

The Date-A-Base Book

2012

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January - December 2012

For writers, journalists, film-makers, editors,
producers, researchers, teachers, students,
speakers and event planners

Compiled by Dave and Kate Haslett

ideas4writers

This **sample edition** only contains the chapter for **January**

The full edition contains the complete set of chapters for
January to December

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Introduction

Welcome to the fifth edition of the ideas4writers Date-A-Base Book!

As always, every entry has been cross-checked in Encyclopaedia Britannica (which isn't always accurate) and on official websites and other sources. This is not an easy process as there's an awful lot of "disinformation" out there, and it seems to be getting worse. Wherever there was doubt – which there frequently was – we've tried to go back to the original source. Even so, we advise you to double-check each date for yourself before using it, and satisfy yourself that it is 100% correct. If you come across any mistakes please let us know.

We'll post any corrections we hear about on the official ideas4writers blog:
<http://ideas4writers.wordpress.com>

As far as possible we've used New Style (NS) dates from the Gregorian calendar.

Celebrities are notorious for knocking a few years off their ages. Wherever possible we've given both their real and claimed dates of birth, and noted which is which. Similarly, they don't always go by their real names, so we've used the names by which they are most commonly known. Their real names can easily be found in Encyclopaedia Britannica, Wikipedia, and other sources.

With such a vast choice of worthy people to choose from, we elected to list only those who are included in Encyclopaedia Britannica, or those that we've definitely heard of. We apologise if a few non-British household names didn't make the final cut.

We have generally not included living people, except for royalty, prime ministers and presidents.

It was not possible to include every significant event from the two World Wars. We've chosen what we think are the main ones, but if we've left out something that you think should have been included please let us know.

How to use this book

The **Ann.** column gives the anniversary of each entry, so 250 means the 250th anniversary of that event will occur during the month you're looking at. The date on which the event originally occurred is listed next, followed by a brief description.

The most obvious way to use this book is to choose the entries that interest you, then write news reports, newspaper and magazine articles, short stories, novels, essays, stage plays, screenplays, poems, jokes, non-fiction books, guidebooks, biographies, TV/ radio features, and so on about them.

But how about thinking 'outside the box'? For example, you might try to see the event through the eyes of someone who was there at the time. Or think about how the world might have been different if that person hadn't been born or had done something else, or if an event hadn't taken place, or if it had happened in a different way. You could also use an event, or a series of them, as background detail in a novel or screenplay. Let your characters think about the events, and perhaps influence them, or be influenced by them.

What most publishers, broadcasters and producers are looking for is something original; something that hasn't been done before. They don't want the same old summary of a person's life, or a potted

history and timeline of an event. They can probably write that in-house anyway, using their own staff writers. So aim to provide them with something different, more compelling, a new angle, something that ties in with the date of the event, but which can run alongside their more general features.

If you're writing about a person, don't just focus on their list of accomplishments; have a look at the other things going on in their life: problems, interests, hobbies, associations, relatives and relationships, fans, and so on. See if you can tie that in with one of your own areas of interest – you probably already read publications and visit web sites related to that interest, so there's your market.

See if you can relate the item to something from your own life, or use it as a trigger to set off a series of memories and reminiscences that could lead to a new writing project. If you haven't written much before, or have never had anything published, try using the item as a starting point and write a letter about it to the editor of your local newspaper or your favourite magazine. See if you can get the coveted 'star letter' slot. Once you've achieved that, move on to other things such as short articles.

Don't limit yourself to printed publications. There are plenty of online publications that need writers, and some will even pay you. And don't limit yourself to your own country – there's a whole world out there that will be interested in what you have to say.

Timing is important too, of course. You need to start work well in advance of the anniversary, so that your finished piece of writing appears in the press or on stage or on screen at exactly the right time. Most magazines work several months in advance, and if you're writing for the stage or screen you might need to have your script ready more than a year before the anniversary occurs. So you should look at getting our next edition as soon as it becomes available!

