

QUEEN ELIZABETH II: A LIFE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Head of State of the United Kingdom and 15 Commonwealth realms

During her reign, The Queen has conferred around 400,000 honours and awards

She has made 89 State visits to foreign governments

Made the first Royal walkabout on a visit to Australia and New Zealand in 1970

Became the first reigning Sovereign to have a child since Queen Victoria

Given weekly audiences to 12 British Prime Ministers, from Churchill to Cameron



■ **1926, Apr 21: Princess Elizabeth Alexandra Mary** born at 17 Bruton Street, Mayfair, London, first child of **Duke and Duchess of York**. Younger sister **Princess Margaret** born four years later

■ General strike brings Britain to a standstill. **John Logie Baird** invents television. **British Commonwealth of Nations** born

■ **1929: Wall Street Crash** triggers Great Depression of 1930s



■ **1933: Rise to power of Nazi leader Adolf Hitler.** Suppression of Jews begins in Germany under **Third Reich**



■ **1934: Mao Tse Tung** leads thousands of Chinese on **Long March**, from which he emerges as undisputed Communist Party leader in China

■ **1936: Abdication crisis** in Britain. Elizabeth's father becomes **King George VI**

■ **1939: World War II** begins when Hitler invades Poland – Britain and France declare war on Germany

■ **1940: Winston Churchill** becomes British Prime Minister. Nation suffers its darkest hours – Battle of Britain and Blitz on major cities

■ **1945, May 8:** German surrender ends war in Europe.

■ **Aug 14:** Second World War ends with Japanese surrender following atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

■ **1946:** Churchill's **Iron Curtain** speech marks onset of **Cold War**

■ **1947:** British rule in India ends. **Nov 20:** Princess Elizabeth marries Lieutenant **Philip Mountbatten** at Westminster Abbey



■ **1948:** New state of Israel proclaimed in Palestine. London hosts Olympic Games. First wave of Jamaican immigrants starts new life in UK. **Prince Charles** born

■ **1950: Princess Anne** born

■ **1952, Feb 6: King George VI dies.** Princess Elizabeth, on safari in Kenya, becomes Queen.



World's first commercial jet service flies from London to Johannesburg



■ **1953: Hillary and Tenzing** conquer Mount Everest. News reaches Britain one day before **Queen Elizabeth II** is crowned on June 2

■ **1954: Elvis Presley** releases his first record, *That's All Right*, signalling birth of rock 'n' roll. **Roger Bannister** becomes first man to run mile in under four minutes



■ **1956: Suez Crisis** – UN forces Britain and France to withdraw troops from Egypt

■ **1957:** France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg sign *Treaty of Rome* to create **European Common Market**

■ **1960: Prince Andrew** born

■ **1962: Cuban Missile Crisis.** U.S. President **John F. Kennedy** imposes blockade until Soviets dismantle nuclear weapons on Cuba

■ **1963:** Kennedy assassinated in Dallas, Texas

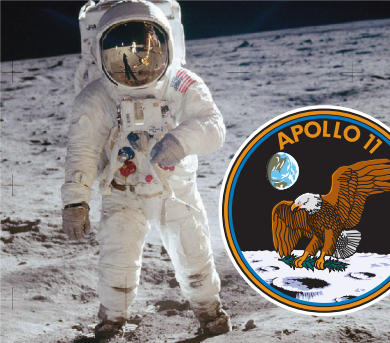
■ **1964: Prince Edward** born. Black activist **Nelson Mandela** jailed for life in South Africa



■ **1965:** U.S. troops sent into combat in Vietnam

■ **1966:** At height of *Swinging Sixties*, England football team beats West Germany to win *World Cup*

■ **1969:** British Army deployed to keep peace in Northern Ireland. *Concorde* makes maiden test flight. **Neil Armstrong** walks on moon – Queen's message of congratulations to *Apollo 11* astronauts is micro-filmed and left on moon in metal container



■ **1972:** Britain joins *European Economic Community*. Eleven members of Israeli team killed by Arab terrorists at Munich *Olympic Games*

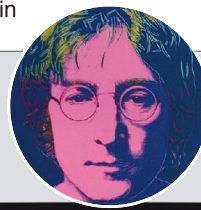
■ **1973: Vietnam War** ends

■ **1977:** Silver Jubilee celebrations mark Queen's first 25 years on throne

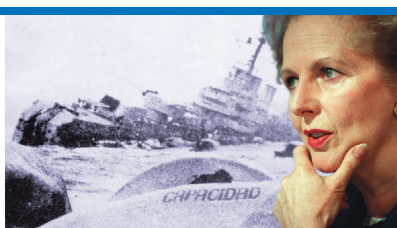
■ **1979: Margaret Thatcher** becomes Britain's first female Prime Minister. Queen's cousin, **Lord Mountbatten**, killed in IRA bomb attack

■ **1980: John Lennon** shot dead outside his home in New York

■ **1981:** First cases of AIDS reported in America's gay community.



■ **Jul 29:** Marriage of Prince Charles and **Lady Diana Spencer** watched by 700 million TV viewers worldwide



■ **1982:** Prime Minister Thatcher declares war on Argentina over Falkland Islands. **Princess of Wales** gives birth to **Prince William**

■ **1985: Mikhail Gorbachev** becomes leader of Soviet Union

■ **1986:** World's worst nuclear accident takes place at *Chernobyl*

■ **1988:** Bomb on *Pan Am flight 103* over Lockerbie kills 270 people

■ **1989:** Fall of *Berlin Wall*

■ **1990:** Nelson Mandela released after 27 years in prison



■ **1991: Gulf War** – allies evict Iraq from Kuwait. Collapse of Soviet Union

■ **1992:** “*Annus horribilis*” – marriage breakdowns of three of Queen's children, and fire at Windsor Castle

■ **1994: Channel Tunnel** opens

■ **1996:** Charles and Diana divorce



■ **1997: Dolly the sheep** becomes world's first cloned animal. **Aug 31: Diana, Princess of Wales** killed in car crash in Paris

■ **1998: Good Friday Agreement** paves way for peace settlement in Northern Ireland

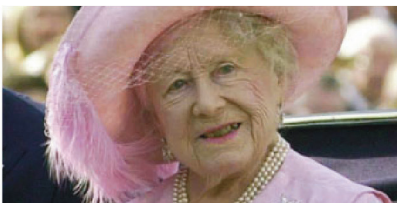
■ **1999:** Queen opens new *Welsh National Assembly* in Cardiff and *Scottish Parliament* in Edinburgh

■ **2000, Aug 4: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother** turns 100

■ **2001, Sep 11:** Terrorist attacks on New York and Washington



■ **2002: Euro** becomes legal tender in 12 EU countries. **Queen suffers double blow as Princess Margaret and then Queen Mother die at start of her Golden Jubilee year**



■ **2003:** U.S.-led invasion of Iraq

■ **2004:** Indian Ocean tsunami kills 230,000 people

■ **2005:** Prince Charles marries **Camilla Parker Bowles**. Suicide attacks in London kill 56 people

■ **2006:** NATO takes over security across Afghanistan, where conflict deaths rise four-fold over year

■ **2007:** Queen and Prince Philip celebrate 60th wedding anniversary

■ **2008: Barack Obama** elected President of United States

■ **2010:** Explosion on BP rig in Gulf of Mexico kills 11 workers and triggers largest ever maritime oil spill

■ **2011:** Royal Wedding of **Prince William** to **Catherine Middleton**. Queen Elizabeth II makes first state visit to Ireland by reigning British monarch since before independence

