

01 Jan.	1703	Navy Board granted the Storekeeper £150 to pay the oakum pickers of Chatham. Oakum is to be picked by the Parish poor, only so long as the work is properly performed. Ref; JDC 3-22
01 Jan.	1761	SUNDERLAND (1724), Chatham built 4 <sup>th</sup> rate, along with two other ships sank in a hurricane at Pondicherry, India. Ref; RDL.
01 Jan.	1851	Admiralty Circular: reduced compulsory attendance at Dockyard School from 4 to 3 years. The best third only to attend in 4 <sup>th</sup> year. Ref; JDC 4-32
01 Jan.	1860	By Admiralty Order: the entry of all artificers and labourers should rest entirely with the Captain Superintendent. Ref; JDC 3-89
01 Jan.	1861	UNDAUNTED, frigate, launched from No3 Slip
01 Jan.	1866	Act of Parliament, for Regulation of Dockyard Ports. Areas of responsibility for Queen's Harbourmaster. Chatham and Sheerness harbour areas combined until 1915. Ref; JDC 9-8
01 Jan.	1884	SEVERN, cruiser, keel laid on No7 Slip. Ref; RDL.
01 Jan.	1909	Old age pension introduced for all men over 70 years, scale according to income. Leader of the Opposition in Parliament pronounced "Such prodigality might well deal a blow to the Empire from which it might not recover". Ref; JDC 3-84
01 Jan.	1914	CALLIOPE, cruiser, keel laid on No 8 Slip. Ref; RDL.
01 Jan.	1931	STURGEON, submarine, laid down on No 7 Slip. Ref; RDL.
01 Jan.	1940	UMPIRE, submarine, laid down on No 7 Slip. Ref; RDL.
01 Jan.	1959	Naval Discipline Act came into force, repealing the Act of 1866. RN shore bases no longer need to have a nominal vessel to bear their name.
01 Jan.	1968	First appointment of a civilian as Master Rigger at Chatham, Mr G H Dangerfield. Still wearing the traditional bowler hat when ships arrived or sailed. Ref; JDC 9-10
01 Jan.	1969	Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines, Commander-in-Chief Western Fleet, formed and based at HMS PEMBROKE. Ref; RDL.
02 Jan.	1689	SEDGEMOOR (1687), Chatham built 4 <sup>th</sup> rate, wrecked in St Margaret's Bay, Kent.
02 Jan.	1899	VENERABLE, battleship, keel laid on No 7 Slip. Ref; RDL.
02 Jan.	1905	SHANNON, cruiser, keel laid on No 7 Slip. Ref; RDL.
02 Jan.	1958	Inshore Survey Squadron formed at Chatham. HM Ships ECHO, EGERIA, and ENTERPRISE. To be based at Gillingham Pier. Ref; RDL.

03 Jan.	1812	Marc Brunel requested by Admiralty to design sawmills at Chatham. Ref; RDL.
03 Jan.	1911	CHATHAM, cruiser, keel laid on No 8 Slip. Ceremony performed by Mrs Randall, Mayoress of Chatham. Ref; RDL.
04 Jan.	1835	Dockyard men allowed leave of absence to cast votes in Parliament election, and to work out their lost time. Ref; JDC 3-86
04 Jan.	1897	GOLIATH, battleship, keel laid on No 7 Slip. Ref; RDL.
04 Jan.	1967	Opening of Technician Apprentices Training Centre, near Pembroke Gate. Formerly RN Torpedo School in RN Barracks. Ref; Peri 2-16.
05 Jan.	1909	VULCAN (1889), depot ship, commissioned at Chatham following a long refit and conversion. Originally built to “mother” torpedo boats, VULCAN is now equipped to service submarines of the Home Fleet. Ref; RDL.
05 Jan.	1909	Gillingham Borough Council, discuss the problem of children begging for food at the Dockyard Gates. Ref; RDL.
05 Jan.	1975	Joiners complete gun carriage wheels for Portsmouth Field Gun teams. Peri. 10-112.
06 Jan.	1921	HELENA (1843), brig-sloop, for 20 years Metropolitan Police accommodation hulk at anchor wharf; sold for scrap on this day. Ref; JDC 18-9.
06 Jan.	1921	CHALLENGER (1858) corvette survey ship, for 40 years moored at Chatham’s anchor wharf, sold for scrap on this day. Ref; JDC 18-9.
06 Jan.	1975	TONELERO (1974), submarine, arrived from Barrow; to have new 60-foot midship section constructed and fitted, following a fire. Ref; Peri 10-112p7.
07 Jan.	1791	RATTLESNAKE, sloop, launched
07 Jan.	1867	Contract placed to build a public wharf at Gillingham boundary of new Dockyard extension. Completed in 1872. Ref; JDC 1-100.
07 Jan.	1900	FORTE (1893), Chatham built cruiser; part of a squadron blockading the port of Laurengo Marques, during our colonial wars in Africa. Using wireless for the first time in Royal Navy to coordinate manoeuvres at sea. Ref; RDL.
07 Jan.	1940	SEAHORSE (1932), Chatham built submarine, sunk in the Heligoland Bight area of North Sea, by German minesweepers. Ref; RDL.
07 Jan.	1959	First broadcast of BBC radio programme “The Navy Lark”, the long running naval comedy that featured many national celebrities and Chatham based ships. Ref; Peri 4-40p4.
08 Jan.	1758	HUSSAR (1757), Chatham built 6 <sup>th</sup> rate, captured the French privateer VENGEANCE, off the Lizard, Cornwall. Ref; RDL.