The 2013 edition will be available in July 2011.

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JANUARY 2012

Ann.	Date	Event
600	6 Jan 1412 ?	Birth of Joan of Arc, French martyr, saint and national heroine. (This is the date given in a letter from Lord Perceval de Boullainvilliers. Her actual date of birth is impossible to verify, and she could only estimate her age)
600	16 Jan 1412	The Medici family were made the official bankers of the Papacy
500	2 Jan 1512	Death of Svante Sture, Regent of Sweden (1503–12)
500	31 Jan 1512	Birth of King Henry of Portugal
400	17 Jan 1612	Birth of Thomas Fairfax, 3 rd Baron Fairfax of Cameron, English general, commander of the Parliamentary army during the English Civil War
400	20 Jan 1612	Death of Rudolf II, Holy Roman Emperor (1576–1612)
350	27 Jan 1662	Birth of Richard Bentley, English clergyman, classical scholar and critic
300	24 Jan 1712	Birth of Frederick II (Frederick the Great), King of Prussia (1740–86)
300	28 Jan 1712	Birth of Tokugawa Ieshige, Japanese shogun
250	4 Jan 1762	Seven Years' War: Britain declared war on Spain and Naples
250	5 Jan 1762	Death of Elizabeth, Empress of Russia (1741–62)
250	11 Jan 1762	Death of Louis-François Roubiliac, French sculptor, one of the most important Baroque sculptors in 18 th century England
200	15 Jan 1812	Birth of Peter Christen Asbjørnsen, Norwegian folklorist and zoologist. Best known for his collections of Norwegian folklore and fairy tales with Jørgen Engebretsen Moe
200	19 Jan 1812	Peninsula War: British and Portuguese forces led by the Duke of Wellington recaptured the town of Ciudad Rodrigo, Spain from the French
200	23 Jan 1812 or 24 th ?	Death of Robert Craufurd, British major-general and politician. Fatally wounded during the storming of Ciudad Rodrigo, Spain (see above)
175	2 Jan 1837	Birth of Mily Balakirev, Russian pianist, composer and conductor, best known for promoting musical nationalism
175	19 Jan 1837	Birth of William Williams Keen, the first brain surgeon in the USA
175	20 Jan 1837	Death of Sir John Soane, British Neoclassical architect
175	23 Jan 1837	Death of John Field, Irish pianist and composer, known for his nocturnes
175	26 Jan 1837	Michigan became the 26 th U.S. state
150	8 Jan 1862	Birth of Frank Nelson Doubleday, American publisher
150	10 Jan 1862	Death of Samuel Colt, American inventor and firearms manufacturer who popularised the revolver
150	18 Jan 1862	Death of John Tyler, 10 th President of the United States
150	19 Jan 1862	American Civil War: Battle of Mill Springs, Kentucky. The first significant Union victory
150	23 Jan 1862	Birth of David Hilbert, German mathematician who reduced geometry to a series of axioms, and laid the foundations of functional analysis
150	24 Jan 1862	Birth of Edith Wharton, Pulitzer Prize-winning American writer, best known for her stories about upper-class society

