The Sixties was a decade unlike any other. Some look back nostalgically at the counterculture and revolution in social norms about dress, drugs, sexuality and formalities, while others only see irresponsible excess and the decay of social order. We can only imagine how different the world would be today if the Berlin Wall had never been built, the first human heart transplant was never undertaken, or the contraceptive pill never made available to the public.

Throughout Iconic Moments of the Sixties you’ll see some of the most important political and social events in history brought to life through evocative imagery and expertly written features. Discover the pop culture sensations that gave the Sixties a swinging soundtrack and drove the crowds wild, from The Beatles to the Beach Boys. From the elections of John F Kennedy and the Cuban Missile Crisis, to the progression of the Civil Rights movement under Martin Luther King Jr. and the climax of the Space Race, we’ve collected a wealth of important entries that span both continents and cultures. Enjoy the book.
ICONIC MOMENTS
OF THE
Sixties
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The 1960s dawned with optimism but a sense of uncertainty as the Cold War, Third World, and politics generated headlines, while entertainers provided lasting memories.

Flying 13 miles above the earth, US Air Force captain and Central Intelligence Agency operative Francis Gary Powers winged his Lockheed U-2 spy plane over the Soviet city of Sverdlovsk. His 1 May mission was not the first flight into Soviet airspace to gather intelligence on the progress of the communist nation’s nuclear programme and other information, but it was by far the most significant.

With little warning, a Soviet antiaircraft missile locked onto the U-2, exploding nearby. A second missile scored a direct hit. Powers ejected safely - and into the hands of the Soviets. He declined to ingest the poison pill that would kill him prior to capture and was eventually put on trial in the Soviet Union, convicted of espionage and sentenced to 10 years in confinement. At first President Dwight D Eisenhower denied the existence of such “spy missions”. However, when the Soviets produced evidence it was a disturbing embarrassment for the US government. The Cold War took a further chill, and an upcoming summit between Eisenhower and Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev was abruptly cancelled. Two years later, Powers and American Frederic Pryor were exchanged for Soviet KGB Colonel Vilyam Fisher, a spy in US custody.

Elsewhere in 1960, John F Kennedy, the first US president born in the 20th century, was elected to office by a narrow margin; several oil-producing nations came together to form OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries); 17 African nations asserted their independence from European powers resulting in 1960 earning the nickname of the ‘Year of Africa’ and energising the movement of the Third World; while the US escalated its involvement in the Vietnam War, sending its first 3,500 ground troops. In August, a rock and roll band recently named The Beatles began a series of performances at the Indra Club in Hamburg, Germany.

Defining moments

**Aswan High Dam construction**

9 January 1960
Construction on the massive Aswan High Dam begins on the great Nile River in Egypt. Foreign aid for the project is a bone of contention between the United States and the Soviet Union, and Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser uses the situation to political advantage. Completed in 1970, the dam towers 111 metres and is 3.8 kilometres long.

**Massacre at Sharpeville**

21 March 1960
South African police open fire on a crowd of up to 7000 demonstrators protesting the state policy of apartheid in the town of Sharpeville in Transvaal. After a day of general unrest, the crowd approaches the local police station, resulting in violence that claims the lives of 69 people and injures hundreds more. The event calls world attention to the divisive policy.

**Lee’s masterpiece**

11 July 1960
The first published work by novelist Harper Lee - *To Kill A Mockingbird* - is released. Describing life in a small town in the American South during the Depression, the work revolves around a falsely accused black man standing trial and the efforts of an attorney to find justice. The novel is an immediate success and receives the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1961.

The shadowy figure of a murderer raises a knife in the iconic shower scene from the acclaimed Alfred Hitchcock film *Psycho*, which premiered in 1960.
Chichester’s crossing  
21 July 1960

Englishman Sir Francis Chichester arrives in New York aboard his yacht Gypsy Moth II as he completes a record-setting solo crossing of the Atlantic Ocean in just 40 days. Seven years later, Chichester circumnavigates the globe in 226 days, sailing aboard Gypsy Moth IV. In 1967 he also becomes a knight commander of the Order of the British Empire.

