

*The Date-A-Base Book*  
**2017**

*Free Sample Edition*  
*Contains January 2017 only*

**ideas4writers**

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## *Introduction*

Welcome to the tenth edition of The Date-A-Base Book!

As always, every entry has been cross-checked with Encyclopaedia Britannica, official websites and other sources. This is not an easy process as there's an awful lot of 'disinformation' out there, and it's definitely getting worse. Whenever 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 entry 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, and where appropriate, 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 number of worthy people to choose from, we elected to list only those who are included in Encyclopaedia Britannica, or those 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 and heads of state.

It was not possible to include every significant event from every war. 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.

We used the currency exchange rates that were in effect on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015.

### *How to use this book*

The **Ann.** column gives the anniversary of each entry, so 400 means the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that event. The date on which the event took place 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 or at a different time. You could also use an event, or a series of them, as background detail in a novel or screenplay. Have your characters think about the events, and talk about them. Perhaps they could influence an event, or be influenced by it.

What most editors, publishers, broadcasters and producers are looking for is something original; something that hasn't been done before. They don't (necessarily) 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 – though it's always worth making an enquiry just in case. But

you'll probably have more success if you 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 the more general features.

If you're writing about a person, don't just focus on his accomplishments; have a look at the other things going on in his 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 websites related to that interest, so that's a good first market to aim for.

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. Then 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 of them will even pay you. And don't limit yourself to your own country – there's a whole world out there that's 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 print – or on stage or 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 the next edition of *The Date-A-Base Book* as soon as it becomes available!

You could make a very good career out of writing anniversary-based articles. You'll find lots more information in our book *Ditch Your Day Job! - the easiest way to make a living as a writer*. You can download it for free from our website ([www.ideas4writers.co.uk](http://www.ideas4writers.co.uk)). If you have friends who talk about wanting to write but their work keeps getting in the way, you might like to tell them about it.

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## JANUARY 2017

Ann.	Date	Event
400	1 Jan 1617	Death of Hendrik Goltzius, influential Dutch printmaker, artist and draughtsman. The leading Dutch engraver of the Mannerist school.
300	4 Jan 1717	Britain, France and the Dutch Republic (now the Netherlands) signed a Triple Alliance with the aim of preventing Spain from becoming a super-power in Europe. The Holy Roman Empire and Savoy (now part of Italy) joined later. This led to the War of the Quadruple Alliance (1718–20).
300	28 Jan 1717	Birth of Mustafa III, Sultan of the Ottoman Empire (1757–74).
300	29 Jan 1717	Birth of Jeffery Amherst, 1 <sup>st</sup> Baron Amherst, British army commander and field marshal. Best known for capturing the territory which later became Canada in the French and Indian War. First Governor of the Province of Quebec (1760–63).
250	1 Jan 1767 or 1768?	Birth of Maria Edgeworth, British-born Irish novelist and children's writer. She played a significant part in the evolution of the novel in Europe.
250	5 Jan 1767	Birth of Jean-Baptiste Say, French economist and businessman. Best known for Say's Law (the law of the markets: supply creates its own demand), which is named after him.
250	7 Jan 1767	Death of Thomas Clap (also spelled Clapp), American rector and first President of Yale University (1740–66).
250	22 Jan 1767	Death of Johann Gottlob Lehmann, German geologist and mineralogist. Noted for his contributions to the development of stratigraphy (the study of rock layers and layering).
200	1 Jan 1817	Death of Martin Heinrich Klaproth, German chemist who discovered uranium, zirconium and cerium.
200	8 Jan 1817	Birth of Sir Theophilus Shepstone, British colonial statesman in South Africa. Best known for annexing the Transvaal and helping to instigate the Anglo-Zulu War.
200	19 Jan 1817 to 13 Feb	Spanish American wars of independence – the Crossing of the Andes. Argentine soldiers and Chilean exiles led by General José de San Martín secretly crossed the Andes to invade Chile (and later Peru), taking Spanish royalist forces by surprise.
175	6 Jan 1842 to 13 <sup>th</sup>	First Anglo-Afghan War – the retreat from Kabul. 4,500 British and Indian forces and their camp followers (a further 12,000 people) were forced to make a long retreat from Kabul and headed for the safety of a garrison in Jalalabad. They were intercepted and massacred by Afghan tribesmen. (Dr. William Brydon is widely reported to have been the only survivor, but about 115 people are known to have survived.)
150	1 Jan 1867	Birth of Lew Fields, American actor, comedian, theatre owner and producer. Best known for his comedy partnership with Joe Weber (Weber and Fields) who performed slapstick sketches in a fake Dutch dialect.
150	8 Jan 1867	All men (including African-Americans) in the District of Columbia, USA were granted the right to vote after the U.S. Senate overruled President Andrew Johnson's veto. This was the first law in U.S. history to grant voting rights to African-American men.
150	8 Jan 1867	Birth of Emily Greene Balch, American economist, sociologist, writer and pacifist. Noted for her work with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Winner of the 1946 Nobel Peace Prize.

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Ann.	Date	Event
150	11 Jan 1867	Death of Sir Stuart Donaldson, first Premier of the Colony of New South Wales, Australia (1856).
150	14 Jan 1867	Death of Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres, French Neoclassical artist. Known for his historical scenes and portraits.
150	17 Jan 1867	Birth of Carl Laemmle, pioneering German-born American film producer and distributor. Co-founder of Universal Pictures.
150	18 Jan 1867	Birth of Rubén Darío, influential Nicaraguan poet, journalist and diplomat. A leader of the Spanish American Modernismo literary movement.
150	21 Jan 1867	Birth of Maxime Weygand, Belgian-born French military commander in WWI and WWII. Noted for advising the French government to surrender to Germany in WWII, and for collaborating with the Germans as part of the Vichy France regime.
150	23 Jan 1867	Birth of Sergius I, Patriarch of Moscow (1943–44) and head of the Russian Orthodox Church (1925–43).
150	29 Jan 1867	Birth of Vicente Blasco Ibáñez, Spanish novelist, journalist and politician. Several of his novels were translated into English and adapted into Hollywood movies, most notably his WWI story <i>Los cuatro jinetes del Apocalipsis</i> ( <i>The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse</i> ).
150	30 Jan 1867	Death of Emperor Komei of Japan. Succeeded by his son Meiji.
125	1 Jan 1892	Ellis Island immigrant inspection station was officially opened in Upper New York Bay, USA. (It remained in operation until November 1954, by which time it had processed 12 million immigrants. It is now a museum and a part of the Statue of Liberty National Monument.)
125	1 Jan 1892	Birth of Artur Rodzinski, Croatian/Polish-born American conductor. He was renowned for his ability to rejuvenate and develop orchestras, but this often led to friction.
125	2 Jan 1892	Death of Sir George Biddell Airy, British mathematician and astronomer. Astronomer Royal (1835–81). He established Greenwich as the location of the prime meridian. He was criticised for Britain's failure to discover Neptune (the planet's existence and location had already been predicted by the British astronomer John Couch Adams).
125	3 Jan 1892	Birth of J. R. R. Tolkien, British novelist, poet, scholar and educator. Best known for his fantasy novels <i>The Hobbit</i> , <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> and <i>The Silmarillion</i> .
125	14 Jan 1892	Birth of Hal Roach, American film producer, director and writer. Best known for his comedies featuring Harold Lloyd, Will Rogers, Laurel & Hardy and <i>Our Gang</i> / <i>The Little Rascals</i> .
125	14 Jan 1892	Death of Prince Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence and Avondale, eldest son of King Edward VII of the United Kingdom (who was still the Prince of Wales at the time). Sometimes called 'the king Britain never had', he would, potentially, have succeeded his father, but died of influenza, aged 28. His grandmother, Queen Victoria, had reportedly been worried about his unsuitability for the throne. He was said to have frequented homosexual brothels, been in poor health due to heavy drinking, gout and venereal disease, and was suspected of being Jack the Ripper (though the evidence for the latter is somewhat flimsy).