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150	27 Jan 1862	American Civil War: U.S. President Abraham Lincoln issued General War Order No. 1, ordering the Union army and navy to begin their offensive operations against the Confederates on 22 nd February 1862
150	29 Jan 1862	Birth of Frederick Delius, British composer
150	30 Jan 1862	The first American ironclad warship, the 'USS Monitor', was launched at Greenpoint, Brooklyn, New York
150	30 Jan 1862	Birth of Walter Damrosch, Prussian-American conductor and composer
150	31 Jan 1862	Birth of George Walbridge Perkins, American insurance executive and financier
125	6 Jan 1887	Conquest of Harar: Battle of Chelenqo, Ethiopia. Decisive Shewan victory
125	20 Jan 1887	The U.S. Senate agreed to allow the U.S. Navy to lease Pearl Harbour, Hawaii as a naval base
125	26 Jan 1887	Battle of Dogali, Eritrea – Ethiopian victory
125	28 Jan 1887	The largest snowflakes ever recorded fell at Fort Keogh, Montana, USA – 15 inches (38 cm) in diameter and 8 inches (20 cm) thick
125	28 Jan 1887	Birth of Arthur Rubinstein, Polish-born American virtuoso pianist
100	1 Jan 1912	The Republic of China was officially established
100	1 Jan 1912	Birth of Kim Philby, British intelligence officer and Soviet double agent, member of the Cambridge spy ring
100	4 Jan 1912	The Boy Scout Association (now The Scout Association) was granted a Royal Charter, and became established throughout the Commonwealth
100	5 Jan 1912	Lenin's Bolshevik faction of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party broke away from the main party and formed what would later become the Communist Party of the Soviet Union
100	6 Jan 1912	New Mexico became the 47 th U.S. state
100	7 Jan 1912	Birth of Charles Addams, American cartoonist, noted for his macabre humour, and best known as the creator of the Addams Family
100	8 Jan 1912	The African National Congress (ANC) was founded in South Africa
100	8 Jan 1912	Birth of José Ferrer, Academy Award-winning Puerto Rican-born American actor and director ('Cyrano de Bergerac')
100	9 Jan 1912	U.S. Marines invaded Honduras to prevent the government from seizing an American-owned railroad at Puerto Cortez
100	9 Jan 1912	Birth of Ralph Tubbs, British architect. Designed the Dome of Discovery for the 1951 Festival of Britain, Charing Cross Hospital in London, Granada TV Centre in Manchester, and several other notable buildings
100	10 Jan 1912	American aviation pioneer Glenn Curtiss's flying boat made its first successful flight
100	11 Jan 1912	The 'Bread and Roses' strike by immigrant textile workers began in Lawrence, Massachusetts, USA. (Ended 14 th March)
100	18 Jan 1912	British explorer Robert Falcon Scott's expedition reached the South Pole, but discovered that Roald Amundsen's Norwegian team had beaten them by over a month

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100	19 Jan 1912	Birth of Leonid Kantorovich, Russian mathematician and economist, joint winner of the 1975 Nobel Prize for Economics for his work on the optimal allocation of scarce resources
100	21 Jan 1912	Birth of Konrad Bloch, German-born American biochemist, joint winner of the 1964 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine for discovering the natural synthesis of cholesterol and fatty acids
100	23 Jan 1912	The International Opium Convention was signed by 12 countries at The Hague, the Netherlands
100	28 Jan 1912	Birth of Jackson Pollock, American abstract expressionist artist, noted for his 'action paintings'
100	30 Jan 1912	Birth of Barbara Tuchman, American writer and historian
90	5 Jan 1922	Death of Sir Ernest Shackleton, Irish-born British Antarctic explorer
90	10 Jan 1922	Arthur Griffith became the first President of the Irish Free State (now the Republic of Ireland)
90	11 Jan 1922	14-year-old Leonard Thompson became the first diabetes patient to be treated with insulin, at Toronto General Hospital, Canada
90	16 Jan 1922	Michael Collins was elected as the first Prime Minister of the Irish Free State (now the Republic of Ireland)
90	21 Jan 1922	Birth of Telly Savalas, award-winning American film and television actor, best known for playing the TV detective 'Kojak'. (Died 1994)
90	22 Jan 1922	Death of Pope Benedict XV
90	26 Jan 1922	Birth of Michael Bentine, British comic actor (The Goons). (Died 1996)
80	12 Jan 1932	Hattie Caraway became the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate
80	16 Jan 1932	Birth of Dian Fossey, American zoologist and gorilla expert. (Died 1985)
80	21 Jan 1932	Death of Lytton Strachey, British writer, biographer and critic
80	28 Jan 1932 to 3 rd Mar	Second Sino-Japanese War – Shanghai Incident. Japanese troops attacked and occupied Shanghai, China
75	6 Jan 1937	Birth of Doris Troy, American R&B and soul singer. (Died 2004)
75	6 Jan 1937	Death of André Bessette (Blessed Brother André), Canadian saint (from 17 th October 2010)
75	19 Jan 1937	American industrialist, film producer and aviator Howard Hughes broke the U.S. transcontinental air record, flying from Burbank, California to Newark, New Jersey in 7 hours, 28 minutes and 25 seconds
75	20 Jan 1937	Franklin D. Roosevelt was inaugurated as President of the United States for a second term. (The first inauguration to take place on 20 th January)
75	23 Jan 1937 to 30 th	The second Moscow show trial (The Trial of the Seventeen) took place. 17 leading Communists were accused of participating in Trotsky's plot to overthrow Stalin. 13 of them were sentenced to death
70	1 Jan 1942	World War II: 26 countries signed the Declaration of the United Nations in Washington, D.C., USA, pledging to employ their full resources against Hitler and the Axis powers
70	2 Jan 1942	World War II: Japanese forces captured Manila, capital of the Philippines

