

Panel 17 **Post War Dockyard**

The years immediately after the Second World War saw an influx of black and ethnic minority workers to Chatham Dockyard. Many came to Chatham from India, Kenya and Uganda.

Many Asians worked in the Stores Department at Chatham Dockyard during the 1970s. They included Paliminder Khambay in the Colour Store and Ahmed Lone who worked for the Materials Management section.

1.



Paliminder Khambay at work in the Colour Store, 1975

Courtesy: © Chatham Dockyard Historical Society

2.



Ahmed Lone (centre), of the Dockyard's Material Management Department, de-equipping HMS Minerva, before a long refit 1976

Courtesy: © Chatham Dockyard Historical Society

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During the final years of the Dockyard's operational history

In 1978, Sue Panesar (an Asian refuge from Uganda) won both the Royal Dockyards' Apprentice of the Year' and 'Top Girl Apprentice' titles. She was a technician apprentice and later worked in the Dockyard's Nuclear Refitting Complex.

Amongst those serving in the Falklands Crisis of 1982 was Mr James Hibbert of Gillingham. He served as a Senior Storekeeper aboard RFA Fort Austin during the conflict. He was later presented with the South Atlantic medal by the Port Admiral, Rear Admiral William Higgins at a ceremony in Chatham in 1983.

1.



Sue Panesar being presented with a plaque to mark her success as top apprentice, 1978

Courtesy: © Chatham Dockyard Historical Society

2.



South Atlantic Medal Presentation Ceremony, 1983 Mr James Hibbert: front row, left

Courtesy: © Chatham Dockyard Historical Society