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125	18 Jan 1892	Birth of Oliver Hardy, American comic actor (Laurel & Hardy).
125	31 Jan 1892	Birth of Eddie Cantor, popular American comedian, actor, singer, dancer and entertainer. A familiar figure on stage, radio and early television.
100	1 Jan 1917	Birth of Jule Gregory Charney, American meteorologist. Noted for his contributions to the development of weather prediction.
100	2 Jan 1917	Birth of Vera Zorina, German/Norwegian-born American ballerina, stage and film actress, choreographer and opera director.
100	2 Jan 1917	Death of Sir Edward Burnett Tylor, British cultural anthropologist. Best known for developing the field of cultural anthropology.
100	3 Jan 1917	Birth of Roger Williams Straus, Jr., American publisher. Co-founder of the Farrar, Straus & Giroux book publishing house.
100	3 Jan 1917	Birth of Vernon A. Walters, American Army officer and diplomat. Deputy Director of Central Intelligence (1972–76), U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations (1985–89), U.S. Ambassador to West Germany (1989–91).
100	5 Jan 1917	Birth of Jane Wyman, Academy Award-winning American film and television actress, singer and dancer ( <i>Johnny Belinda</i> [film], <i>Falcon Crest</i> [TV]). First wife of U.S. President Ronald Reagan.
100	7 Jan 1917	Birth of Ulysses Kay, American Neoclassical composer.
100	9 Jan 1917	World War I – the Battle of Rafa (Sinai–Palestine border). British Empire victory.
100	10 Jan 1917	Birth of Jerry Wexler, American record producer and music journalist. Co-owner of Atlantic records. Vice-president of Warner Brothers Records. He coined the term ‘rhythm and blues’ and signed and/or produced many of the biggest acts from the 1950s to the 1980s.
100	10 Jan 1917	Death of William F. Cody, (‘Buffalo Bill’), colourful American frontiersman and showman. Known for Buffalo Bill’s Wild West show, which made him a global star.
100	11 Jan 1917	World War I: German Foreign Secretary Arthur Zimmermann sent a coded telegram (the Zimmermann Telegram) to the German Ambassador in Mexico, proposing a German–Mexican alliance against the USA if the USA entered the war. The message was intercepted and decoded by the British, who passed the information to the USA where it caused public outrage (it was initially suspected to be a forgery propagated by the British). The USA entered the war in April.
100	16 Jan 1917	Death of George Dewey, American Admiral of the Navy (the highest ranked naval officer in U.S. history). Best known for his victory at the Battle of Manila Bay during the Spanish–American War.
100	18 Jan 1917	Birth of Wang Yung-ching, Taiwanese industrialist. Founder and chairman of the Formosa Plastics Group (the largest manufacturing conglomerate in Taiwan and one of the world’s largest suppliers of PVC).
100	19 Jan 1917	Silvertown explosion, London Borough of Newham, UK. 50 tons of TNT exploded when a fire broke out at a munitions factory that was making explosives for WWI. 73 people were killed and over 400 injured. The blast was heard 100 miles away and substantial damage was caused to the local area, with up to 70,000 properties damaged and 900 destroyed.

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100	22 Jan 1917	World War I: in a speech to the U.S. Senate, President Woodrow Wilson called for an end to the war in Europe, urging both sides to accept 'peace without victory'.
100	24 Jan 1917	Birth of Ernest Borgnine, Academy Award-winning American stage, film and television actor ( <i>From Here to Eternity</i> , <i>Bad Day at Black Rock</i> , <i>Marty</i> , <i>The Dirty Dozen</i> , <i>Ice Station Zebra</i> , <i>The Wild Bunch</i> , <i>The Poseidon Adventure</i> , <i>Airwolf</i> [TV series]).
100	25 Jan 1917	Birth of Ilya Prigogine, Russian-born Belgian physical chemist. Winner of the 1977 Nobel Prize for Chemistry for his work on non-equilibrium thermodynamics.
100	25 Jan 1917	Birth of Jânio da Silva Quadros, President of Brazil (1961 – resigned unexpectedly after 7 months).
100	29 Jan 1917	Birth of John Raitt, American stage and film actor and singer. Known for his baritone voice and powerful stage presence. Best known for his performances in musical theatre. Father of the singer Bonnie Raitt.
100	31 Jan 1917	World War I: Germany resumed unrestricted submarine warfare in the Atlantic and said it would attack any ships, including civilian passenger ships. (See also: 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 1917.)
90	7 Jan 1927	The transatlantic telephone service (between New York and London) became available for commercial use for the first time.
90	7 Jan 1927	The Harlem Globetrotters exhibition basketball team played their first game, in Hinckley, Illinois, USA.
90	9 Jan 1927	Laurier Palace Theatre fire, Montreal, Canada. 78 children were killed when a fire broke out in the movie theatre. (Most of them were killed by crushing or asphyxiation as they tried to flee the building in panic. The fire is thought to have been caused by a dropped cigarette.)
90	10 Jan 1927	The German première of Fritz Lang's epic science fiction film <i>Metropolis</i> . (U.S. première: 6 <sup>th</sup> March.)
90	10 Jan 1927	Birth of Johnnie Ray, influential American singer, songwriter and pianist. Hugely popular in the 1950s. Known for his early rock and roll style and wild stage persona. (Died 1990.)
90	15 Jan 1927	The first live sports broadcast on BBC radio: Teddy Wakelam commentated on the England vs. Wales rugby match from Twickenham. On 22 <sup>nd</sup> January the BBC also broadcast its first live commentary of a football match (Arsenal vs. Sheffield United).
90	17 Jan 1927	The original Dumbarton Bridge opened in San Francisco Bay, California, USA. It was the first bridge in the bay to carry vehicles. (It was replaced by a new bridge in October 1982.)
90	17 Jan 1927	Birth of Eartha Kitt, Emmy Award-winning American jazz/cabaret singer, dancer, and stage, film and television actress. Noted for her distinctive, sultry vocal style. She also played Catwoman in the 1960s TV series <i>Batman</i> . (Died 2008.)
90	17 Jan 1927	Death of Juliette Gordon Low, founder of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America.
90	24 Jan 1927	Nicaraguan Civil War: the first 400 U.S. Marines arrived in Nicaragua. (The war ended in May, but some U.S. forces remained until Dec 1932.)



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90	27 Jan 1927	The company that later became CBS was founded in the USA. United Independent Broadcasters began as a radio network with 16 stations, but soon ran into funding difficulties. The Columbia Phonograph Company rescued it, and the network was renamed Columbia Phonographic Broadcasting System. Columbia soon pulled out due to the high costs, but the name stuck. It was shortened to Columbia Broadcasting System in 1928 and CBS in 1974.
90	28 Jan 1927	Birth of Ronnie Scott, British jazz saxophonist and entrepreneur. Co-founder of Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club in London – one of the world's most famous jazz venues. (Died 1996.)
90	30 Jan 1927	Birth of Olof Palme, Prime Minister of Sweden (1969–76, 1982–86). (Assassinated 1986.)
80	1 Jan 1937	The first Cotton Bowl Classic (American college football) game was played, in Dallas, Texas.
80	1 Jan 1937	Speedometers, and safety glass in windscreens became compulsory in all vehicles in Britain.
80	6 Jan 1937	Birth of Doris Troy, American R&B / soul singer. (Died 2004.)
80	6 Jan 1937	Death of André Bessette, (Blessed Brother André), Canadian saint (canonised 17 <sup>th</sup> October 2010).
80	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.
80	20 Jan 1937	Franklin D. Roosevelt was inaugurated as President of the United States for a second term. (This was the first inauguration to take place on 20 <sup>th</sup> January. Earlier inaugurations were on 4 <sup>th</sup> March.)
80	20 Jan 1937	The lowest temperature ever recorded in the U.S. state of California: -45 °F (-43 °C) in Boca.
80	23 Jan 1937 to 30 <sup>th</sup>	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.
80	25 Jan 1937	The first episode of the American soap opera <i>Guiding Light</i> was broadcast on NBC radio (as <i>The Guiding Light</i> ). It transferred to television in 1952 and ran until 2009.
80	26 Jan 1937	Birth of Joseph Saidu Momoh, President of Sierra Leone (1985–92). (Died 2003.)
80	31 Jan 1937	Birth of Suzanne Pleshette, American stage, film and television actress. Best remembered for her role in the TV sitcom <i>The Bob Newhart Show</i> . She also appeared in numerous films (including Hitchcock's <i>The Birds</i> ) and TV movies, and had guest roles in many TV series. (Died 2008.)
75	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.
75	1 Jan 1942	Capitol Records released its first 9 records.
75	2 Jan 1942	World War II: Japanese forces captured Manila, the capital of the Philippines.