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70	2 Jan 1942	The U.S. Navy opened a blimp base at Lakehurst, New Jersey
70	3 Jan 1942	Birth of John Thaw, British actor ('The Sweeney', 'Inspector Morse', 'Kavanagh QC', and many others). (Died 2002)
70	6 Jan 1942	Pan American Airways' 'Pacific Clipper' flying boat completed the first round the world trip by a commercial plane
70	7 Jan 1942	World War II: the Battle of Bataan began in the Philippines
70	10 Jan 1942	World War II: Japan declared war on the Netherlands
70	11 Jan 1942	World War II: Japan invaded the Dutch East Indies and captured Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
70	12 Jan 1942	U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt re-established the National War Labor Board to arbitrate labour disputes and regulate wages during WWII
70	13 Jan 1942	American automobile pioneer Henry Ford was granted a patent for a method of constructing car bodies from soy-based plastic
70	14 Jan 1942	World War II: U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued a proclamation requiring all foreign nationals in the USA to report any change of name, address or employment to the FBI. Those from Japan, Germany and Italy (termed 'enemy aliens') were not allowed to enter restricted areas
70	16 Jan 1942	World War II: Japan began its invasion of Burma (now Myanmar)
70	16 Jan 1942	Death of Carole Lombard, American actress, noted for her comedy roles in a string of successful 1930s Hollywood movies. (Plane crash)
70	20 Jan 1942	Holocaust: the Wannsee Conference was held in Germany. Nazi officials met to plan the 'final solution to the Jewish question'
70	21 Jan 1942	Birth of Edwin Starr, American soul singer ('War'). (Died 2003)
70	25 Jan 1942	World War II: Thailand declared war on Britain and the USA
70	26 Jan 1942	World War II: The first American troops arrived in Europe. 4,508 soldiers from the 34 th Infantry Regiment docked in Belfast, Northern Ireland
70	29 Jan 1942	The BBC Radio 4 show 'Desert Island Discs' was first broadcast. It is the world's longest running weekly factual radio programme
70	31 Jan 1942	Birth of Derek Jarman, British avant-garde filmmaker ('Jubilee', 'The Tempest', 'Caravaggio', 'War Requiem', 'Edward II', etc). (Died 1994)
65	25 Jan 1947	Death of Al Capone, famous American gangster
60	14 Jan 1952	The first episode of 'Today' (also known as 'The Today Show') was broadcast on NBC TV in the USA
60	20 Jan 1952	Edgar Faure became Prime Minister of France
60	24 Jan 1952	Vincent Massey became the first Canadian-born Governor-General of Canada
60	26 Jan 1952	Suez Canal Zone – Cairo riots: at least 20 people were killed and 200 injured in anti-British riots in Cairo, Egypt. (The previous day British troops had seized control of the town of Ismailia, killing about 50 police officers when they refused to surrender)
50	1 Jan 1962	The U.S. Navy SEALs unit was established to handle special operations and counter-terrorism missions from the sea, air and land