08 Jan.	1822	DIANA, 5 <sup>th</sup> rate, launched
08 Jan.	1900	ALBEMARLE, battleship, keel laid down in No 7 Dock. Ref; RDL.
08 Jan.	1932	STURGEON, submarine, launched from No 7 Slip, named by Mrs Little, wife of Rear Admiral Charles Little, Flag Officer Submarines. Ref; RDL
09 Jan.	1940	STARFISH (1933), Chatham built submarine, scuttled in the Heligoland Bight area of North Sea, after depth charging by German minesweeper. Ref; RDL.
09 Jan.	1942	VIMIERA (1917), destroyer, sunk by mine in Thames Estuary. Chatham manned and recorded in St.Georges. Ref; RDL.
10 Jan.	1912	AFRICA (1905), battleship, became the first RN warship to launch an aircraft, while moored off Sheerness. A Shorts S27 seaplane, from a ramp over the forward gun turrets. Ref; RDL.
10 Jan.	1941	SOUTHAMPTON (1936), cruiser, sunk following air attacks, east of Malta. Chatham manned, recorded in St. Georges. Ref; RDL.
10 Jan.	1941	GALLANT (1935), destroyer, damaged beyond repair by air attacks at Malta. Chatham manned, recorded in St. Georges. Ref; RDL.
10 Jan.	1945	WALPOLE (1918), destroyer, locked into Yard, having been mined in the North Sea. Declared not worth repair and sold for scrap a month later. Ref; RDL.
11 Jan.	1860	RODNEY (1833), 2 <sup>nd</sup> rate, launched, having been converted to take steam propulsion. Originally built at Pembroke Dock. Ref; RDL.
11 Jan.	1950	TRUCULENT (1942), submarine, sailed for trials on completion of modernisation.
12 Jan.	1830	THALIA, 5 <sup>th</sup> rate, launched
12 Jan.	1930	ST. GENNY (1919), tug, foundered off Ushant, due to bad weather, whilst towing the sloop SNAPDRAGON (1915) to Gibraltar, in company with the tug ST.CYRUS. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
12 Jan.	1945	REGULUS (1943), minesweeper, sunk by mine in the Corfu Channel. Chatham manned, recorded in St. Georges. Ref; RDL.
12 Jan.	1950	TRUCULENT (1942), submarine, sunk in Thames Estuary following a collision with a freighter, whilst proceeding on trials from Chatham Dockyard. 16 Dockyard men among those lost in the disaster. Ref; RDL.
12 Jan.	1952	Royal Naval Mine Watching Service instigated. Ref; RDL.
13 Jan.	1712	HARE, sloop, captured in 1709, ordered to Stangate Creek, to enforce quarantine regulations there. Ref; JDC 18-7.