Cassius Clay’s gold  
5 September 1960

American boxer Cassius Clay, later a convert to Islam as Muhammad Ali, wins the gold medal in the light heavyweight division at the Summer Olympic Games in Rome. Ali goes on to win his first professional bout in October and later becomes heavyweight champion of the world, one of the most celebrated boxers of all time, and an international celebrity.

Archbishop meets Pope  
2 December 1960

Elvis Presley had frequently courted controversy with his provocative performances and to many, his drafting in 1958 was a blessing, removing him from public view. Yet after a year and a half of service in West Germany, Elvis returned to his homeland to the happy screams of his enduring fans. Alongside him on his journey to the airport sat Priscilla Beaulieu - the 14-year-old girl who had captured his heart just six months before he left.
Elvis leaves Germany
The contraceptive pill is approved in US
The contraceptive pill is approved in US

23 JUNE 1960

After research into a hormonal contraceptive stalled due to lack of funding, Katharine McCormick provided funds to continue the studies. By 1957 a pill existed to aid menstrual problems, but it only became publicly available as a contraceptive in 1960. By 1965, one in four married women under 45 had used it. In fact, only married women could be prescribed it until 1972.
The Twist dancing craze
In the summer of 1960, the Twist dancing craze swept America and spread rapidly throughout Europe, after Chubby Checker’s cover of the *The Twist* stormed onto the charts, topping the Billboard Hot 100 in September. The original, recorded in 1959, had only been mildly successful. The accompanying dance became the first international dance craze, with everyone from New York socialites to children in London’s East End joining in.
Young, liberal and inexperienced, John F. Kennedy won an unexpected victory against then-Vice President Richard Nixon for the presidency in 1960. In the midst of great national turmoil, JFK’s success has largely been attributed to the first-ever televised presidential debate, in which Kennedy’s youth and charisma—contrasted with Nixon’s sickly pallor and shifty gaze—won over audiences across the US.
Ruby Bridges, the first African-American child to attend an all-white elementary school in Louisiana, New Orleans, is escorted out of the building by US marshals dispatched by President Eisenhower for her safety. After her enrolment during the desegregation crisis, many parents withdrew their children from the school, and all but one of the teachers refused to teach Ruby.
The desegregation of schools
The Berlin Wall, persistent ideological clashes of the Cold War, and the first men in space made 1961 an unforgettable year.

By the summer of 1961, 20 per cent of the population of communist East Germany, 3.5 million people, had crossed the border from East to West in the divided capital city of Berlin. Among these were many professionals – doctors, scientists from many fields, and engineers – that East Germany could not afford to lose at such a sustained rate.

Prompted by discussions between the East German puppet government and Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev, drastic action was undertaken on 13 August. Army and police guards sealed the border and construction on one of the most sinister and evil symbols of the Cold War – the Berlin Wall – began. At first the wall was built of concrete blocks and spiralling barbed wire. Later, reinforced concrete with a large pipe embedded across the top made the structure virtually impossible to climb.

Eventually, the Berlin Wall stretched 106 kilometres and stood 3.6 metres tall and 1.2 metres thick. On the East German side a wide ‘death strip’ stretched between guard posts and the wall itself, strewn with soft sand to reveal footprints and rigged with mines and tripwires that would fire presighted machine guns. Soldiers with trained guard dogs patrolled the death strip continually. Nevertheless, during the 28 years the Berlin Wall stood at least 5,000 people crossed successfully, digging tunnels, leaping from windows, smashing their cars through, and even flying over in hot air balloons. Unfortunately 171 individuals were killed attempting to cross the barrier to freedom in the West.

The opening of the Berlin Wall on 9 November 1989 marked a symbolic end to the Cold War. Elsewhere in 1961, the Space Race escalated, while tensions between the superpowers reached new heights in Europe and the Western Hemisphere. The Civil Rights Movement gained momentum in the United States, as did global awareness of the fragility of our environment.

Espionage in England
7 January 1961
Acting on evidence from MI5, British Intelligence, detectives arrest Harry Houghton and Ethel Gee, members of the Portland Spy Ring, operating in England since the late 1950s. The ring is noted for supplying information on HMS Dreadnought, the Royal Navy’s first nuclear submarine, to the Soviets. The five spies are placed on trial in March and sentenced to lengthy prison terms.