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Ann.	Date	Event
75	2 Jan 1942	The FBI convicted all 33 members of the Duquesne Spy Ring, in the largest espionage case in U.S. history. The German spies were sentenced to a total of over 300 years in prison.
75	2 Jan 1942	The U.S. Navy opened a blimp base at Lakehurst, New Jersey.
75	3 Jan 1942	Birth of John Thaw, British actor ( <i>The Sweeney, Inspector Morse, Kavanagh QC</i> , and many others). (Died 2002.)
75	5 Jan 1942 or 6 <sup>th</sup> ?	Death of Tina Modotti, Italian photographer, model, actress and political activist. Framed for the murder of her Cuban lover, but later acquitted. (Died of congestive heart failure, aged 45, though some consider her death suspicious – there are rumours that she was poisoned.)
75	6 Jan 1942	Pan American Airways' <i>Pacific Clipper</i> flying boat completed the first round-the-world trip by a commercial plane.
75	6 Jan 1942	Death of Count Henri de Baillet-Latour, Belgian aristocrat. President of the International Olympic Committee (1925–42).
75	6 Jan 1942	Death of Emma Calvé, famous French operatic soprano. Renowned for her performances as the title character in Bizet's opera <i>Carmen</i> .
75	7 Jan 1942 to 9 Apr	World War II – the Battle of Bataan (Philippines). Japanese victory.
75	7 Jan 1942	World War II: the Allies began bombing military targets in Bangkok, Thailand, even though the country had not yet joined the war. (Japan had invaded Thailand in December 1941. As a result, the Thai government agreed to an alliance with Japan and allowed it to use the country as a staging post for attacks on Burma and Malaya. Thailand declared war on Britain and the USA on 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan after further air raids.)
75	10 Jan 1942	World War II: Japan declared war on the Netherlands.
75	11 Jan 1942	World War II: Japan invaded the Dutch East Indies and captured Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
75	11 Jan 1942	Birth of Leo Cullum, popular American cartoonist whose work frequently appeared in <i>The New Yorker, Harvard Business Review</i> and <i>Barron's</i> . Particularly noted for his gag cartoons featuring animals. (Died 2010.)
75	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.
75	13 Jan 1942	The first person to use an ejection seat to escape from a stricken aircraft: German test pilot Helmut Schenk ejected from his Heinkel He 280 jet fighter after it iced up and became inoperable.
75	13 Jan 1942	The pioneering American car manufacturer Henry Ford was granted a U.S. patent for a method of constructing car bodies from soy-based plastic.
75	14 Jan 1942	World War II: U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued a proclamation ordering 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. (See also: 19 <sup>th</sup> February 1942.)
75	16 Jan 1942	Death of Carole Lombard, American actress. Noted for her comedy roles in a string of successful 1930s Hollywood movies. (Killed in a plane crash while promoting war bonds).

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Ann.	Date	Event
75	16 Jan 1942	World War II: Japan began its invasion of Burma (now Myanmar).
75	16 Jan 1942	Death of Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, British military officer. Governor General of Canada (1911–16). Third son of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert.
75	17 Jan 1942	Birth of Nancy Parsons, American actress. Best known for her role as Beulah Balbricker in the film <i>Porky's</i> and its sequels. (Died 2001.)
75	17 Jan 1942	Death of Walther von Reichenau, German field marshal and Nazi war criminal who commanded his forces to commit atrocities against the Jews during WWII.
75	20 Jan 1942	Holocaust: the infamous Wannsee Conference was held in Germany. Nazi officials met to plan the 'final solution to the Jewish question'.
75	20 Jan 1942	Birth of William Powell, American R&B singer (The O'Jays). (Died 1977.)
75	21 Jan 1942	Pinball machines were banned in New York City by the mayor, Fiorello H. La Guardia, who declared them a game of chance operated by racketeers who were robbing schoolchildren of their cash. Thousands of the machines were seized by police, broken up with sledgehammers, and dumped in rivers. Other U.S. cities soon followed suit. The ban remained in force until 1976 when an amusement operator demonstrated that they were games of skill by calling out what he was aiming for and then hitting it. (He reportedly said later that his apparent skill in the courtroom demonstration had actually been down to sheer luck.)
75	21 Jan 1942	Birth of Edwin Starr, American soul singer. Best known for the song <i>War</i> . (Died 2003.)
75	23 Jan 1942 to Feb	World War II – the Battle of Rabaul (New Guinea). Japanese victory.
75	25 Jan 1942	World War II: Thailand declared war on Britain and the USA. Britain declared war on Thailand in exchange. The USA refused to recognise Thailand's declaration of war as it was under Japanese occupation.
75	25 Jan 1942	Birth of Bobby Willis, British songwriter and show business manager. Best known for managing his wife Cilla Black's musical and television career. (Died 1999.)
75	26 Jan 1942	World War II: the first U.S. troops arrived in Europe. 4,508 soldiers from the 34 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment docked in Belfast, Northern Ireland.
75	27 Jan 1942 or 28 <sup>th</sup> ?	Death of Kaarel Eenpalu, Prime Minister of Estonia (1938–39). (Died in a Soviet prison camp after being deported when the Soviet Union occupied Estonia.)
75	28 Jan 1942	The Roberts Commission investigation into the circumstances of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor presented its findings to the U.S. Senate. It placed most of the blame for the USA's lack of preparedness for the attack on Admiral Husband E. Kimmel, commander of the U.S. Navy, and General Walter C. Short, commander of the U.S. Army. It found them both guilty of dereliction of duty. (They were exonerated in 1999, but their full wartime ranks were not restored.)
75	29 Jan 1942	The first episode of <i>Desert Island Discs</i> was broadcast on BBC radio in the UK. It is Britain's longest-running radio show.

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Ann.	Date	Event
75	30 Jan 1942 to 3 Feb	World War II – the Battle of Ambon (Dutch East Indies – now Indonesia). Japanese victory. Following the battle, the Japanese executed more than 300 Australian and Dutch prisoners of war (the Laha massacre) – several Japanese officers were executed for war crimes as a result, in 1946.
75	31 Jan 1942	World War II – the Malayan Campaign ended. Japanese victory. The Allies were forced to retreat to Singapore, which the Japanese quickly invaded and captured. (See: 8 <sup>th</sup> February 1942.)
75	31 Jan 1942	Birth of Derek Jarman, British avant-garde filmmaker ( <i>Jubilee</i> , <i>The Tempest</i> , <i>Caravaggio</i> , <i>War Requiem</i> , <i>Edward II</i> and more). (Died 1994.)
70	1 Jan 1947	The Canadian Citizenship Act 1946 came into effect. British subjects born in Canada, or who had lived there for the previous 20 years, became Canadian citizens. The first Canadian citizenship certificate was awarded to the Prime Minister, William Lyon Mackenzie King (on 3 <sup>rd</sup> January).
70	1 Jan 1947	The U.S. and British occupation zones in Germany were unified to form the Bizone. In April 1949 the French zone was added, forming the Trizone, which became the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) in May.
70	3 Jan 1947	Proceedings of the U.S. Congress were televised for the first time.
70	6 Jan 1947	U.S. President Harry S. Truman gave the first televised State of the Union address.
70	14 Jan 1947	Birth of Bill Werbeniuk, Canadian snooker and pool player. (Died 2003.)
70	22 Jan 1947	Paul Ramadier became Prime Minister of France (until November).
70	24 Jan 1947	Dimitrios Maximos became Prime Minister of Greece (until August).
70	24 Jan 1947	Birth of Warren Zevon, American rock singer, songwriter and musician. (Died 2003.)
70	25 Jan 1947	Death of Al Capone, famous American gangster.
70	30 Jan 1947	Birth of Steve Marriott, British rock singer, musician, songwriter and record producer (Small Faces, Humble Pie). (Died 1991.)
65	14 Jan 1952	The first episode of <i>Today</i> (also known as <i>The Today Show</i> ) was broadcast on NBC TV in the USA.
65	18 Jan 1952	Death of Curly Howard, American comedian and actor (The Three Stooges).
65	20 Jan 1952	Edgar Faure became Prime Minister of France.
65	24 Jan 1952	Vincent Massey became the first Canadian-born Governor-General of Canada.
65	26 Jan 1952	Suez Canal Zone – Cairo riots, Egypt (Black Saturday). At least 20 people were killed and 200 injured in anti-British riots. (The previous day British troops had seized control of the town of Ismailia, killing about 50 police officers when they refused to surrender.)
65	30 Jan 1952	The first successful identification of a Mersenne prime number using an electronic digital computer. M521 was identified by the U.S. National Bureau of Standards Western Automatic Computer, at the Institute for Numerical Analysis, University of California, Los Angeles. (It also found M607 two hours later and several more over the following months. They were the first new Mersenne primes to be discovered in 38 years.)

