. He petitioned the Admiralty for a position on the Chatham hulk, he being very poor. Their Lordships approved. Ref; JDC 3-26.
19 Apl.	1711	Working day with one tide over-time, 5am to 6-30pm, 12-+1.5 hrs. Ref; JDC 3-20.
19 Apl.	1943	STALKER (1942), escort aircraft carrier, entered Dockyard for modifications to RN standards. Moored at south wall basin three for two months. STRIKER and SLINGER also came in later this year. All three on loan from the US Navy. Ref; RDL.
20 Apl.	1691	CHATHAM, 4 th rate, launched
20 Apl.	1691	SUPPLY, dockyard hoy, launched
20 Apl.	1730	Navy Board instructions for entry of apprentice clerks. They are to be 15 years or over, capable of writing a legible hand and understanding arithmetic. JDC 4-18.
20 Apl.	1776	CAMILLA, 6 th rate, launched
20 Apl.	1777	Navy Board letter. The Hill House field having been approved as a proper place to build Marine Barracks, we have purchased the remaining lease. JDC 21-5.
20 Apl.	1844	MUTINE, brig-sloop, launched
20 Apl.	1844	ESPIEGLE, brig-sloop, launched
21 Apl.	1712	SANDWICH (1679), 2 nd rate, re-launched, having been rebuilt and enlarged.

21 Apl.	1761	OCEAN, 2 nd rate, launched
21 Apl.	1943	SPLENDID (1942), Chatham built submarine, badly damaged by German destroyer <i>Hermes</i> , and scuttled off Corsica. Ref; RDL.
21 Apl.	1949	LONDON (1927), cruiser, Yangtze River, China; fifteen men killed during actions with Communist Army gun batteries, while attempting to reach the sloop AMETHYST. Memorial plate later erected in St Georges Church. Ref; RDL.
22 Apl.	1742	STIRLING CASTLE, 3 rd rate, launched
22 Apl.	1943	SHALIMAR, submarine, launched from No7 Slip, being named by Mrs Crace, wife of the Admiral Superintendent, Vice Admiral John G. Crace CB. Ref; RDL.
22 Apl.	1969	St Mary's Island Restaurant opened by the Admiral Superintendent. The Dockyard's first custom built canteen. Peri 4-45p3.
23 Apl.	1862	Treasury letter; pensions granted to widows of established workers killed whilst on duty. Ref; JDC 3-85.
23 Apl.	1888	SALAMANDER, torpedo gunboat, keel laid. Ref; RDL.
23 Apl.	1888	SEAGULL, torpedo gunboat, keel laid. Ref; RDL.
23 Apl.	1918	VINDICTIVE (1897), Chatham built cruiser; fitted out as an assault ship, she led the midnight raid on Zeebrugge, Belgium. Ref; RDL.
23 Apl.	1913	LOWESTOFT, cruiser, launched from No8 Slip, being named by Lady Beauchamp, wife of the MP for Lowestoft. Ref; RDL.
24 Apl.	1771	Letter from William Campbell, Clerk of The Cheque, to the Navy Board; proposing the introduction of lightning conductors to HM Dockyards. The Board approved and authorised the fixing of 3 conductors in the properest places. Ref; NDS & RDL.
24 Apl.	1842	The Chatham Committee of Naval Architects met at Chatham, to report on current ship designs. Ref; JDC 1-98.
25 Apl.	1712	ROSE, 6 th rate, launched
25 Apl.	1766	LONDON, 2 nd rate, launched
25 Apl.	1815	DEFENCE, 3 rd rate, launched
25 Apl.	1826	FAIRY, brig-sloop, launched