13 Jan.	1766	AURORA, 5 <sup>th</sup> rate, launched
13 Jan.	1860	RATTLESNAKE (1822), Chatham built 6 <sup>th</sup> rate, later survey ship, completed being broken up here at Chatham. Ref; RDL.
13 Jan.	1964	Statement by First Lord of The Admiralty, Earl Jellicoe; SS.21 which was to have been named HMS ONYX, now becomes HMCS OJIBWA, first of the three OBERON class submarines to be built at Chatham for the Canadian Government. Ref; RDL.
14 Jan.	1839	HECLA, paddle sloop, launched
14 Jan.	1868	Captain Superintendent and a local magistrate, spent two days “swearing in” dockyard workers as Special Constables, during scares over Irish extremists. JDC 15-19.
14 Jan.	1911	D 7, submarine, launched from No 7 Slip, being named by Mrs Ricardo, wife of the Captain of the Dockyard, Captain Arthur.D.Ricardo RN.
15 Jan.	1750	Navy Board order: for establishment of boats for use of Dockyard officers at Chatham. 7 rowboats and 5 sail boats, including the Chatham yacht. JDC 1-45.
15 Jan.	1905	Petitions from dockyard workers to Admiralty, to be submitted each January by this date. Ref; JDC 3-116.
15 Jan.	1961	RN Hospital in Gillingham given to the National Health Service. Ref; RDL.
16 Jan	1627	Shipwrights petition to the Commissioners of the Navy; “that they had been without pay for 12 months, neither having any allowance for meat nor drink, by which many of them pawned all they can, others turned out of doors”. JDC 3-5.
16 Jan.	1809	Officers and Clerks of the Yard put on scales for pensions. Half salary after 25 years, and 75% after 40 years service. Ref; JDC 3-78.
16 Jan.	1816	DIAMOND, 5 <sup>th</sup> rate, launched
17 Jan.	1795	Muster bell at Yard Gate to be rung at 6am and at 7am, when the Gates are to be opened for one hour. Ref; JDC 3-95.
18 Jan.	1868	Dockyard Police issued with Firearms, Colt six-shooters from Tower of London, amid fears of Irish Fenian activists. Ref; RDL and C N.
18 Jan.	1872	AUDACIOUS (1869), battleship, first warship to enter No 6 Dock. JDC 1-102.
18 Jan.	1886	IMMORTALITE, cruiser, keel laid in No 2 Dock. Ref; RDL.
19 Jan.	1709	Request to Navy Board for overtime in winter on ships, turned down.” Dangerous to work on ships by candle-light; also there must be as many men to hold candles as to work”. Ref JDC; 3-20.
19 Jan.	1828	CRUIZER, brig-sloop, launched

19 Jan.	1942	SPLENDID, submarine, launched from No 7 Slip, being named by Mrs Nicholson, wife of the Commodore of the RN Barracks. Ref; RDL.
20 Jan.	1709	LION, 3 <sup>rd</sup> rate, launched
20 Jan.	1913	PERSEUS (1897), cruiser, East Indies Station, nine men lost from boat accident in Persian Gulf. Memorial screen erected in St Georges Church. Ref; RDL.
20 Jan.	1915	CONQUEST, cruiser, launched from No 7 Dock, being named by Mrs Anson, wife of the Admiral Superintendent, Rear Admiral Charles.E.Anson. MVO. Ref; RDL.
20 Jan.	1988	CHATHAM, frigate, launched at Hawthorn Leslies Yard on Tyneside, being named by Lady Oswald, wife of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Sea Lord. The Government promised the naming of a new warship as CHATHAM on the closure of HM Dockyard, Chatham. Ref; RDL.
21 Jan.	1652	George Monck and Robert Blake, Generals-at-Sea, had hurried to Chatham to investigate a mutiny in the Fleet. They reported by letter to the Commissioners of Navy: that VICTORY, TRIUMPH, VANGUARD and others will soon be ready to join the loyal Fleet; and that the man who first blew the trumpet of sedition had fled to London. Ref; RDL.
22 Jan.	1814	HMS LEE, sloop, launch date from Brindley's Yard at Frindsbury. Launch delayed by further two days owing to the great amount of floating ice in the Medway. Ref; RDL.
22 Jan.	1916	G 3, submarine, launched from No 7 Slip, being named by Mrs Erskine, wife of the Commodore of the RN Barracks, Rear Admiral Seymour.E.Erskine. Ref; RDL.
23 Jan.	1905	Mr David Bell VC retired after 13 years in Dockyard employment. Won his Victoria Cross on 07-05-1867, in the Andaman Islands, saving the lives of fellow troopers of the 24 <sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot (South Wales Borderers). Ref; RDL.
24 Jan.	1709	Admiralty Order; Marines to guard road by Aylesford, to intercept seamen making their way to London and avoiding Rochester. Clerk of Cheque to pay 20s for each man brought in. Ref; JDC 10-7.
24 Jan.	1847	Admiralty sought views of Captain Superintendent, about raising defence forces from the officers and workmen. Royal Dockyard Volunteers were formed soon after. Ref; RDL.
24 Jan.	1856	SEVERN, 4 <sup>th</sup> rate, launched. The last purely sailing warship to be launched at Chatham Dockyard. Ref; RDL.
24 Jan.	1966	FORTH (1938), submarine depot ship, left dockyard for sea trials following major modernisation refit. 140 dockyard personnel onboard. Ref; Per.1-4.
25 Jan.	1933	ARETHUSA, cruiser, keel laid on No 8 Slip. Ceremony performed by Lady Tyrwhitt, wife of the C-in-C, The Nore. Ref; RDL.
26 Jan.	1826	SULPHUR, bomb, launched

