

01 May	1860	ROYAL OAK, 2nd Rate, laid down on No7 Slip. Ref; RDL.
01 May	1861	ROYAL OAK, 2nd rate, decision taken to convert her into a wooden, broadside, ironclad, with all guns on one deck. Guns reduced from 80 to 35. Ref; RDL.
01 May	1884	Path by the Dockyard, Princes bridge, and ferry to Upnor, closed to the public. Ferrymen compensated with £10 each. Ref; JDC 1-100.
01 May	1905	RN Hospital, Gillingham, foundation stone of the church is laid by Vice Admiral Sir Hugo Pearson KCB. C-in-C at The Nore. Ref; RDL.
02 May	1672	Captain Sir John Cox RN, killed at Battle of Solebay, while still Resident Commissioner at Chatham. Ref; JDC 2-10.
02 May	1832	CASTOR, 5 th rate, launched
02 May	1860	REINDEER, screw wood sloop, keel laid on No2 Slip. Ref; RDL.
02 May	1870	WOODLARK, twin-screw gunboat, keel laid on No4 Slip. Ref; RDL.
02 May	1940	SEAL (1938), Chatham built submarine, struck a mine in the Kattegat and forced to surrender, scuttling having failed. Ref; RDL.
02 May	1941	WINKLE (1915), dockyard craft, sunk in the river Medway having struck an enemy mine. Several dockyard men killed. The vessel was formerly X77, an invasion barge designed for the Dardanelles Campaign, but one of seven converted to dockyard use. Ref; RDL.
03 May	1817	STARLING, cutter, launched
03 May	1834	BLAZER, paddle vessel, launched
03 May	1917	LLEWELLYN (1913), destroyer, left No3 dock with a new bow, after damage by torpedo from enemy submarine. Ref; RDL.
03 May	1956	HMS PEMBROKE presented a ceremonial chain to Gillingham Borough Council, for use of the Mayor. Ref; RDL.
04 May	1859	HOOD, battleship, launched
04 May	1926	K 26 and L 23, submarines, left Chatham bound for the London Docks. They and M 3 were to provide electric power during the National Strike. Ref; RNSM.
04 May	1970	Ladies of the Colour Loft completed a Jolly Roger flag. Replica of that attributed to HMS TORBAY, owned by Admiral Sir Anthony Miers VC. Ref; Peri 5-55

04 May	1990	CHATHAM (1988), frigate, commissioned for the first time, under Captain Ian Forbes RN. The Naval Ceremony held in No2 Basin of Chatham Maritime with full naval and civil honours. Ref; RDL.
05 May	1671	King Charles II came by yacht to view his ships in the Medway; and the newly completed Gillingham Fort. Ref; Peri 16-186p6.
05 May	1757	BURFORD, 3 rd rate, launched
05 May	1840	MAEANDER, 5 th rate, launched
05 May	1851	Workmen allowed two clear days to visit the Great Exhibition of 1851, without loss of pay. Free rail pass and entrance ticket to each. Ref; JDC 3-102.
05 May	1858	ORPHEUS, screw corvette, keel laid. Ref; RDL.
05 May	1928	ODIN, submarine, launched from No7 Slip, being named by Mrs Stirling, wife of the Admiral Superintendent, Vice Admiral Anselan J.B. Stirling. CB. Ref; RDL.
05 May	1962	OCELOT, submarine, launched from No7 Slip, being named by Lady Sandars, wife of Vice Admiral Sir Thomas Sandars, Director General, Dockyards & Maintenance. Ref; RDL.
06 May	1942	AURICULA (1940), corvette, sunk by mine off Madagascar. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
06 May	1973	Royal Marines exercised their right to a ceremonial march through streets of Gillingham and Chatham, in their last year as separate Boroughs. Ref; RDL.
07 May	1611	Henry, Prince of Wales, and several noblemen came to Chatham by barge to review the Fleet. They boarded the PRINCE (1610), named in Henry's honour, with Phineas Pett the builder, before inspecting the Fleet. The Royal Salute was fired over Henry's barge. Ref; Harris.
07 May	1765	VICTORY, 1 st rate, launched from what is now No2 Dock.
07 May	1822	BASILISK, cutter, launched
07 May	1859	UNDAUNTED, screw frigate, keel laid on No3 Slip. Ref; RDL.
07 May	1941	STOKE (1918), minesweeper, sunk by enemy air attack off Tobruk. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
07 May	1940	UNA, submarine, laid down on No7 Slip. Ref; RDL.
07 May	1965	VICTORY Exhibition opened in No2 Slip. Bicentennial celebration of launch. Figurehead