25 Apl.	1857	RACOON, corvette, launched
25 Apl.	1887	MEDEA, cruiser, keel laid, Ref; RDL.
25 Apl.	1918	Submarine R1, launched from No7 Slip, being named by Lady Sturdee, wife of the C-in-C at The Nore, Admiral Sir Frederick C.D.Sturdee. KCB.KCMG.CVO. Ref; RDL.
25 Apl.	1918	Submarine R2, launched from No7 Slip, being named by Miss Sturdee, daughter of the C-in-C at The Nore. Admiral Sir Frederick C.D. Sturdee. KCB.KCMG.CVO. Ref; RDL.
25 Apl.	1974	PAS 1509, diesel fuel lighter, launched from No7 Slip; ceremony performed by shipwright apprentice Jeff Beer, probably the last person to do this at HM Dockyard. Ref; Peri.May'74.
26 Apl.	1779	Apprentices in the Dockyard are to be allowed 6 weeks trial before the signing of indentures. Ref; JDC 4-7.
26 Apl.	1808	IPHIGENIA, 5 th rate, launched
26 Apl.	1865	BELLEROPHON, ironclad battleship, launched from No2 Dock. Ref; RDL.
26 Apl.	1881	DOTEREL (1880), Chatham built sloop, sank off Punta Arenas, Chile, following an internal explosion attributed to faulty paint fumes. Ref; RDL.
26 Apl.	1917	Hulks of NUBIAN and ZULU entered No7 Dock, for the task of constructing one whole destroyer ready for sea service. Undocked as one ship 27-06-1917. Ref; RDL.
26 Apl.	1924	HRH The Prince of Wales unveiled the Chatham Naval Memorial, on the Great Lines. Commemorating the names of 8,515 sailors who died in the 1914 – 1918 war. "In Honour of the Navy and to the abiding memory of those ranks and ratings of this Port who laid down their lives in the defence of the Empire and have no other grave than the sea". Ref; The CWGC & RDL.
26 Apl.	1953	White Ensign from VINDICTIVE, flown at Zeebrugge Raid 23/4/1918, presented to Dockyard Church by Vice Admiral Carpenter VC. RN. Ref; Peri 5-52p11
27 Apl.	1860	Candidates for Dockyard apprenticeship shall not be less than 13 nor more than 15 years. They shall be at least, 4feet 8inches, 90lbs, and 26inch chest. Exams will be in Maths, algebra, Euclid, spelling, writing, reading and English. JDC 4-37.
27 Apl.	1873	ALBATROSS, sloop, launched
27 Apl.	1905	Foundation stone laid for St George's Church, RN Barracks. Ref; RDL.
27 Apl.	1916	RUSSELL (1901), battleship, sunk by a mine off Malta. Marble Memorial erected in St

		Georges Church to those Chatham sailors who died. Ref; RDL.
27 Apl.	1941	WRYNECK (1918), destroyer, sunk by enemy aircraft off Morea, Aegean Sea. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
28 Apl.	1774	ROEBUCK, 5 th rate, launched
28 Apl.	1879	CONQUEROR, battleship, keel laid in No2 Dock. Ref; RDL.
29 Apl.	1945	GOODALL (1943), frigate, sunk by German submarine off Murmansk, North Russia. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
30 Apl.	1584	Thomas Churchward, Queen's Muster Master for HM Navy, reviewed 4,000 Kentish levies during fears of Spanish invasion. Ref; G C.
30 Apl.	1698	RESOLUTION (1667), 3 rd rate, re-launched, having been rebuilt and enlarged.
30 Apl.	1724	SUNDERLAND, 3 rd rate, launched
30 Apl.	1889	SKIPJACK, torpedo gunboat, launched, being named by Mrs Dunne, wife of Major General R. Dunne, Brigadier General of Chatham District. Ref; RDL.
30 Apl.	1903	5,000 officers and men from the PEMBROKE hulks marched into their new RN Barracks led by the Depot (Blue-jacket) Band. Ref; RDL.
30 Apl.	1904	DEVONSHIRE, cruiser, launched from No7 Slip, being named by Lady Clifford of Chudleigh, wife of the Lord Lieutenant of Devon. Ref; RDL.
30 Apl.	1940	DUNOON (1919), minesweeper, sunk by mine off Great Yarmouth. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
30 Apl.	1942	Burial of Lieutenant Commander Eugene Esmonde VC. DSO, in Gillingham Cemetery. Awarded DSO for attacking BISMARCK in his Swordfish; the VC for leading the same planes against SCHARNHORST. Ref; RDL.
Apl.	1817	John Dickens, father of the novelist Charles Dickens, arrived at Chatham to take up his appointment as Clerk in the Dockyard Pay Office. Ref; MALSC.
Apl.	1900	Navy House, in Clover Street, Chatham, opened by the Bishop of Rochester. Initiated by Rear Admiral Holland, Superintendent at the Dockyard. Ref; RDL