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50	1 Jan 1962	Western Samoa (now Samoa) achieved independence from New Zealand
50	1 Jan 1962	The Beatles auditioned for Decca Records in London, but were turned down because 'guitar groups are on the way out'
50	3 Jan 1962	Cuban leader Fidel Castro was excommunicated from the Catholic church by Pope John XXIII after declaring Cuba a communist state
50	4 Jan 1962	New York City introduced an automated (driverless) subway train (the 42 nd Street shuttle)
50	8 Jan 1962	Harmelen train disaster – the worst-ever railway accident in the Netherlands. More than 90 people were killed when 2 passenger trains crashed in fog after one of the drivers failed to see a warning signal
50	11 Jan 1962	An avalanche on Mount Huascarán in Peru destroyed several towns and villages and killed 3,500 – 4,000 people
50	13 Jan 1962	Death of Ernie Kovacs, American comedian and actor
50	16 Jan 1962	Death of Ivan Meštrović, Croatian-born American sculptor
50	20 Jan 1962	Death of Robinson Jeffers, controversial American poet
50	21 Jan 1962	Birth of Marie Trintignant, French actress. (Died 2003)
50	23 Jan 1962	François Truffaut's New Wave movie 'Jules et Jim' premiered in France. (USA: 23 rd April, UK: 17 th May)
50	24 Jan 1962	Death of Stanley Lord, British captain of the 'SS Californian' which was in the vicinity of the 'Titanic' but did not offer assistance when it sank in 1912
50	26 Jan 1962	NASA launched the unmanned space probe 'Ranger 3' to the Moon. (It missed its target and went into orbit around the Sun)
50	26 Jan 1962	Death of Lucky Luciano, American gangster, regarded as the father of modern organised crime in America
50	29 Jan 1962	Death of Fritz Kreisler, Austrian-American violin virtuoso and composer
50	30 Jan 1962	Two members of the Flying Wallendas high-wire act were killed and another paralysed when their 7-person pyramid collapsed during a performance at the State Fair Coliseum, Detroit, USA
50	31 Jan 1962	The Organisation of American States (OAS) suspended Cuba's membership because it had adopted communism. (Suspension lifted June 2009)
40	1 Jan 1972	Kurt Waldheim from Austria was appointed Secretary-General of the United Nations
40	1 Jan 1972	Death of Maurice Chevalier, French actor, singer and entertainer
40	4 Jan 1972	Rose Heilbron was appointed as the first female judge at the Old Bailey, London. (She was also the first woman to lead a murder case)
40	5 Jan 1972	U.S. President Richard Nixon announced the programme to develop the space shuttle
40	9 Jan 1972	The ocean liner 'RMS Queen Elizabeth' was destroyed by fire and sank in Hong Kong harbour
40	11 Jan 1972	East Pakistan became the independent state of Bangladesh