		of Lord Nelson resited from PEMBROKE to Slip entrance.
08 May	1699	Dockyard workmen petitioned Admiralty: the Keeper of the Taphouse charges more a penny a quart for beer, forcing poor workmen to the water pump. Ref; JDC 3-26.
08 May	1704	Hospital for sick and wounded sailors opened in Rochester, on Maidstone Road, site of the present Watts Almshouses. Ref; JDC 12-9.
08 May	1845	CALYPSO, 6 th rate, launched.
08 May.	1845	RALEIGH, 4 th rate, launched
08 May	1861	Controller of The Navy announced end of the wooden wall era. Henceforth, all capital warships would be adequately armoured; starting with ROYAL OAK. Ref; RDL.
08 May	1961	Yard Services Managers (YSM) Department formed. Ref; RDL.
09 May	1826	ESPOIR, brig-sloop, launched
09 May	1876	TEMERAIRE, battleship, launched from No2 Dock, being named by Mrs. Ward-Hunt, wife of Mr. G. Ward-Hunt, First Lord of The Admiralty. Ref; RDL.
09 May	1876	AGAMEMNON, battleship, keel laid on No7 Slip. Ref; RDL.
09 May	1942	TRENCHANT, submarine, laid down on No7 Slip. Ref; RDL.
10 May	1910	Submarine, C33, launched from No7 Slip, being named by Mrs Ommanney, wife of the Admiral Superintendent, Rear Admiral Robert N. Ommanney. Ref; RDL.
10 May	1918	VINDICTIVE (1897), Chatham built cruiser; having been fitted out as an assault ship, she was sunk as a block ship in Ostende Harbour, Belgium. Ref; RDL.
10 May	1976	First railway consignment of nuclear waste left the Dockyard; previous amounts having been taken by road. Ref; Peri 11-128p2.
11 May	1743	Overseers at private shipyards are to have a shipwrights pay (2s) in addition to their allowance of 5s per day. Ref; JDC 14-5.
11 May	1869	Completion of French Cemetery on St.Marys Island. Communal graves for former prisoners of war, mainly French. Ref; Peri 16-190 p8.
11 May	1905	ROYAL OAK (1892), battleship, in No 2 Basin, in reserve status. An explosion in a “small arms” magazine killed one man and injured three. Ref; RDL.
11 May	1938	TIGRIS, submarine, laid down on No7 Slip. Ref; RDL.

11 May	1942	KIPLING (1939), destroyer, sunk by enemy aircraft south of Crete. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
11 May	1977	Arthur Thomas, electrical fitter, inaugurated as Mayor of Medway. Ref; Peri August `77 p2.
12 May	1704	6d a month to be deducted from each warrant officer and marine, so that they also may benefit from the Chatham Chest. Ref; JDC 17-10.
12 May	1704	MARY, 3 rd rate, launched
12 May	1906	A3 (1903) and A12 (1905), submarines, arrived at Chatham to enter No6 dock, the first to visit this Dockyard. Two week stay so that Dockyard officers could examine details before constructing two submarines themselves (C17 and C18). Ref; RDL.
13 May	1878	DOTEREL, sloop, keel laid. Ref; RDL.
13 May	1908	RN Barracks and Gillingham visited by Miss Agnes Weston, nationally renowned founder of temperance rest homes for sailors, and the magazine "Ashore & Afloat" Ref; RDL.
13 May	1941	SALOPIAN (1926), armed merchant cruiser, sunk by German submarine in North Atlantic. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
14 May	1824	AETNA, bomb, launched
14 May	1930	RAINBOW, submarine, launched from No7 Slip, being named by Mrs Addison, wife of Vice Admiral Albert P. Addison. CB. CMG. Director of Dockyards. Ref; RDL.
14 May	1940	Secretary of State for War broadcast an appeal for Local Defence Volunteers in Dockyards. Their role; to assist in the defeat of any attack by enemy airborne troops. Ref; JDC 15-25.
15 May	1649	Commissioners of the Navy ordered that John Short, late Clerk of the Cheque, be allowed two months to find himself a house before he is ousted, for signing the Kentish Petition. Ref; JDC 10-5.
15 May	1953	50 th anniversary parade at PEMBROKE; salute taken by Admiral of the Fleet Viscount Cunningham of Hyndhope, a former Commodore of RN Barracks. Ref; RDL.
15 May	1979	Barry Hodgman, head messenger, inaugurated as Mayor of Gillingham. Ref; Peri July '79 p5.
16 May	1620	Will Adams died in Japan. Ref; GC.
16 May	1972	Frank Springate, inaugurated as Mayor of Gillingham.