Soviet in pace
12 April 1961
Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin becomes the first man in space, returning safely to Earth after a single orbit that lasted 108 minutes. Weeks later, American astronaut Alan Shepard follows. At the end of May, President John F Kennedy asks the US Congress for $531 million to fund his dream of placing an astronaut on the moon by the end of the 1960s.

Bay of Pigs
17 April 1961
The abortive Bay of Pigs invasion is thwarted by Marxist forces loyal to dictator Fidel Castro in Cuba. The operation had been conceived by Cuban ex-patriates intent on overthrowing Castro and backed by the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) along with fire support from American military assets. Its failure is a supreme embarrassment to the administration of President John F Kennedy.
World Wildlife Fund  
**29 April 1961**
Conservationists found the World Wildlife Fund, bringing focus to issues surrounding the human impact on the natural habitats of wildlife and the preservation of endangered species. Now known as the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in most of the world, it remains the World Wildlife Fund in the US and Canada. WWF becomes the world’s largest organisation of its kind.

Freedom Riders  
**4 May 1961**
Testing the refusal of some states to enforce US Supreme Court rulings that ban segregation on public buses and in terminals and other facilities, the so-called ‘Freedom Riders’ board buses in Washington, DC and other locations, intent on travelling to cities in the South. The event sparks unrest, some Freedom Riders are beaten severely, and at least one bus is firebombed.

Mammoth nuclear blast  
**30 October 1961**
The Soviet Union detonates the Tsar Bomba, the largest nuclear bomb test in history, above the island of Novaya Zemlya in the Arctic. The bomb reportedly delivered a payload of 50 megatons, or 50 million tons of TNT. It spawns a tremor registering 5.0 on the Richter earthquake scale, and light from the resulting explosion is visible 600 miles away.

- **TOP OF THE POPS**
  - Bobby Lewis  
    - Tossin’ And Turnin’
  - Patsy Cline  
    - I Fall To Pieces
  - The Highwaymen  
    - Michael
  - Roy Orbison  
    - Crying
  - Del Shannon  
    - Runaway

- **SILVER AND SMALL SCREEN HITS**
  - West Side Story
  - Breakfast At Tiffany’s
  - The Hustler
  - The Avengers
  - The Dick Van Dyke Show

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A Soviet in space
At the height of the Cold War, the Soviet Union sent the first ever man into orbit, maintaining their lead in the ‘Space Race’. After shortlisting over 200 Russian Air Force fighter pilots, 27-year-old Yuri Gagarin was picked. Gagarin was sealed in a capsule, controlled from the ground. At 9:07am on 12 April, he was launched into space for 108 minutes, orbiting the Earth once before safely landing. Less than a month later, America sent their first astronaut, Alan Shepard, to space.
Hundreds of years from now, when historians chronicle the greatest achievements of humankind, Yuri Alekseyevich Gagarin’s name will still loom large. For on 12 April 1961, he became the first human in space, and the first to orbit our blue planet, spending 108 minutes beyond our atmosphere before bumpily returning to Earth. It may not have been a ‘giant leap’ in terms of distance, reaching a maximum altitude of 177 miles, but it set alight the blue touch paper on the human exploration of space, which one day may see us build colonies on the Moon, Mars and beyond.

Gagarin had not always wanted to go into space. Flying aircraft was his true love, inspired after watching dogfights in the sky as a child during World War Two. At the age of 21 Gagarin enrolled in the Soviet Air Force, flying stubbed-nose MiG-15 fighter jets, and before long he was being recruited into an elite Soviet group of pilots training to become cosmonauts and vying to be the first man in space.

Russia stole a march on the world’s other superpower of the time, the United States, on 4 October 1957 with the launch of Sputnik 1, the world’s first artificial satellite which kick-started the Space Race. The USA swiftly followed up on 31 January 1958 with the Explorer 1 satellite, but the Soviet Union were always ahead, thanks in large part to the genius of their rocket engineer Sergei Korolev. Sputnik 2 took the first living being, a dog called Laika, into space and, by 1961, the Soviet Union were ready to send human beings into space.

It was risky – all manner of things could go wrong with this mission – but the Soviets knew that if they waited the Americans would beat them to it (as it happened, Alan Shepherd became the second man in space on 5 May 1961, just a few weeks after Gagarin).