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40	13 Jan 1972	The President of Ghana, Edward Akufo-Addo, and Prime Minister Kofi Busia were deposed by military leader Ignatius Kutu Acheampong
40	14 Jan 1972	The TV comedy series 'Sanford and Son' was first broadcast on NBC in the USA. It was a U.S. remake of the British TV series 'Steptoe and Son'
40	14 Jan 1972	Death of King Frederick IX of Denmark, succeeded by his daughter Queen Margrethe II
40	18 Jan 1972	The former Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), Garfield Todd, and his daughter were imprisoned for campaigning against Rhodesian independence until the country had black majority rule
40	24 Jan 1972	Japanese soldier Shoichi Yokoi was found hiding in Guam, not knowing that WWII had ended. He had lived in a cave in the jungle for 28 years
40	30 Jan 1972	Bloody Sunday. British paratroopers opened fire on a civil rights demonstration in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, killing 13 people (plus another who died later) and injuring many others
40	30 Jan 1972	Pakistan withdrew from the Commonwealth of Nations in protest at the Commonwealth's recognition of Bangladesh. (Rejoined August 1989)
30	1 Jan 1982	Javier Pérez de Cuéllar from Peru was appointed Secretary-General of the United Nations
30	6 Jan 1982	American truck driver William Bonin ('the Freeway Killer') was convicted of raping and murdering 14 boys and young men. He confessed to killing 21 people, and police suspect he may have killed a further 15. (He was sentenced to death, and executed in February 1996)
30	8 Jan 1982	American communications giant AT&T agreed to divest its 22 Bell System companies. They would become separate companies under the terms of an antitrust agreement
30	10 Jan 1982	The lowest temperature ever recorded in England: -26.1°C (-15°F) at Newport, Shropshire. Scotland's lowest ever temperature was equalled: -27.2°C (-17°F) at Braemar, Aberdeenshire (the UK record). Parts of the Midwestern USA also saw record low temperatures, and again on 17 th
30	13 Jan 1982	An Air Florida passenger jet hit the 14 th Street Bridge in Washington, D.C., USA shortly after take-off, and crashed into the Potomac River. 74 passengers and 4 people on the bridge were killed
30	14 Jan 1982	Mark Thatcher, the son of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, was found safe and well after going missing in the Sahara Desert for six days while competing in the Paris-Dakar rally
30	16 Jan 1982	Britain and the Vatican re-established full diplomatic relations after a break of more than 400 years
30	20 Jan 1982	Five of the world's biggest electronics companies agreed to cooperate to develop a camcorder. (Hitachi, JVC, Matsushita, Philips and Sony)
30	26 Jan 1982	Unemployment in Britain passed 3 million for the first time since the 1930s
30	28 Jan 1982	U.S. Army Brigadier General James Dozier was rescued by Italian police after being held hostage in Padua for 42 days by Red Brigade terrorists
30	30 Jan 1982	Death of Stanley Holloway, British actor, comedian and singer ('My Fair Lady', and many others)

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25	5 Jan 1987	U.S. President Ronald Reagan underwent prostate surgery
25	9 Jan 1987	Iran-Contra Affair: the White House released a memo that had been prepared for President Ronald Reagan; it showed a definite link between U.S. arms sales to Iran and the release of U.S. hostages held in Lebanon
25	15 Jan 1987	Death of Ray Bolger, American actor and entertainer (played the Scarecrow in the classic movie 'The Wizard of Oz')
25	17 Jan 1987	Death of Hugo Fregonese, Argentine film director
25	10 Jan 1987	Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy in the Middle East, was kidnapped in Beirut, Lebanon while on a peace mission to negotiate the release of hostages. (Released November 1991)
25	21 Jan 1987	American singer Aretha Franklin became the first woman to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame
25	22 Jan 1987	American politician R. Budd Dwyer, the Treasurer of Pennsylvania, shot and killed himself during a televised press conference after being found guilty of receiving a bribe
25	26 Jan 1987	Iran-Contra Affair: U.S. President Ronald Reagan testified before the Tower Commission for the first time, and admitted authorising arms sales to Iran. (He later said he did not remember authorising it)
20	1 Jan 1992	Boutros Boutros Ghali from Egypt was appointed Secretary-General of the United Nations
20	1 Jan 1992	Death of Grace Hopper, pioneering American computer scientist, mathematician and naval officer
20	2 Jan 1992	The Russian government lifted price controls on many items
20	6 Jan 1992	The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) suspended the use of silicone breast implants over fears that they could leak and cause health damage. (Manufacturers were unable to provide sufficient evidence of their safety, and they were later banned in the USA)
20	7 Jan 1992	Death of Richard Hunt, American puppeteer who performed on 'Sesame Street', 'The Muppet Show' and 'Fraggle Rock'
20	8 Jan 1992	U.S. President George H.W. Bush vomited and collapsed at a state dinner at the Prime Minister's residence in Tokyo, Japan. (Gastric flu)
20	9 Jan 1992	Britain's most senior policewoman, Alison Halford, was suspended over allegations of misconduct. (Charges later dropped; she retired that year)
20	9 Jan 1992	Death of Bill Naughton, Irish-born British playwright ('Alfie', 'Spring and Port Wine', 'The Family Way', and other works)
20	10 Jan 1992	An IRA bomb concealed in a briefcase exploded in Whitehall, London
20	11 Jan 1992	American singer Paul Simon became the first major artist to perform in South Africa following the lifting of the United Nations cultural boycott
20	12 Jan 1992	The citizens of Mali unanimously approved a new constitution, which replaced the one-party system with a multi-party democracy
20	15 Jan 1992	The European Community officially recognised Croatia and Slovenia, which were formerly part of the Yugoslav Federation
20	16 Jan 1992	The Chapultepec Peace Accords were signed in Mexico, ending the 12-year civil war in El Salvador