		Ref; Peri June '72 p7.
16 May	1973	MERMAID (1972), frigate, first commissioned at Chatham following fitting out for RN service. Built at Yarrows as a Presidential yacht for Nkrumah of Ghana. Ref; Peri 8-92.
17 May	1917	ZUBIAN (1917), destroyer, name given to the new vessel, following the joining of bow section of ZULU to rear portion of NUBIAN, both mine damaged. Ref; RDL.
17 May	1969	Submarines occupied five of Chatham's eight graving docks. AENEAS (1945) in No2 Dock ALLIANCE (1945) in No3 Dock. WARSPITE (1965) in No6 Dock AURIGA (1945) in No7 Dock ORPHEUS (1959) in No8 Dock.
17 May	1976	Anne Blease, executive officer, became Mayoress of Gillingham, to husband Harry. Ref; Peri June '77 p8.
18 May	1870	CERBERUS, turret ship, being floated out of No4 Dock, after being prepared for voyage to the State of Victoria, Australia, her owners. Ref; RDL.
18 May	1911	James Davis, foreman of stores, inaugurated as Mayor of Gillingham. Ref; CN
19 May	1697	Navy Board instruction to Dockyard officers; not to employ craftsmen as clerks, nor to misuse boys as clerks. Ref; JDC 13-3.
19 May	1725	ANGLESEA (1694), 5 th rate, re-launched, having been rebuilt and cut down from a 4 th rate. (Plymouth's first) Ref; RDL.
19 May	1825	FORMIDABLE, 2 nd rate, launched; having been built on frames captured at Genoa in 1814. Ref; RDL.
19 May	1863	SALAMIS, paddle despatch vessel, launched
19 May	1923	K 26 (1919), submarine, having been built at Vickers of Barrow, she was brought to Chatham to be fitted out for sea service. She commissioned here on this day. Ref; RDL.
19 May	1940	PRINCESS VICTORIA (1939), minelayer, sunk by a mine in the Humber estuary. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
19 May	1941	CITY OF ROCHESTER (1904), paddle minesweeper, destroyed by German landmine, while being refitted at Rochester. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges, even though the ship was not in commission. Ref; RDL.
20 May	1718	NORWICH (1693), 4 th rate, re-launched, having been rebuilt and enlarged.
20 May	1797	Red flag of mutiny hoisted onboard SANDWICH, flagship of C-in-C at The Nore, by

