

Day by Day Diary
At
Chatham Dockyard

A selection of happenings in and around HM Dockyard at Chatham, and its Naval Base, compiled from articles in the Royal Dockyard Library, Medway Libraries, and from memories of Society members.

We have tried to focus on the Dockyard itself, firstly its people, then the fabric and structure of the Yard; but to find accurate dates to match has proven difficult.

Easier to collate are dates and details of ships built at Chatham, the core product of this Dockyard over a period of some 400 years.

Following close behind new construction comes the great variety of other ship work undertaken here. The rebuilding and modernising of warships, from Stuart and Georgian hearts-of-oak, to Victorian ironclads, and finally to nuclear submarines. Then there are the countless warships that have come here after damage by the natural elements, accidents, or our enemies; most of them restored to full fighting efficiency and sent from here to rejoin the Fleet.

This Diary includes the Nore Command, of which this Dockyard was the hub; the RN Depot or Barracks; ships that were based here; and those that were manned by sailors from the Chatham Port Division.

Harold Bennett

Chatham Dockyard Historical Society

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