26 Jan.	1923	ACHILLES (1863), iron-clad battleship, sold this day for scrap. She had been one of the PEMBROKE hulks since June 1916. Now she was leaving the Dockyard where she was built sixty years earlier. Ref; RDL.
26 Jan.	1944	River Medway flooded into Dockyard. The tide gauge, by No2 Slip landing stage, registered 22`5" (6.8m) above mean low water. High water over 20` (6m) meant flood alerts throughout the Dockyard. Average for Spring tides was 15` (5m). Ref; RDL.
26 Jan.	1944	AVON VALE (1940), destroyer, left Chatham after major repairs; now on loan to the Greek Royal Navy as AEGEAN.
27 Jan.	1896	VINDICTIVE, cruiser, keel laid in No 2 Dock. Ref; RDL.
27 Jan.	1904	AFRICA, battleship, keel laid on No 8 Slip, the first warship to be laid down on this slipway. Ref; RDL.
27 Jan.	1942	THANET (1918), destroyer, sunk by Japanese warships off Malaya. Chatham manned, recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
28 Jan.	1685	On the rebuild and launch of ROYAL SOVEREIGN, Robert Lee, Master Shipwright, requested a piece of silver plate (£50) as reward. Usual practice for new construction but not for rebuilds. Ref; RDL.
28 Jan.	1796	Telegraph system by shutters began working between Admiralty and Chatham, Sheerness, and Deal. Shutters were replaced by Semaphore in 1822. Ref; JDC 7-5 & 24-14.
28 Jan.	1926	EMERALD (1920), cruiser, having been built at Armstrong's on Tyneside, she was brought to Chatham to be fitted out for sea service. She left the Dockyard on this day, bound for the East Indies Station. Ref; RDL.
29 Jan.	1696	ROYAL SOVEREIGN (1637), 1 <sup>st</sup> rate, destroyed by fire at Chatham, while being prepared for its third rebuild here. Ref; RDL.
29 Jan.	1856	POLYTHEMUS (1840), Chatham built paddle sloop, wrecked on the coast of Jutland.
29 Jan.	1884	WARSPITE, cruiser, launched from No 2 Dock, being named by Lady Kerr, wife of the Captain of the Steam Reserve at Chatham. Ref; RDL.
29 Jan.	1944	NEREIDE, sloop, launched from No 8 Slip, being named by Miss H Swindells, daughter of Mr J.F.Swindells, Superintending Naval Stores Officer, Chatham. Ref; RDL.
29 Jan.	1944	MODESTE, sloop, launched from No 8 Slip, being named by Miss J Swindells, daughter of Mr J.F.Swindells, Superintending Naval Stores Officer, Chatham. Ref; RDL.
30 Jan.	1943	SAMPHIRE (1941), corvette, sunk by Italian submarine off Bougie, Algeria. Chatham manned, recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
31 Jan.	1808	LEDA (1800), Chatham built 5 <sup>th</sup> rate, wrecked off Milord Haven, Wales.

31 Jan.	1867	BEACON, gunboat, keel laid. Ref; RDL.
31 Jan.	1877	EURYALUS, frigate, launched from No5 Slip, being named by Mrs Stewart, wife of Admiral William Houston Stewart, Controller of The Navy. Ref; RDL.
31 Jan.	1888	Notice given in "Chatham Observer" of auction in the Dockyard; 26 old ship's boats, 60 tons of old rope, oak and teak furniture from the recently scrapped gunboat TEAZER. Ref; CO.
31 Jan.	1932	Metropolitan Police leave Chatham Dockyard, being replaced by the Royal Marine Police Force. Ref; RDL.