The cosmonaut training that Gagarin faced, at the time an Air Force Lieutenant, was harsh. Undergoing psychological and invasive medical tests, hard physical training and practicing in centrifuges to combat the g-forces that such a flight would entail, the class of 20 was whittled down to a shortlist of six, and then just two: Gagarin and another, named Gherman Titov. Eventually, Gagarin was chosen for the mission, helped by his small stature of five-foot two-inches: his spacecraft, Vostok 1, was rather cramped.

Normally cheerful and intelligent with a winning smile, on the morning of the launch Gagarin was unusually quiet, pensive ahead of his history-making mission. He and Titov, (who, as Gagarin’s back-up, was also wearing his spacesuit just in case he was called upon to fly the mission) rode out to the launch site at the Baikonur Cosmodrome, where before them stood the towering R-7 Semyorka rocket, on top of which was Vostok 1.

Crammed into what was essentially a tin-can that flew on automatic, Gagarin had nothing else to do but savour the experience. As the rocket engines kicked in and began to heave the mighty craft off...
Yuri Gagarin
the launchpad, Gagarin had his own “One giant leap...” moment, bellowing “Poyekhali!” across the radio, meaning “Let’s go!” in Russian. It became the unofficial motto for the Soviet Union’s space programme from that moment.

As Vostok 1 cruised over the Earth, Gagarin looked down on its continents and oceans, clouds and mountains, forests and deserts, and became the first person to see our planet as a world not of individual nations, but a globe shared by all life.

After nearly two hours it was time to return home, but there was a problem. Vostok 1 was made from two sections, the tiny crew section that contained just enough room for his cramped seat that Gagarin was strapped into, and an cone-shaped equipment module on top. The two were tethered together with cables that were supposed to break apart when the crew section began its descent, but the cables stubbornly remained connected and, as Gagarin’s capsule plummeted Earthwards, the equipment section kept clanging against his module, threatening to hamper the descent, until the heat of atmospheric re-entry burned through the cables and finally separated them.

The Soviets were intent on making history and wanted the world-record for the highest altitude flight and successful landing. This required the craft to touchdown with the cosmonaut still inside, but Vostok 1 was not designed for that - the capsule was to come crashing down and Gagarin had to eject at an altitude of 7 kilometres and parachute the rest of the way. He landed near the village of Smelovka where he met two Russian peasants, Anna Takhtarova and her granddaughter Rita. They watched him, puzzled by his bright orange flight suit and bulbous helmet. “Can it be that you have come from outer space?” asked Anna, to which Gagarin replied “As a matter of fact I have.”

The meeting with the Takhtarovas made a great story, but it would have revealed the Soviets’ lie that Gagarin landed in his craft, and so it didn’t come to light until much later. In the meantime the Soviet government were keen to use Gagarin and his accomplishments as a propaganda tool. He was sent on a worldwide tour, visiting places as far afield as Japan, Brazil, Canada, even London and Manchester. Placed into situations meeting foreign dignitaries where he was expected to drink, he began to drink too much and suffered in the limelight, even reportedly having affairs. His superiors recognised the pressure he was under, and figured that once all the fame had died down, he’d get his life back to normal. Indeed, Gagarin did endeavour to take back control of his life, by cutting down on drinking and the affairs.
In 1963 Gagarin was promoted to the rank of colonel and made deputy director of the Soviet's cosmonaut training problem, but the authorities prevented Gagarin himself from flying into space again - they didn't want to risk their newfound national hero being killed in an accident. However, he was back-up to the doomed Soyuz 1 mission, which saw cosmonaut Vladimir Komarov, who was a friend of Gagarin's, killed when the capsule's parachutes failed, despite Gagarin warning the authorities that there were some severe technical problems. If he couldn't fly in space, then Gagarin was intent on at least being able to fly through the air and, in 1968, began piloting MiG-15 fighter jets once more. On 27 March 1968 Gagarin and his co-pilot, instructor Vladimir Serugin, took off into appallingly bad weather with lousy visibility. Not long into the flight, his jet crashed, killing both Gagarin and Serugin. The official report suggested that Gagarin had struck a bird or weather balloon, but more recent investigations have come to the conclusion that an air vent was stuck open, causing the cabin to depressurise. However, air traffic control provided faulty information, while the investigation into the craft showed his altimeter was not working. Gagarin could have not realised how close the craft was to the ground when he made that dive.