## JANUARY 2017

Ann.	Date	Event
60	1 Jan 1957	Border Campaign (also known as Operation Harvest) – the IRA carried out a well-known raid on Brookeborough RUC barracks in County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland. Two IRA volunteers, Seán South and Fergal O’Hanlon, were shot dead. (Their lives are now commemorated in Irish Republican songs.)
60	2 Jan 1957	The Pacific Coast Stock Exchange (later known as the Pacific Exchange) was formed when the San Francisco and Los Angeles exchanges merged. (It was sold in 2005. It merged with the New York Stock Exchange in 2006.)
60	3 Jan 1957	The Hamilton Watch Company launched the world’s first electric watch – the Hamilton Electric 500. (Electric watches were succeeded by quartz watches in the 1970s.)
60	5 Jan 1957	The Eisenhower Doctrine: in a speech to Congress, U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower stated that Middle Eastern countries could request U.S. economic aid and military assistance if they were threatened with armed aggression by another state (specifically the Soviet Union). (This led to the USA’s intervention in the Lebanon Crisis in 1958.)
60	9 Jan 1957	The British Prime Minister, Anthony Eden, announced his immediate resignation due to health issues. He was succeeded by Harold Macmillan the following day.
60	10 Jan 1957	Death of Gabriela Mistral, Chilean poet, educator and diplomat. Winner of the 1945 Nobel Prize for Literature – the first Latin American and the only Latin American woman to win.
60	11 Jan 1957	The African Convention (a political party) was founded in Dakar, Senegal. (In 1958 it merged with the African Socialist Movement to form the African Regroupment Party. After a split, part of it merged with the Socialist Party of Senegal, which still exists, while the other part ceased to exist in 1960.)
60	14 Jan 1957	Death of Humphrey Bogart, Academy Award-winning American film actor. Noted for his tough-guy roles. His films include <i>The Maltese Falcon</i> , <i>Casablanca</i> , <i>The Big Sleep</i> , <i>Key Largo</i> , <i>The African Queen</i> and <i>The Caine Mutiny</i> . Husband of the actress Lauren Bacall.
60	16 Jan 1957 to 18 <sup>th</sup>	Operation Power Flite: the first non-stop around-the-world flight by a jet aircraft. Three Boeing B-52 Stratofortresses completed the flight in 45 hours and 19 minutes. (They required mid-air refuelling during the journey.)
60	16 Jan 1957	The Cavern Club opened in Liverpool, UK. Initially a jazz venue, it became an important rock venue when the Beatles played there during their early years.
60	16 Jan 1957	Death of Arturo Toscanini, acclaimed Italian conductor.
60	20 Jan 1957	Dwight D. Eisenhower was inaugurated as President of the United States for a second term. The ceremony took place in private as the date fell on a Sunday. It was repeated in public the following day.
60	22 Jan 1957	The ‘Mad Bomber’ (George Metesky) was arrested in Waterbury, Connecticut, USA. He had terrorised New York City since 1940, planting more than 30 bombs. (He was found legally insane and incompetent to stand trial, and in April he was committed to a hospital for the criminally insane. Released 1973.)
60	22 Jan 1957	The first pre-recorded television show to be broadcast nationally in the USA: the NBC game show <i>Truth or Consequences</i> .

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Ann.	Date	Event
60	23 Jan 1957	The American toy company Wham-O produced the first Frisbee flying discs. (They were initially known as Pluto Platters but were renamed Frisbees in 1958.)
60	25 Jan 1957	Death of Kiyoshi Shiga, Japanese physician and bacteriologist. Best known for discovering the dysentery bacillus <i>Shigella</i> , which is named after him.
60	30 Jan 1957	Birth of Payne Stewart, American golfer. (Died 1999.)
50	1 Jan 1967	Birth of Derrick Thomas, popular American football player (Kansas City Chiefs). Also noted for his charity work. (Died 2000.)
50	3 Jan 1967	Edward Brooke of Massachusetts took office as the first African American Senator to be popularly elected.
50	3 Jan 1967	Death of Mary Garden, Scottish-born American operatic soprano and actress. A major figure in American opera.
50	3 Jan 1967	Death of Jack Ruby, American nightclub owner who shot and killed Lee Harvey Oswald two days after the latter was arrested for the assassination of U.S. President John F. Kennedy.
50	4 Jan 1967	Death of Donald Campbell, British car and motorboat driver who broke 8 world speed records on land and water, emulating his father, Sir Malcolm Campbell. (Killed on Coniston Water while attempting to break the world water speed record.)
50	5 Jan 1967	Radio Ceylon became the Ceylon Broadcasting Corporation (now the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation).
50	6 Jan 1967 to 15 <sup>th</sup>	Vietnam War – Operation Deckhouse Five. U.S. and South Vietnamese Marines conducted a 10-day sweep of the Mekong River delta. The results were disappointing; the Viet Cong had apparently been pre-warned of the attack and their largest units had already left the area.
50	12 Jan 1967	American psychology professor James Bedford became the first person to have his body cryonically preserved (frozen) following his death, with the intention of future resuscitation.
50	14 Jan 1967	The Human Be-In took place in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California, USA. The gathering of 20,000 (or 30,000) counterculture tribes, gurus and rock musicians was a prelude to the Summer of Love.
50	15 Jan 1967	The first Super Bowl was played. The Green Bay Packers beat the Kansas City Chiefs 35–10 at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum in California.
50	15 Jan 1967	Death of David Burliuk (also spelled Burlyuk), Ukrainian artist, poet, critic and publisher. Regarded as the father of Russian Futurism.
50	16 Jan 1967	Alan Stephenson Boyd became the first U.S. Secretary of Transportation.
50	16 Jan 1967	Death of Robert J. Van de Graaff, prize-winning American physicist and educator. Best known for inventing the Van de Graaff generator, which generates a high-voltage electrostatic charge.
50	18 Jan 1967	The 'Boston Strangler' (Albert DeSalvo) was sentenced to life in prison for murdering 13 women in Boston, Massachusetts, USA.
50	21 Jan 1967	Death of Ann Sheridan, American film and television actress. Best known for the films <i>Angels with Dirty Faces</i> , <i>The Man Who Came to Dinner</i> , <i>Kings Row</i> and <i>I Was a Male War Bride</i> .