		Richard Parker and his delegates. Ref; RDL.
20 May	1856	CADMUS, corvette, launched
20 May	1905	AFRICA, battleship, launched from No8 Slip, being named by Marchioness of Londonderry; by request of King Edward VII, after Marchioness of Salisbury was unable to attend. Ref; RDL.
20 May	1941	WIDNES (1918), minesweeper, stranded following severe damage by enemy air attacks, in Suda Bay, Crete. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
21 May	1801	Order in Council; expressly forbidding the acceptance of fees and gratuities by officers and clerks of the Yard, the cost of which ultimately falls on the public purse. Ref; JDC 13-3.
21 May	1855	Order in Council; Civil Service Commissioners are to examine and certify the suitability of men nominated for public appointments. Ref; JDC 3-88.
21 May	1928	First award of the Coast Watch; presented each year to a Gillingham boy choosing the trade of Shipwright and coming highest in the Dockyard Civil Service Examination. Gifted from the Will of Thomas J.Coast, foreman of shipwrights, 1841-1925. Ref; RDL.
21 May	1941	JUNO (1938), destroyer, sunk by enemy aircraft, south east of Crete. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
21 May	1941	Visit by Queen Elizabeth to the WRNS at Chatham, in her capacity as Commander in Chief of the Womens Royal Naval Service. Ref; RDL.
21 May	1959	Jack Thomas, storewright, inaugurated as Mayor of Chatham. Ref; Peri April '76 p8
21 May	1963	Thomas Hill, estimator, inaugurated as Mayor of Chatham Ref; Peri May '82 p5.
22 May	1702	Contract given to Edward Hill for digging north mast pond. £726. Ref; JDC 1-27.
22 May	1839	Order in Council; putting all established workers aged 20 to 40 years eligible for a Civil Service pension. Ref; JDC 3-78.
22 May	1872	UNDAUNTED (1861), frigate, work commenced to remove her three wooden masts and renew in wrought iron. Ref; RDL.
22 May	1956	CL 6, floating crane lighter, left the Dockyard under tow, bound for the Thames Estuary Maunsell Sea Forts; 5 day operation assisting the Royal Engineers to remove guns and other military equipment. Ref; RDL.

22 May	1963	Ted Griffin, machinist, inaugurated as Mayor of Rochester. Ref; Peri April `70 p12.
23 May	1918	King George V visited Dockyard and RM and RN Barracks; and especially to the RN Hospital to speak to the survivors of the Zeebrugge Raid. Ref; Peri 4-42p11.
23 May	1941	KELLY (1938), destroyer, sunk by enemy air attacks, south of Crete. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
23 May	1956	Bill Wilkinson, electrical fitter, inaugurated as Mayor of Rochester. Ref; Peri April `70 p12 & April `71 p11.
24 May	1754	WOLFE, sloop, launched
24 May	1808	Master Attendant complained that his pew in the new Dockyard Church was not in accord with his status. Ref; JDC 9-15.
24 May	1943	TURPIN, submarine, laid down on No7 Slip. Ref; RDL.
24 May	1960	Jack Thomas, storewright, inaugurated as Mayor of Chatham, 2 nd time. Ref; Peri April '76 p8.
25 May	1687	Navy Board supported Chatham town's claim to have a market, near The Brook, in spite of strong opposition from Rochester. Ref; JDC 3-22.
25 May	1813	Admiralty to Chatham Yard: We desire you to recommend three unmarried sailmakers who are willing to go to Malta, on the usual conditions. Ref; RDL.
25 May	1861	BOMBAY (1828), 2 nd rate, launched from No4 Dock having been converted to take steam propulsion. Originally built in Bombay Dockyard. Ref; RDL.
25 May	1868	MONARCH, battleship, launched from No3 Dock. Ref; RDL.
25 May	1901	CHASSEUR (1855), floating factory ship, used for 40 years by naval engineers, sold for scrap this day; figurehead stayed at Chatham Yard. Ref; JDC 18-10.
25 May	1965	Jack Mannering, inspector of joiners, inaugurated as Mayor of Gillingham. Worked in Dockyard 1938 to 1976. Ref; Peri June `76 p12.
26 May	1648	Royalist rebellion in Medway Towns; they seized the FELLOWSHIP (1643), ship of 28guns, taking her to Upnor Castle. PRINCE ROYAL (1610) and SOVEREIGN (1637) were also taken, but Commissioner Peter Pett organised their recapture. Ref; JDC 5-10.
26 May	1914	SERVITOR, oil tanker, launched from No8 Slip. Ref; RDL.