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Ann.	Date	Event
20	17 Jan 1992	The Japanese Prime Minister, Kiichi Miyazawa, formally apologised for Japan's actions in forcing tens of thousands of Korean 'comfort women' to have sex with Japanese soldiers during WWII
20	21 Jan 1992	The United Nations ordered Libya to hand over two intelligence agents accused of the Lockerbie airliner bombing. (Sanctions were later imposed, and remained in place until the agents were surrendered in April 1999)
20	22 Jan 1992	Zaire's national radio station in Kinshasa was seized by rebel forces, who then broadcast a demand for the government's resignation
20	22 Jan 1992	Roberta Bondar became the first Canadian woman in space, aboard the space shuttle Discovery
20	23 Jan 1992	Death of Freddie Bartholomew, Irish-born British child actor who became a major Hollywood star ('David Copperfield', 'Anna Karenina', 'Little Lord Fauntleroy', 'Swiss Family Robinson', 'Tom Brown's School Days')
20	26 Jan 1992	Russian President Boris Yeltsin announced that the country would stop targeting U.S. cities with nuclear weapons
20	26 Jan 1992	Death of José Ferrer, Academy Award-winning Puerto Rican-born American actor and director ('Cyrano de Bergerac')
20	29 Jan 1992	Death of Willie Dixon, influential American blues bassist, singer, songwriter and record producer
15	1 Jan 1997	Kofi Annan from Ghana was appointed Secretary-General of the United Nations
15	8 Jan 1997	Russian President Boris Yeltsin was admitted to hospital suffering from double pneumonia. (Released 20 th)
15	9 Jan 1997	British yachtsman Tony Bullimore was rescued 5 days after his boat 'Exide Challenger' capsized in the Southern Ocean during a round-the-world race
15	15 Jan 1997	Israel agreed to hand over 80% of the city of Hebron and parts of the West Bank to the Palestinians
15	15 Jan 1997	Princess Diana walked through a minefield in Angola, visited victims, and called for an international ban on landmines
15	17 Jan 1997	An Irish court granted a terminally ill man the first divorce in the country's history. (Divorce was legalised in Ireland on 27 th Feb 1997)
15	17 Jan 1997	Norwegian explorer Børge Ousland became the first person to cross Antarctica solo
15	17 Jan 1997	Former Belarusian police chief Szymon Serafinowicz, the first person to be charged with war crimes in Britain, was found unfit to stand trial
15	17 Jan 1997	Death of Clyde Tombaugh, American astronomer who discovered the dwarf planet Pluto
15	19 Jan 1997	Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat returned to Hebron after more than 30 years, following Israel's withdrawal (see 15 th above)
15	21 Jan 1997	Newt Gingrich, the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, was disciplined and fined \$300,000 for ethical misconduct
15	21 Jan 1997	Death of Colonel Tom Parker, Dutch-born American show business promoter, Elvis Presley's manager