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Ann.	Date	Event
50	23 Jan 1967	Diplomatic relations were established between the Soviet Union and the Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire).
50	27 Jan 1967	Apollo 1 tragedy: three U.S. astronauts (Gus Grissom, Ed White and Roger B. Chaffee) were killed when their command module caught fire during a pre-launch test at Cape Canaveral, Florida. (Cause: electric arcs from exposed/worn wiring, combined with a pure oxygen atmosphere.)
50	27 Jan 1967	The Outer Space Treaty was signed by the USA, UK and the Soviet Union. Countries which sign the treaty are barred from using space for anything other than peaceful purposes. The placement or testing of nuclear weapons in space is also banned. (The treaty came into effect on 10 <sup>th</sup> October 1967 and has now been signed by more than 100 countries.)
50	27 Jan 1967	Death of Alphonse Juin, French general and Marshal of France. A leading commander of the Free French during WWII. Noted for his opposition to Algerian independence – for which he was forcibly retired.
50	29 Jan 1967	The Mantra-Rock Dance, San Francisco, California, USA. Known as the 'ultimate high' and the 'major spiritual event of the San Francisco hippie era'. Organised by followers of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, the counterculture rock concert promoted and raised funds for the first Hare Krishna centre on the U.S. West Coast.
50	30 Jan 1967 or 31 <sup>st</sup> ?	Death of Eddie Tolan, American sprinter. Gold medallist in the 100m and 200m at the 1932 Olympics. The first black athlete to win 2 Olympic gold medals.
40	2 Jan 1977	Death of Errol Garner, American jazz/swing piano virtuoso and composer. Best known for the ballad <i>Misty</i> .
40	3 Jan 1977	Apple Computer, Inc. was incorporated. (It was renamed Apple Inc. in 2007.)
40	6 Jan 1977	Former British Home Secretary and Chancellor of the Exchequer Roy Jenkins became President of the European Commission. (He was the first – and only – Briton to hold this role.)
40	6 Jan 1977	British punk rock band the Sex Pistols were fired by their record company, EMI, after just 3 months because of their notorious behaviour. (They signed with A&M Records in March but were quickly fired again, and finally signed with Virgin Records in May.)
40	9 Jan 1977	Super Bowl XI: the Oakland Raiders beat the Minnesota Vikings 32–14 at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California.
40	14 Jan 1977	Death of Anthony Eden, 1 <sup>st</sup> Earl of Avon, British Prime Minister (1955–57). Foreign Secretary during WWII. Noted for his opposition to appeasement, his diplomatic leadership, and the failure of his Middle East policy.
40	14 Jan 1977	Death of Peter Finch, award-winning British-born Australian stage and film actor ( <i>Far from the Madding Crowd</i> , <i>Sunday Bloody Sunday</i> , <i>Network</i> and more). The first actor to be awarded an Academy Award posthumously (for <i>Network</i> ).
40	14 Jan 1977	Death of Anaïs Nin, French-born Cuban American novelist, short story writer, essayist and diarist. Much of her work was published posthumously.

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Ann.	Date	Event
40	15 Jan 1977	Kälvesta air disaster, Stockholm, Sweden. Linjeflyg Flight 618 crashed on its approach to Stockholm Bromma Airport, killing all 22 people on board. (Cause: ice build-up on the tailplane.) It was the worst air crash in Swedish history.
40	17 Jan 1977	Death of Gary Gilmore, American criminal. (Executed – the first person in the USA to be executed following the reinstatement of the death penalty.)
40	17 Jan 1977	Death of Dougal Haston, Scottish mountaineer. A member of the first teams to climb the south face of Annapurna and to conquer Mount Everest by the south-west face. Director of the International School of Mountaineering in Leysin, Switzerland. (Killed by avalanche while skiing.)
40	18 Jan 1977	Granville rail disaster, Sydney, Australia. A crowded commuter train derailed and crashed into a bridge which collapsed onto two of the train's carriages. 83 people were killed and 210 injured. It was the worst rail disaster in Australia's history.
40	18 Jan 1977	The previously unknown Legionella bacterium (which causes Legionnaires' disease and Pontiac fever) was identified for the first time. It was found in the air conditioning system of the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, where the first recorded outbreak of Legionnaires' disease killed 34 people in July 1976.
40	19 Jan 1977	On his final day in office, U.S. President Gerald Ford pardoned Tokyo Rose (Iva Toguri D'Aquino), an American woman who made propaganda broadcasts for the Japanese during WWII.
40	19 Jan 1977	The first (and only) recorded snowfall in Miami, Florida, USA.
40	20 Jan 1977	Jimmy Carter was inaugurated as the 39 <sup>th</sup> President of the United States.
40	21 Jan 1977	On his second day in office, U.S. President Jimmy Carter pardoned all Vietnam War draft evaders, fulfilling one of his key campaign promises.
40	21 Jan 1977	Death of Sandro Penna, Italian poet. Noted for his moody, homoerotic imagery.
40	23 Jan 1977	The first episode of the TV mini-series <i>Roots</i> was broadcast on ABC in the USA. It was based on Alex Haley's novel <i>Roots: The Saga of an American Family</i> .
40	24 Jan 1977	Massacre of Atocha, Madrid, Spain. During Spain's transition to democracy, neo-fascist terrorists searching for Communist leader Joaquín Navarro entered a lawyers' office and (having failed to find him) opened fire with machine guns, killing 5 people and injuring 4.
40	28 Jan 1977 to 1 Feb	Great Lakes Blizzard of 1977. Parts of upstate New York and southern Ontario were crippled by a deadly blizzard. Up to 100 inches (2.54 metres) of snow fell in some areas, with drifts of up to 40 feet (12 metres). 28 (or 29) people were killed.
40	29 Jan 1977	Death of Freddie Prinze, American actor and stand-up comedian. Best known for his role in the television sitcom <i>Chico and the Man</i> . Father of the actor Freddie Prinze, Jr. (Probable suicide.)
40	31 Jan 1977	The Pompidou Centre was officially opened in Paris, France.
30	1 Jan 1987	A study published in <i>Nature</i> magazine found that all current human mitochondrial DNA originated from a single population from Africa.



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Ann.	Date	Event
30	5 Jan 1987	U.S. President Ronald Reagan underwent prostate surgery.
30	5 Jan 1987	Death of Margaret Laurence, Canadian novelist, short story writer and children's writer. One of the major figures in Canadian literature. Co-founder of the Writers' Trust of Canada.
30	9 Jan 1987	Iran–Contra Affair: the White House released a memo that had been prepared for President Ronald Reagan which showed a definite link between U.S. arms sales to Iran and the release of U.S. hostages held in Lebanon.
30	14 Jan 1987	Death of Douglas Sirk, German-born American film director. Best known for his popular Hollywood melodramas of the 1950s, including <i>Magnificent Obsession</i> , <i>All That Heaven Allows</i> , <i>There's Always Tomorrow</i> and <i>Written on the Wind</i> .
30	15 Jan 1987	Death of Ray Bolger, American actor and entertainer. Best known for his role as the Scarecrow in the classic film <i>The Wizard of Oz</i> .)
30	17 Jan 1987	Death of Hugo Fregonese, Argentine film director.
30	20 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.)
30	21 Jan 1987	American singer Aretha Franklin became the first woman to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.
30	22 Jan 1987	American politician R. Budd Dwyer, the Treasurer of Pennsylvania, shot and killed himself during a live televised press conference after being found guilty of receiving a bribe.
30	25 Jan 1987	Super Bowl XXI. The New York Giants beat the Denver Broncos 39–20 at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California.
30	27 Jan 1987 to 29 <sup>th</sup>	Military uprising in the Philippines (also known as the GMA-7 incident). Military rebels seized a TV station in Manila and attempted to capture an air force base. The uprising was swiftly suppressed by President Corazon Aquino. One rebel was killed.
30	31 Jan 1987	Death of Yves Allégret, French film director. Best known for his film noir works. Husband of the actress Simone Signoret.
25	1 Jan 1992	Boutros Boutros Ghali from Egypt was appointed Secretary-General of the United Nations.
25	1 Jan 1992	ESPN Radio, the American sports radio network, was officially launched.
25	1 Jan 1992	Death of Grace Hopper, pioneering American computer scientist, mathematician and naval officer.
25	2 Jan 1992	The Russian government lifted price controls on many items.
25	2 Jan 1992	George H. W. Bush became the first President of the United States to address the Australian Parliament.
25	3 Jan 1992	Death of Dame Judith Anderson, Emmy/Tony Award-winning Australian stage, film and television actress (she preferred the stage). In films she typically played evil/sinister matriarchs.