26 May	1940	CURLEW (1917), cruiser, sunk by German aircraft off Skaanland, Norway. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
26 May	1940	Operation Dynamo; the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force from Dunkirk, France. Many ships and vessels of the Nore Command involved. Ref; RDL.
27 May	1778	NYMPHE, sloop, launched
27 May	1865	LORD WARDEN, battleship, launched from No7 Slip, being named by Lady Ernestine Edgecombe. Ref; RDL.
27 May	1902	CHALLENGER, cruiser, launched From No2 Dock, being named by Mrs Holland, wife of Rear Admiral Swinton C Holland, the Admiral Superintendent. Ref; RDL.
27 May	1915	PRINCESS IRENE (1914), minelayer, sunk by internal explosion, off Sheerness. Ref; RDL.
27 May	1942	FITZROY (1919), minesweeper, sunk by mine off Great Yarmouth. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
28 May	1660	On his way to London and Restoration, King Charles II went to Chatham to see the ROYAL SOVEREIGN and Commissioner Peter Pett. Ref; JDC 5-11.
28 May	1894	VICTORIOUS, battleship, keel laid on No7 Slip. Ref; RDL.
28 May	1940	BRIGHTON BELLE (1900), paddle minesweeper, sunk in collision with a wreck, whilst returning from Dunkirk. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
28 May	1941	MASHONA (1937), destroyer, sunk by German aircraft, SW of Ireland, following sinking of the BISMARCK. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
28 May	1950	The Queens Colours, Chatham Division, Royal Marines, ceremoniously laid up in Rochester Cathedral this Whitsunday. Ref; RDL.
29 May	1584	Lord Cobham mustered 385 men at Frindsbury, volunteers for Her Majesties Navy, during fears of Spanish invasion. Ref; G C.
29 May	1940	WAVERLEY (1899), paddle minesweeper, sunk by German aircraft off the Dunkirk beaches. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
29 May	1940	GRENADE (1935), destroyer, sunk by German aircraft off the Dunkirk beaches. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.
29 May	1940	WAKEFUL (1917), destroyer, sunk by German E-boat off Dunkirk beaches. Chatham manned and recorded in St Georges. Ref; RDL.

30 May	1839	FANTOME, brig-sloop, launched
30 May	1893	ELK (1847), brig sloop, sold to Rochester Port Authority for £515, for use as a quarantine ship. Ref; JDC 18-8.
30 May	1961	Opening ceremony of Dockyard Technical College and Apprentices Training Centre, at Collingwood barracks. Ref; JDC 4-86.
30 May	1966	1,400 Scouts and Rangers arrived for Whitsun weekend on St Mary's Island, for camp and water-borne activities. Ref; Peri 1-8.
30 May	1968	Trustees Savings Bank opened a branch in the Dockyard, near the Central Muster Station; the first Bank to do so. Open each Thursday lunchtime. Peri 3-32p4.
30 May	1973	MERMAID (1965), frigate, sailed from Chatham on trials. She had been ordered as the Presidential yacht of Ghana, at Yarrow's, by President Nkruma, but not finished by the time of his overthrow in 1966. Originally named BLACK STAR; here in Oct.1972.
30 May	1982	Intended start of Chatham's last scheduled Navy Days. Cancelled because of the Falkland Islands war with Argentine. Ref; RDL.
31 May	1698	SOMERSET, 3 rd rate launched
31 May	1744	EDINBURGH (1666), 3 rd rate, re-launched, having been rebuilt and enlarged for the third time. Originally named WARSPITE but renamed in 1716. Ref; RDL.
31 May	1827	Order to build Admiralty House at Sheerness, to be home of the C-in-C The Nore. Ref; RDL.
31 May	1870	SULTAN, battleship, launched from No 2 Dock, being named by Musurus Pasha, daughter of the Turkish Ambassador to Britain. Ref; RDL.
31 May	1889	SEAGULL, torpedo gunboat, launched from No2 Dock, being named by Miss Burton, daughter of the Storekeeper, Mr. W.P.Burton. Ref; RDL.
31 May	1889	SALAMANDER, torpedo gunboat, launched from No2 Dock, being named by Miss Macaulay niece of Rear Admiral Edward Kelly, the Superintendent. Ref; RDL.
31 May	1916	Battle of Jutland, North Sea, between the British Grand Fleet and the German High Seas Fleet. Many Nore Command ships took part.
31 May	1934	SHARK, submarine, launched from No7 Slip, being named by Mrs Round-Turner, wife of the Admiral Superintendent, Rear Admiral Charles W.Round-Turner.CMG. Ref; RDL.
May	1873	ALBATROSS, sloop, keel laid. Ref; RDL.

May	1900	Royal Naval Mission opened, near Chatham Town Hall. 26 RN and RM NCOs took over the old Ragged School building of 1859, to further Christian values in Servicemen. Ref; MALSC