

# 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 over 400,000 honours and awards

State visits to 117 countries – travelling more than one million miles

She has received 113 visiting Heads of State

Her Majesty is patron of more than 600 charities and institutions

Weekly audiences with 14 British Prime Ministers, from Churchill to Johnson



■ **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 for second time. 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



Pictures: Associated Press, Getty Images, NASA



■ **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

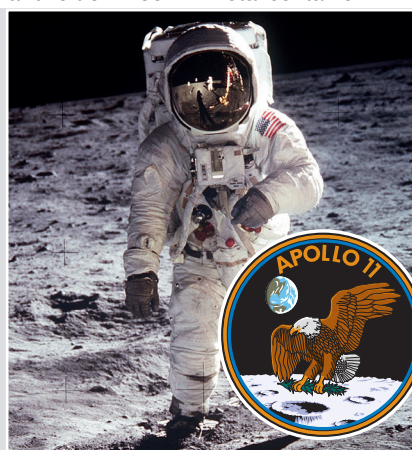
■ **1964: Prince Edward** born. Black activist **Nelson Mandela** jailed for life in South Africa



■ **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

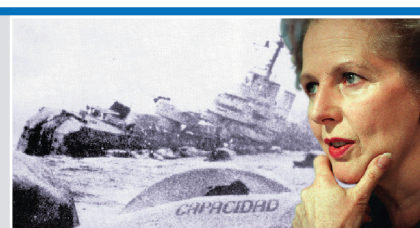
■ **1979: Margaret Thatcher** becomes Britain's first female Prime Minister. Queen's cousin, **Lord Mountbatten**, killed in IRA bomb attack

■ **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.

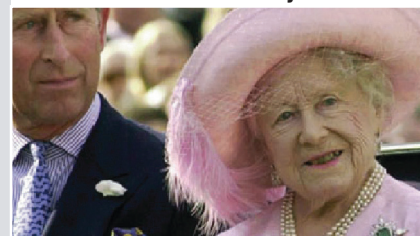
**Aug 31: Princess Diana** killed in car crash in Paris

■ **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

■ **2001, Sep 11:** Terrorist attacks on United States. **Oct 7:** U.S. and Britain go to war in Afghanistan

■ **2002: Euro** becomes legal tender in 12 EU countries. **Princess Margaret** and **Queen Mother** die at start of Queen's Golden Jubilee year



■ **2003:** U.S.-led invasion of Iraq

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

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

■ **2011, Apr 29: Prince William** marries **Catherine Middleton**. **May:** Queen makes first state visit to Ireland by reigning British monarch since before independence

■ **2012:** Queen celebrates Diamond Jubilee. London hosts Olympic Games for third time

■ **2015:** Queen becomes Britain's longest reigning monarch

■ **2016:** Queen Elizabeth II turns 90 – overseas travel and some patronages delegated to family members. **Jun:** Britain votes to leave European Union – *Brexit* sharply divides opinion across nation

■ **2018:** Elizabeth's grandson, **Prince Harry**, marries **Meghan Markle**

■ **2020** Queen and Prince Philip relocate to Windsor Castle due to coronavirus pandemic. **Nov: Joe Biden** wins U.S. election – 14th U.S. President during Queen's reign

■ **Apr 9, 2021:** Prince Philip, longest-serving royal consort in British history, dies aged 99

■ **Apr 21: Queen Elizabeth** marks her 95th birthday

Research: Julie Mullins Sources: The Royal Family, Council on Foreign Relations

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