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Ann.	Date	Event
25	6 Jan 1992	The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) suspended the use of silicone breast implants over fears 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.)
25	7 Jan 1992	The term 'Personal Digital Assistant' (PDA) was used for the first time, by the CEO of Apple Computer, John Sculley. It describes a handheld computer with an LCD display, typically operated using a stylus. He was referring specifically to the Apple Newton PDA, which was announced at the 1992 Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas. (The first Apple Newton PDA was the MessagePad 100, released in August 1993.)
25	7 Jan 1992	Death of Richard Hunt, American puppeteer who performed on <i>Sesame Street</i> , <i>The Muppet Show</i> and <i>Fraggle Rock</i> .
25	8 Jan 1992	U.S. President George H. W. Bush vomited and collapsed at a state dinner at the Japanese Prime Minister's residence in Tokyo. (Gastric flu).
25	9 Jan 1992	The discovery of the first two confirmed exoplanets was announced by astronomers Aleksander Wolszczan and Dale Frail. The planets orbit the pulsar PSR B1257+12. (A third planet was confirmed there in 1994. Nearly 2,000 exoplanets have been discovered, orbiting over 1,200 stars.)
25	9 Jan 1992	Britain's most senior policewoman, Alison Halford, was suspended over allegations of misconduct. (Charges later dropped; she retired that year).
25	9 Jan 1992	Republika Srpska, a new state within Yugoslavia, was proclaimed by the Assembly of the Serb People in Bosnia and Herzegovina. (It officially became part of Bosnia and Herzegovina in December 1995.)
25	9 Jan 1992	Death of Bill Naughton, Irish-born British playwright ( <i>Alfie</i> , <i>Spring and Port Wine</i> , <i>The Family Way</i> and other works)
25	10 Jan 1992	An IRA bomb concealed in a briefcase exploded in Whitehall, London.
25	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
25	12 Jan 1992	In a referendum the people of Mali unanimously approved a new constitution, replacing the one-party system with a multi-party democracy.
25	15 Jan 1992	The European Community officially recognised Croatia and Slovenia, which were formerly part of the Yugoslav Federation.
25	16 Jan 1992	The Chapultepec Peace Accords were signed in Mexico, ending the 12-year civil war in El Salvador.
25	17 Jan 1992	An IRA bomb exploded next to a country road near Cookstown, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland, destroying a minibus carrying building contractors who were working for the British Army. 8 of them were killed and 6 seriously injured.
25	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.
25	21 Jan 1992	The United Nations ordered Libya to hand over two intelligence agents accused of the Lockerbie airliner bombing, or face sanctions. (Sanctions were imposed on 31 <sup>st</sup> March and remained in place until the agents were handed over in April 1999.)

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Ann.	Date	Event
25	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.
25	22 Jan 1992	Roberta Bondar became the first Canadian woman in space, aboard the U.S. space shuttle <i>Discovery</i> .
25	23 Jan 1992	Death of Freddie Bartholomew, Irish-born British child actor who became a major Hollywood star ( <i>David Copperfield</i> , <i>Anna Karenina</i> , <i>Little Lord Fauntleroy</i> , <i>Swiss Family Robinson</i> , <i>Tom Brown's School Days</i> ).
25	26 Jan 1992	Russian President Boris Yeltsin announced that Russia would stop targeting U.S. cities with nuclear weapons.
25	26 Jan 1992	Super Bowl XXVI. The Washington Redskins beat the Buffalo Bills 37–24 at the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome in Minneapolis, Minnesota.
25	26 Jan 1992	Death of José Ferrer, Academy Award-winning Puerto Rican-born American actor and director ( <i>Cyrano de Bergerac</i> ).
25	29 Jan 1992	Death of Willie Dixon, prolific American blues bassist, singer, songwriter and record producer who had a major influence on the sound of post-WWII Chicago blues.
25	30 Jan 1992	The Argentine government allowed access to its files on former Nazis who had fled to South America after WWII. This was a significant step in the hunt for Nazi war criminals. (Approximately 9,000 Nazis fled to South America – up to 5,000 of them went to Argentina.)
20	1 Jan 1997	Kofi Annan from Ghana was appointed Secretary-General of the United Nations.
20	1 Jan 1997	TV Parental Guidelines went into effect in the USA.
20	1 Jan 1997	Death of Townes Van Zandt, American country, folk and blues singer, songwriter and musician. Although he never enjoyed commercial success, his songs have been widely covered by other artists and he earned enormous respect from artists and critics. He was also noted for his drug issues, alcoholism, bipolar disorder and the loss of his long-term memory.
20	3 Jan 1997	The President of Somalia, Ali Mahdi Muhammad, resigned as autonomous entities were vying for power in the northern half of the country while other faction leaders vied for power in the south. This meant he could not exert any authority outside the capital. Somalia was officially without a president until August 2000. (General Mohamed Farrah Aidid claimed to be President from 15 <sup>th</sup> June 1995 until his death on 1 <sup>st</sup> August 1996. His son Hussein Farrah Aidid was then sworn in as 'interim president', but stepped down in December 1997.)
20	3 Jan 1997	China announced a \$27.7 billion (£18.7 billion) programme to combat soil erosion and pollution in the Yangtze and Yellow river valleys.
20	3 Jan 1997	American news anchor and sports broadcaster Bryant Gumbel left NBC's <i>The Today Show</i> after 15 years.
20	4 Jan 1997	Death of Harry Helmsley, American property magnate whose \$5 billion (£3.1 billion) portfolio included the Empire State Building in New York City. Husband of Leona Helmsley ('the Queen of Mean'). They were both charged with false accounting and tax evasion, for which Leona was convicted, fined and imprisoned at the end of a highly publicised trial, while Harry was found unfit to stand trial.

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Ann.	Date	Event
20	5 Jan 1997	Death of André Franquin, Belgian cartoonist. Creator of the popular characters Gaston Lagaffe and Marsupilami, who first appeared in the comic strip <i>Spirou et Fantasio</i> .
20	5 Jan 1997	Death of Burton Lane, American composer and lyricist. Best known for the musicals <i>Finian's Rainbow</i> and <i>On a Clear Day You Can See Forever</i> . He also wrote music for more than 30 films. As President of the American Guild of Authors and Composers he campaigned against music piracy.
20	7 Jan 1997	The video game <i>Tibia</i> was released. It was one of the earliest and most successful graphical massively multiplayer online role-playing games (MMORPGs). (It can still be played online and has thousands of active members, though the number has declined in recent years.)
20	7 Jan 1997	The Mosaic web browser, credited with popularising the World Wide Web, was discontinued by its developers, the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA). (Mosaic was first released in 1993.)
20	8 Jan 1997	Russian President Boris Yeltsin was admitted to hospital suffering from double pneumonia. Opposition politicians called for him to stand down as president. (He was released on 20 <sup>th</sup> January.)
20	8 Jan 1997	Death of Melvin Calvin, American biochemist. Winner of the 1961 Nobel Prize for Chemistry for discovering the chemical process by which carbon dioxide is assimilated in plants via photosynthesis (the Calvin cycle).
20	9 Jan 1997	British yachtsman Tony Bullimore was rescued 5 days after his boat <i>Exide Challenger</i> capsized in the Southern Ocean during a round-the-world race.
20	9 Jan 1997	Death of Edward Osóbka-Morawski, Prime Minister of Poland (1944–47).
20	10 Jan 1997	The Rwandan genocide trials began. At least 500,000 (some sources say 1 million) ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus were massacred during the 1994 civil war.
20	10 Jan 1997	Death of Elspeth Huxley, versatile British writer, journalist, travel writer, environmentalist and government adviser. Best known for her autobiographical novel <i>The Flame Trees of Thika</i> , based on her early life in colonial Kenya.
20	10 Jan 1997	Death of Alexander R. Todd, Baron Todd, British biochemist. Winner of the 1957 Nobel Prize for Chemistry for his research on the structure and synthesis of nucleotides and nucleotide co-enzymes.
20	11 Jan 1997	The first known case of a satellite being permanently disabled by solar radiation/magnetic storm. The failure of AT&T's \$200 million (£128 million) <i>Telstar 401</i> communications satellite, which relayed TV channels across the USA, was blamed on a coronal mass ejection which left the Sun on 6 <sup>th</sup> January and reached Earth on 10 <sup>th</sup> January.
20	11 Jan 1997 or 10 <sup>th</sup> ?	Death of Sheldon Leonard, pioneering American radio, film and television actor, producer and director. He appeared in numerous radio series including <i>The Jack Benny Program</i> , in films such as <i>Guys and Dolls</i> and <i>It's a Wonderful Life</i> , and produced popular television series including <i>The Andy Griffith Show</i> , <i>The Dick Van Dyke Show</i> and <i>I Spy</i> .
20	12 Jan 1997	Death of Charles B. Huggins, Canadian-born American surgeon, urologist and prostate cancer researcher. Joint winner of the 1966 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine for his discovery that the spread of certain types of cancer could be controlled using hormones.