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15	23 Jan 1997	Madeleine Albright became the USA's first female Secretary of State
15	23 Jan 1997	A British woman, Muriel Simpson, was awarded a record £186,000 damages after developing Repetitive Strain Injury (RSI) through her job as a machine operator. 3 years earlier a High Court judge had dismissed RSI as meaningless and said it had no place in medical textbooks
10	1 Jan 2002	The euro became the official currency of Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain
10	2 Jan 2002	Eduardo Duhalde was appointed President of Argentina
10	2 Jan 2002	Levy Mwanawasa was sworn in as President of Zambia
10	3 Jan 2002	Death of Juan García Esquivel, Mexican bandleader and composer
10	3 Jan 2002	Death of Alfred ('Freddy') Heineken, Dutch brewery executive who turned the company into a worldwide brand using innovative marketing
10	7 Jan 2002	Death of Jon Lee, British rock drummer (Feeder)
10	8 Jan 2002	Death of Alexander Prokhorov, Australian-born Russian physicist, one of the founders of quantum electronics, joint winner of the 1964 Nobel Prize for Physics for research that led to the development of the laser
10	8 Jan 2002	Death of Dave Thomas, American businessman, founder of the Wendy's fast-food restaurant chain
10	12 Jan 2002	Death of 'Professor' Stanley Unwin, South African-born British comedian and comic writer, best known for his gobbledegook language 'Unwinese'
10	13 Jan 2002	The off-Broadway musical 'The Fantasticks' ended after a run of almost 42 years and over 17,000 shows
10	13 Jan 2002	Death of Edward ('Ted') Demme, American film director
10	13 Jan 2002	Death of Frank Shuster, Canadian comedian, best known for his partnership with Johnny Wayne as the comedy duo 'Wayne and Shuster'
10	14 Jan 2002	The EU declared the UK free of foot-and-mouth disease after no new cases had been reported for 3 months. However, the ban on meat exports remained in place until September
10	16 Jan 2002	The UN Security Council froze the assets of Osama bin Laden, Al-Qaeda and the Taliban, and placed an embargo on the supply and sale of arms and military assistance
10	16 Jan 2002	Death of Carl ('Bobo') Olson, American boxer, middleweight champion of the world 1953-55
10	16 Jan 2002	Death of Ron Taylor, American actor and writer
10	17 Jan 2002	Mount Nyiragongo in the Democratic Republic of the Congo erupted, destroying part of the city of Goma. 400,000 people were evacuated, 120,000 left homeless, and about 45 killed
10	17 Jan 2002	Death of Camilo José Cela, influential Spanish writer, winner of the 1989 Nobel Prize for Literature
10	20 Jan 2002	The U.S. Military sparked outrage when it released photos of shackled and masked al-Qaeda and Taliban suspects being held at Camp X-Ray, Guantanamo Bay detention centre, Cuba

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Ann.	Date	Event
10	21 Jan 2002	Death of Peggy Lee, American pop and jazz singer and songwriter
10	22 Jan 2002	AOL Time Warner sued Microsoft for bundling the Internet Explorer web browser with Windows and harming the market for Netscape Navigator
10	23 Jan 2002	The Wall Street Journal's South Asia reporter Daniel Pearl was kidnapped in Karachi, Pakistan. (Later killed by his captors – see 21 st February)
10	23 Jan 2002	Death of Pierre Bourdieu, French sociologist
10	23 Jan 2002	Death of Robert Nozick, American philosopher, best known for his book 'Anarchy, State, and Utopia' a rigorous defence of libertarianism
10	28 Jan 2002	Death of Astrid Lindgren, Swedish children's writer, best known as the creator of Pippi Longstocking
10	29 Jan 2002	Death of Harold Russell, Canadian-born American actor, the only actor to win two Academy Awards for the same role – as Homer Parrish in 'The Best Years of Our Lives'
10	29 Jan 2002	Death of Dick Lane ('Night Train'), American football player
10	31 Jan 2002	The Larsen B Ice Shelf in Antarctica began to collapse. The whole 1,260 sq mile (3,265 sq km) structure disintegrated over the next 35 days

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