Meanwhile fellow cosmonaut Alexei Leonov, who was in the vicinity at the time of the crash, has an alternative theory. He heard two bangs, one of which he attributes to the crash, the other to the sonic boom of a second jet. Indeed, air traffic control reportedly saw a second, unidentified aircraft on the radar shortly before the crash; Leonov surmises that the second jet was supersonic jet flying lower than it should have been in the poor weather, and that is sonic boom shattered Gagarin's cockpit, resulting in him losing control.

And so the Soviet Union and indeed the world lost one of its heroes at the tragically young age of just 34 years of age. He may have only made that one brief trip into space, but he made his mark, signalling humankind's arrival amongst the stars.

"He began to drink too much and suffered in the limelight"

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**THE TRAINING EXERCISE**

*27 March 1968*

The cosmonaut and his flight instructor Vladimir Seryogin were killed when their jet fighter aircraft crashed near the town of Kirzhach, Russia. It’s suspected that Gagarin’s aircraft lost control when an unauthorised SU-15 fighter jet flew too close and let out a sonic boom, shattering Gagarin’s cockpit and depressurising the cabin.

**THE SPACE RACE**

During the 20th Century, the Soviet Union and the United States were embroiled in a heated competition for space supremacy - both countries wanted to be the first to launch an artificial satellite into Earth orbit. The Space Race began in the summer of 1955, when the Soviets answered the US’ announcement where they intended to launch a spacecraft ‘in the near future’. The rivalry between the two superpowers occurred not too long after the Second World War, where political conflict and military tension drove a wedge between the countries.

Refusing to be outdone, the Soviet Union launched spacecraft Sputnik 1 into Earth orbit in October 1957, an 58 centimetre (23 inch) unmanned craft that would later pave the way for Sputnik 2, which carried on board the first living animal into space - a stray dog named Laika. The success of the Soviets raised concern with the Americans, prompting the country to launch their Project Vanguard satellite much sooner than they originally planned. The televised moment had millions of United States citizens tune into their TV screens - to what quickly became apparent as a failure. Soon after launch, the satellite exploded several times, causing the Americans to become ridiculed in the newspapers. In the wake of ‘Flopnik’, the States launched their Juno I rocket as soon as they could and, on 31 January 1958, America successfully released its satellite into space. The Space Race was won by the Soviets when they launched the first human - Gagarin - into Earth orbit. However, without it, pioneering efforts to send unmanned spacecraft to bodies such as the Moon, Venus and Mars along with human spaceflight may never have happened.
After Castro rose to power in 1959, he sought to build relations with the Soviet Union. On 4 April 1961, JFK approved a plan for Cuban exiles to overthrow Castro with US support. Word reached Cuba and the invasion imploded. Hundreds were killed by the Cuban militia and over 1,000 invaders were captured. The captives were released in 1962 for $53 million in medical supplies.
Castro sets ransom for Bay of Pigs' captives
Two babies reach for one another across the barbed wire fence that marked the boundaries of the Berlin Wall in the hours following its erection. As Cold War tensions grew, the two halves of Germany became increasingly separate. As West Germany prospered, East Germany, known as the German Democratic Republic, struggled under communist rule. At midnight on 13 August, a rudimentary barrier was built surrounding all of West Berlin.
The Berlin Wall is built
WWF opens its first office

THIS IS THE SYMBOL
OF THE WORLD WILDLIFE FUND

A Giant Panda (Ailuropoda melanoleuca) has been chosen to symbolize the World Wildlife Fund because it is one of the world's best-loved rare animals in the wild. It owes its survival to modern conservation which all of us support.
After a series of influential articles highlighting the environmental dangers in Africa were published, several naturalists and conservationists joined forces to create an awareness- and fund-raising organisation called the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). Its first office opened in Morges, Switzerland. Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, became the UK branch’s first president in 1961, joining several other high-profile patrons.
In an unsettling year, nuclear war is narrowly averted, a Nazi war criminal is brought to justice, and race relations surge to the forefront.