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Ann.	Date	Event
20	13 Jan 1997	Abdalá Bucaram became the first President of Ecuador to make an official visit to Peru. (He was declared mentally unfit and forced out of office on 6 <sup>th</sup> February, and fled to Panama after being charged with corruption.)
20	15 Jan 1997	Princess Diana walked through a minefield in Angola, visited victims, and called for an international ban on landmines.
20	17 Jan 1997	The Hebron Agreement was signed. The city of Hebron was split into two sectors, with the larger part (about 80%) handed over to Palestine. (The smaller part is still controlled by the Israeli military.)
20	17 Jan 1997	The first person to be charged with war crimes in Britain, former Belarusian police chief Szymon Serafinowicz, was found unfit to stand trial.
20	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 <sup>th</sup> February 1997.)
20	17 Jan 1997	Norwegian explorer Børge Ousland became the first person to cross Antarctica solo.
20	17 Jan 1997	Death of Clyde Tombaugh, American astronomer who discovered the dwarf planet Pluto.
20	18 Jan 1997	Death of Paul Tsongas, American politician. Senator from Massachusetts (1979–85). He campaigned (unsuccessfully) for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1992.
20	19 Jan 1997	Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat returned to Hebron after more than 30 years, following Israel's withdrawal (see 17 <sup>th</sup> January 1997 above).
20	19 Jan 1997 or 18 <sup>th</sup> ?	Death of Adriana Caselotti, American voice actress and singer. Best known as the voice of Snow White in Disney's animated film <i>Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs</i> . The first woman to be named a Disney Legend.
20	19 Jan 1997	Death of James Dickey, award-winning American poet and novelist. U.S. Poet Laureate (1966). Apart from his poetry he is best known for his novel <i>Deliverance</i> .
20	20 Jan 1997	Bill Clinton was inaugurated as President of the United States for a second term.
20	20 Jan 1997	Death of Curt Flood, American baseball player. Best known for his career with the St. Louis Cardinals. He became a major figure in the fight against baseball's reserve clause when he refused to accept a trade and took his case to the Supreme Court.
20	21 Jan 1997	The speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Newt Gingrich, was disciplined and fined \$300,000 for ethical misconduct. He had used tax-exempt donations for political purposes and submitted false evidence to the House Ethics Committee.
20	21 Jan 1997	Death of Colonel Tom Parker, Dutch-born American show business promoter. Elvis Presley's manager.
20	22 Jan 1997	Lottie Williams of Oklahoma, USA became the first (and only) person known to have been hit by falling space debris. She was hit on the shoulder by a charred piece of woven fabric, later confirmed to be part of a fuel tank from a Delta II rocket that had launched a U.S. military satellite in 1996. (She was not injured.)

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Ann.	Date	Event
20	22 Jan 1997	Petar Stoyanov became President of Bulgaria.
20	22 Jan 1997	Death of Billy Mackenzie, Scottish post-punk / new wave singer (The Associates). (Suicide.)
20	22 Jan 1997	Death of Wally Whyton, British singer, songwriter, guitarist and radio/television presenter.
20	23 Jan 1997	Madeleine Albright became the first female U.S. Secretary of State.
20	23 Jan 1997	A British woman, Muriel Simpson, was awarded a record £186,000 (\$290,000) 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, saying it had no place in medical textbooks.
20	23 Jan 1997	Death of Richard Berry, American doo-wop / R&B singer, songwriter and musician. Best known for composing the rock standard <i>Louie, Louie</i> .
20	25 Jan 1997	Slovakian-born Swiss tennis player Martina Hingis, aged 16, won the Australian Open, becoming the youngest-ever women's grand slam champion.
20	25 Jan 1997	Death of Jeane Dixon, American astrologer and psychic. Although her predictions were often wrong, when she occasionally got them right they were highly publicised. She seemingly predicted the assassination of U.S. President John F. Kennedy seven years before it occurred (disputed).
20	26 Jan 1997	Super Bowl XXXI. The Green Bay Packers beat the New England Patriots 35–21 at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans.
15	1 Jan 2002	The euro became the official currency of Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain.
15	1 Jan 2002	The Treaty on Open Skies came into effect. It established a programme of mutual aerial surveillance flights over participating countries in an effort to promote openness and transparency of their military activities.
15	2 Jan 2002	Eduardo Duhalde was appointed President of Argentina.
15	2 Jan 2002	Levy Mwanawasa was sworn in as President of Zambia.
15	8 Jan 2002	The No Child Left Behind Act came into effect in the USA.
15	13 Jan 2002	The musical <i>The Fantasticks</i> ended its original Off-Broadway run after nearly 42 years and over 17,000 shows. (It opened in May 1960 and is the world's longest-running musical. An Off-Broadway revival opened in August 2006 and continues to run.)
15	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
15	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
15	17 Jan 2002	Mount Nyiragongo in the Democratic Republic of the Congo began erupting. About 15% of the city of Goma was destroyed, 120,000 were left homeless and 147 were killed. (On 21 <sup>st</sup> January lava set fire to a petrol station in Goma, causing a massive explosion that killed about 50 people who were attempting to siphon fuel from its storage tanks.)

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Ann.	Date	Event
15	18 Jan 2002	The Sierra Leone Civil War ended after 10 years. Commonwealth victory.
15	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.
15	22 Jan 2002	AOL Time Warner sued Microsoft for bundling the Internet Explorer web browser with Windows and harming the market for Netscape Navigator.
15	23 Jan 2002	<i>The Wall Street Journal's</i> South Asia reporter Daniel Pearl was kidnapped in Karachi, Pakistan. (Later killed by his captors – see 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2002.)
15	23 Jan 2002	Enron chairman and CEO Kenneth Lay resigned. (In May 2006 he was convicted of 6 counts of conspiracy and fraud which led to the company's collapse. He died before he could be sentenced.)
15	29 Jan 2002	U.S. President George W. Bush first used the term 'Axis of Evil' to describe countries which sponsor terrorism and seek weapons of mass destruction. (He used the term in his State of the Union address, referring specifically to Iran, Iraq and North Korea. In May, Undersecretary of State John R. Bolton added 3 more countries: Cuba, Libya, and Syria, describing the group as 'Beyond the Axis of Evil'.)
15	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.
10	1 Jan 2007	Bulgaria and Romania joined the European Union.
10	1 Jan 2007	Adam Air Flight 574 crashed near Sulawesi, Indonesia, killing all 102 people on board. (Cause: the pilots disengaged the autopilot while investigating a fault with the navigation system, became preoccupied with fixing the fault, and ignored an alarm warning that the plane was rolling.)
10	1 Jan 2007	Death of Tillie Olsen, American writer, social activist and feminist. Known for her stories about the lives of women, the poor, and minorities.
10	2 Jan 2007	Death of Teddy Kollek, Hungarian-born Israeli politician. As mayor of Jerusalem (1965–93) he was instrumental in developing the modern city.
10	3 Jan 2007	A National Express coach crashed near Heathrow Airport, UK, killing 2 people and injuring 66. (The driver was later jailed for 5 years for dangerous driving.)
10	3 Jan 2007	Death of János Fűrös, Hungarian conductor and violinist. Particularly noted for his roles as the Ulster Orchestra's first concertmaster, and as the Opéra de Marseille's music director.
10	4 Jan 2007	Nancy Pelosi became the first female Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.
10	4 Jan 2007	Death of Marais Viljoen, ceremonial State President of South Africa (1979–84).
10	5 Jan 2007	Death of Momofuku Ando, Taiwanese-born Japanese businessman. Inventor of instant noodles and Cup Noodles. Founder of Nissin Food Products Co.
10	6 Jan 2007	Death of 'Sneaky Pete' Kleinow, American country-rock pedal steel guitarist, songwriter and movie special effects artist. Best known as a member of the band the Flying Burrito Brothers. He was also a respected session musician who worked with some of the biggest names in music