In a televised address to the American people on 22 October 1962, President John F Kennedy revealed the presence of Soviet medium-range ballistic missiles on the island of Cuba, where months earlier Marxist dictator Fidel Castro had seized power. Eight days earlier a surveillance flight by a Lockheed U-2 spy plane had revealed the presence of the launch sites intended for SS-24 missiles, and photographic evidence confirmed that one of the nuclear capable systems was under construction. Cuba lies only 90 miles from the coast of the United States, and Kennedy consulted with his advisors concerning an appropriate response. Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev had taken a calculated risk with the deployment in the Western Hemisphere, and the SS-24 was capable of reaching cities in the continental United States within minutes of launch. The Soviets had become increasingly alarmed by the presence of US ballistic missiles in Turkey, in close proximity to their own territory. President Kennedy invoked the Monroe Doctrine and initiated a US Navy blockade, euphemistically labelled a ‘quarantine’, of shipping to Cuba. For 13 tense days, known as the Cuban Missile Crisis, the superpowers remained at an impasse, and the world held its breath as it teetered on the brink of nuclear war. On 24 October, Soviet cargo ships approached the quarantine line around Cuba. Had they attempted to run the blockade, war would likely have resulted. However, the Soviets turned away. The Soviets subsequently agreed to dismantle their missiles in Cuba in exchange for an American pledge to do the same with missiles in Turkey and a guarantee not to invade the island.

In other events, artist Andy Warhol opened his iconic Campbell Soup Cans exhibit in Los Angeles; French president Charles de Gaulle narrowly escaped assassination as Algeria proclaimed its independence; and Love Me Do/ PS I Love You, the first Beatles single, was released in the United Kingdom.

Defining moments

- Friendship 7 flies 20 February 1962
Astronaut John H Glenn Jr, pictured aboard the spacecraft Friendship 7. Glenn is the first American to perform a manned orbital mission, orbiting the Earth three times in four hours, 55 minutes and 23 seconds. He is followed later in the year by Scott Carpenter aboard Aurora 7, and then Wally Schirra in Sigma 7. Glenn goes on to serve as a US Senator from the state of Ohio.

- The towering Space Needle 21 April 1962
The Century 21 Exposition World’s Fair opens in Seattle, Washington, and its focal point is the futuristic Space Needle. Towering 184 metres, built to withstand winds of up to 200 miles per hour and earthquakes of 9.1 on the Richter scale, the Space Needle hosts 2.3 million visitors during the course of the event. It remains a prominent feature of the Seattle skyline.

- The end of his rope 31 May / 1 June 1962
Former SS lieutenant colonel Adolf Eichmann, architect of the Nazi Holocaust during World War II, is hanged at a prison in Ramallah, Israel. A year earlier, Eichmann, a key player in the murder of millions of innocent people, had been abducted from his refuge in Argentina by Israeli Mossad agents and spirited away to Israel to face trial for his crimes.
Telstar transmits television
23 July 1962
Telstar, the name of several communications satellites, successfully transmits the first live trans-Atlantic television signal. Telstar 1 accomplishes the task along with sending telephone and telegraph information. Telstar 2 follows in 1963. Although becoming inactive, they continue to orbit the Earth. The Telstar success results from a multinational effort between the US, the UK and France.

Candle in the wind
5 August 1962
Hollywood star and sex symbol Marilyn Monroe is found dead of an apparent overdose in her home in the Brentwood area of Los Angeles. The cause of death is listed as “probable suicide” due to ingestion of chloral hydrate and sleeping pills. Mystery and various conspiracy theories still surround the circumstances of her death at the age of 36.

Meredith enrolls at Ole Miss
1 October 1962
In one of the most significant moments of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, activist James Meredith becomes the first black person to enrol at the segregated University of Mississippi. He had been denied admission on two other occasions. The threat of violence prompts an escort of Federal Marshals to ensure Meredith’s safety.
Dr No, the first of the James Bond film franchise based on Ian Fleming's popular book series, was released to UK audiences to mixed reviews. Despite its ambivalent critical reception, it proved to be a commercial success, and paved the way for future Bond films, with Sean Connery reprising his role as the titular character another six times.
First James Bond film begins filming
Marilyn Monroe dies

5 AUGUST 1962

Marilyn Monroe’s body was wheeled out of her home by police after her housekeeper and psychiatrist broke down her locked bedroom door to find her dead in bed. After suffering with mental health problems and drug addictions, her death was ruled as a probable suicide. However, conspiracy theories refute this – suspecting murder, either resulting from an alleged affair with Robert F Kennedy, or at the hands of the mobster Jimmy Hoffa.
Marilyn Monroe dies
The Second Vatican Council was called by Pope John XXIII to reinvent the Roman Catholic Church for the modern world. Bishops from all over the world attended the council, which ran for three years and approved 16 documents. These documents explained the new teachings of the Church moving forward. It was the first ecumenical council held for nearly a century.
The Cuban Missle Crisis was a dangerous confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War. After the US discovered that the USSR had placed missiles on Cuba, capable of targeting American soil, political and military tensions escalated. It brought the world to the brink of nuclear war but thankfully it was resolved due to agreement between the two superpowers.
The Cuban Missile Crisis
The Cuban Missile Crisis

16 OCTOBER 1962

JFK is informed of Soviet missile bases being constructed in Cuba. Over the next week and a half the world came agonisingly close to nuclear war.
At the height of the Cold War, Cuba became the fulcrum of a deadly face-off between the Soviet Union and the United States.

In October 1962 the world almost ended. At the height of the Cold War, the United States of America and the Soviet Union found themselves in a tense standoff over Russian medium and intermediate-range ballistic missiles being stockpiled in bases in the rebellious Republic of Cuba. Over a terrifying 13 days, the two superpowers came to the brink of nuclear war, with their mutually assured destruction looking alarmingly possible. To the Russians, this dark chapter of their history is referred to as the Caribbean Crisis. To the Cubans, it’s the October Crisis. But to America and much of the rest of the world, the words ‘the Cuban Missile Crisis’ are those that invoke that particular chill of almost unimaginable horror only narrowly averted.

By the time of the Crisis, the United States and Russia had been engaged in their Cold War for almost 20 years since the end of the Second World War – some trace it back even further to the First World War. Not a conflict in the usual sense, it had mostly been an affair played out through espionage rather than military force, although the superpowers had each involved themselves in regional wars in China, Greece and Korea. After 1945, the single-party Marxist-Leninist Soviet State found itself in complete ideological opposition to the States ‘free’ capitalist society, consolidating its control over the Eastern Bloc, while the United States tried to contain it through international miniatures like NATO. Having wrestled for control and influence in Latin America and the decolonising states of Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia in the intervening years, events between the two opponents came to a long-thrusted head in Cuba.
Kennedy was first secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union from 1958 until 1964. He was responsible for moving the Communist Party away from Stalinism, ending forced labour and closing the Gulags. He was an early backer of the Soviet Space Programme, and was behind some relatively liberal domestic policies, such as allowing more freedom to the arts and opening up the opportunity for ordinary Soviets to travel abroad.

The Soviet premier appointed himself as head of the USSR’s UN delegation in 1960, where he was accused of a double standard by claiming to oppose colonialism while at the same time attempting Communist domination of Eastern Europe and Southeast Asia and the Third World. Achieving the first manned space flight led the world to infer the USSR’s nuclear weapons programme was further ahead than it was. Khrushchev was happy not to disabuse anyone of that notion.

He served in the Red Army as a political commissar, both during the Russian Civil War (1917-1922) and WWII. The rank was roughly equal to that of a unit commander, but the commissar has the military to countermand the commander’s orders when he deems it necessary. Khrushchev’s primary function was as a political intermediary between troops and Moscow. He did see action at the Defence of Stalingrad in 1942, though, which he remained proud of for the rest of his life.

Extraordinary as it seems, Khrushchev, after rising to power, decided Soviet policy alone, without any recourse to advisors at all. This could, of course, be viewed as a weakness since it cut his decision-making process off from others, whose input may have been valuable. But it also allowed his instincts to prevail: a positive thing in regard to the Cuban Missile Crisis, where his levelheaded inclination toward peace and negotiation arguably averted a global catastrophe.
A group of Cuban soldiers who helped in fighting the Bay of Pigs invasion.

The Cuban Missile Crisis

The failed invasion that led to the Crisis

WHY IT HAPPENED
- Concern in the US over the new left-wing direction of Cuba's politics after the removal of dictator Fulgencio Batista by revolutionary Fidel Castro.
- US concern over trials and executions of former Batista supporters.
- Castro was an outspoken critic of the USA.