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Ann.	Date	Event
10	7 Jan 2007	Death of Magnus Magnusson, Icelandic television presenter, writer and journalist. Best known for presenting the British TV quiz show <i>Mastermind</i> for 25 years.
10	8 Jan 2007	U.S. astronomers announced the discovery of the first triple quasar.
10	8 Jan 2007	Death of Jane Bolin, the first black female judge in the USA. She was also the first black woman to graduate from Yale Law School and the first to join the New York City Law Department.
10	8 Jan 2007	Death of Yvonne De Carlo, Canadian-born American actress, singer and dancer. Best known for her roles in the films <i>Salome</i> , <i>Where She Danced</i> , <i>Criss Cross</i> , <i>The Captain's Paradise</i> and <i>The Ten Commandments</i> , and for playing Lily Munster in the TV sitcom <i>The Munsters</i> .
10	8 Jan 2007	Death of David Ervine, Northern Irish unionist politician. As a member of the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) he was imprisoned for possessing bomb-making equipment. While in jail he saw the benefits of taking a more political approach, and later played a leading role in bringing about the loyalist ceasefire of 1994.
10	8 Jan 2007	Death of Iwao Takamoto, award-winning American animator, television producer and film director. Particularly noted for his work as a character designer for Walt Disney and Hanna-Barbera. Creator of Scooby-Doo.
10	9 Jan 2007	Apple Computer, Inc. was renamed Apple Inc.
10	9 Jan 2007	Apple Inc. released the Apple TV digital media player/receiver.
10	10 Jan 2007	Death of Carlo Ponti, Italian film producer ( <i>La Strada</i> , <i>War and Peace</i> , <i>Doctor Zhivago</i> and many others). Husband of actress Sophia Loren.
10	10 Jan 2007	Death of Bradford Washburn, American explorer, mountaineer, photographer and cartographer who mapped the Grand Canyon and founded the Boston Museum of Science.
10	11 Jan 2007	China destroyed its <i>Fengyun FY-1C</i> weather satellite in a ballistic missile test. It created more than 2,800 items of high-velocity space debris, and was widely condemned.
10	12 Jan 2007	Comet McNaught (also known as the Great Comet of 2007) reached perihelion (its closest approach to the Sun). It was the brightest comet visible from Earth for over 40 years and could be seen with the naked eye in broad daylight during January and February, particularly in the Southern Hemisphere.
10	12 Jan 2007	The first person was convicted under the USA's Can-Spam Act. Jeffrey Brett Goodin of California posed as AOL's billing department and sent thousands of bogus emails to users demanding that they 'update' their credit card details on his fake site or they would lose their internet service. (He faced 101 years in prison, but was sentenced to 70 months.)
10	12 Jan 2007	Death of Alice Coltrane, American jazz pianist, organist, harpist, composer and bandleader. Wife of the jazz saxophonist and composer John Coltrane.
10	13 Jan 2007	Death of Michael Brecker, influential Grammy Award-winning American jazz saxophonist and composer.
10	14 Jan 2007	Scientists at the Roslin Institute in Scotland announced that they had developed genetically engineered chickens whose eggs contained proteins needed for anti-cancer drugs.



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Ann.	Date	Event
10	15 Jan 2007	Death of James Hillier, Canadian-born American physicist. Co-inventor (with Albert Prebus) of the first commercially successful electron microscope.
10	15 Jan 2007	Death of Barbara Kelly, Canadian-born actress. Best known as a regular panellist on the British television quiz show <i>What's My Line?</i> She also hosted <i>Criss Cross Quiz</i> and appeared on several radio and television shows with her husband Bernard Braden.
10	15 Jan 2007	Death of Bo Yibo, Chinese politician and military leader. The last surviving member of the Eight Immortals (influential Communist Party leaders who survived Mao Zedong's purge during the Cultural Revolution and returned to help Deng Xiaoping's drive towards a market economy).
10	16 Jan 2007	Death of Benny Parsons, Emmy Award-winning American NASCAR driver and TV sports analyst and reporter.
10	17 Jan 2007	The Storm Worm (a Trojan horse that installs a backdoor on infected computers) began spreading on the internet. Within a week it had infected at least 1.6 million computers running the Windows operating system.
10	17 Jan 2007	Death of Art Buchwald, Pulitzer Prize-winning American humorist. Best known for his long-running satirical column in <i>The Washington Post</i> and other newspapers.
10	19 Jan 2007	Death of Hrant Dink, Turkish journalist and newspaper editor who campaigned for the rights of ethnic Armenians. Founder and editor of the Turkish–Armenian newspaper <i>Agos</i> . (Shot dead outside his office by a Turkish nationalist.)
10	19 Jan 2007	Death of Denny Doherty, Canadian singer and songwriter (The Mamas & the Papas).
10	22 Jan 2007	India's <i>SRE 1</i> unmanned space capsule returned to Earth after 12 days in orbit, splashing down in the Bay of Bengal. India became the third nation to be able to successfully launch and recover spacecraft.
10	22 Jan 2007	Death of Abbé Pierre, French Roman Catholic priest and social activist who championed the cause of the homeless. Founder of the Emmaus movement. A noted member of the French Resistance during WWII.
10	23 Jan 2007	Death of E. Howard Hunt, American intelligence officer and writer. He helped engineer the Watergate burglaries and other undercover operations for the Nixon administration. He was convicted of burglary, conspiracy and wiretapping in the Watergate Scandal and served 33 months in prison. He also worked for the CIA and was involved in the failed Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba.
10	23 Jan 2007	Death of Ryszard Kapuscinski, respected Polish journalist and writer. Particularly noted for his dispatches from Africa as it emerged from colonialism – he was the only Polish reporter stationed there. His work was translated into many languages.
10	26 Jan 2007	Death of Hans Wegner, renowned Danish furniture designer. Known for his sculpturally elegant yet functional chairs. He designed more than 500 chairs, of which more than 100 were put into mass production. Many became recognisable design icons.
10	28 Jan 2007	Death of Yelena Romanova, Russian middle-distance runner. Gold medallist at the 1992 Olympics (3,000 metres).

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Ann.	Date	Event
10	30 Jan 2007	Microsoft released its Windows Vista operating system.
10	30 Jan 2007	Death of Sidney Sheldon, Tony Award-winning American novelist and screenwriter. During his TV career he created popular shows including <i>The Patty Duke Show</i> , <i>I Dream of Jeannie</i> and <i>Hart to Hart</i> . He then became a best-selling crime/thriller novelist. His books include <i>Master of the Game</i> , <i>The Other Side of Midnight</i> and <i>Rage of Angels</i> .
10	31 Jan 2007	Death of Molly Ivins, American political satirist, journalist, columnist and writer.
10	31 Jan 2007	Death of Adelaide Tambo, South African anti-apartheid activist and politician. Widow of ANC President Oliver Tambo.

## End of Sample

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