WHAT WENT WRONG?
A damning CIA report from November 1961 outlined a catalogue of points that made the attempted invasion doomed to failure. Its author, Inspector General Lyman B. Kirkpatrick, identified that there were no policies or contingency plans in place should the invasion have succeeded. Insufficient and poorly managed staff had been assigned to the project, relatively few of whom even spoke Spanish. US intelligence in Cuba had been improperly analysed. There had been little success in organising internal resistance in Cuba, of involving exiles from the Castro regime or counter-revolutionaries. And the operation had simply been too big: jumping from covert guerrilla action to full-blown military intervention in a way that made 'plausible deniability' impossible.

THE BAY OF PIGS

The immediate roots of the Cuban Missile Crisis lay in Cuba's regime change of 1959: a revolution that ousted incumbent dictator Fulgencio Batista and installed the communist commander-in-chief of the Cuban Revolutionary Army, Fidel Castro, as prime minister and later president. As supporters of Batista and other Latin American dictators, the US government suddenly found itself on the receiving end of harsh criticism from Castro when he opened diplomatic relations with them. Their response was a failed attempt to assassinate Castro, after which he demanded the complete withdrawal of the US military from Guantánamo Bay. They refused and remain there; it's the only US military base in a country it doesn't officially recognise.

Castro travelled to the US in the spring of 1959 to meet with President Dwight D. Eisenhower, but was snubbed by him and met only by Vice President Richard Nixon. Their meeting did not go well, and Castro further alienated the US when he announced to the United Nations that Cuba would maintain a neutral position in the fractious relationship between the USA and the USSR. Subsequent policies redistributing Cuba's wealth were predictably unpopular with Americans, who owned land there and were seeing it removed from them at rates of compensation they were unhappy with. The CIA launched another failed assassination attempt against Castro, and the US military began launching secret bombing raids against Cuban sugar facilities in October 1959, targeting one of its most lucrative exports. American attacks on Cuban oil refineries and civilian targets in Havana followed, all of which the US officially denied.

"Assassination attempts and attacks on Havana took place, all of which the US officially denied"
The Cuban Missile Crisis

The Cuban events of the Missile Crisis by-day account of the events of the Cuban Missile Crisis

16 October
President Kennedy and his staff are briefed on reconnaissance photos of Russian missile bases under construction in Cuba. Kennedy maintains his public schedule while covertly discussing whether to launch air strikes or blockade Cuba’s coast.

17 October
Kennedy continues his official public engagements, feeling it important to keep up appearances rather than arouse concern. He has lunch with Crown Prince Hassan of Libya and visits Connecticut to support Democratic election candidates.

18 October
Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko insists that Russia’s aid to Cuba is purely in the cause of defence and presents no threat to the USA. Kennedy warns Gromyko of grave consequences should Soviet nuclear weapons be found on Cuban soil.

19 October
Kennedy heads out on the congressional campaign trail to Ohio and Illinois, as previously scheduled before the missile crisis surfaced. Debate continues to rage among his advisors as to the best course of action in Cuba as Kennedy travels.

20 October
Kennedy returns to Washington, and after an intense five hours of deliberation, the plan to blockade – or ‘quarantine’ – Cuba is finally decided upon. Work begins on the military and naval plans, and on drafting a speech to inform the public of the situation.

21 October
Another day of meetings and phone calls on both sides. Tactical Air Commander Walter Sweeney advises Kennedy that an air strike against Cuba could not guarantee the destruction of all the Russian missiles on the ground.

The decision to blockade the island was [for legal reasons] sold as a ‘quarantine’ of Cuba.

At 7pm on 22 October 1962, Kennedy announced on US television and radio that this ‘quarantine’ of Cuba was in effect immediately, stopping the shipment of all offensive military equipment to Cuba. 5,000 US troops were deployed to the Guantánamo base, along with airborne and naval forces. In turn, Castro began to mobilise Cuba’s forces, and Khrushchev declared the quarantine to be a hostile act of war. The ultimate decision, then, was to blockade the island, although for legal reasons (it would be considered an act of war) this was sold as a ‘quarantine’ of Cuba.

Kennedy’s response was to set up EXCOMM – the Executive Committee of the National Security Council – which suggested six options. Doing nothing was obviously impossible, but diplomacy was already not working; threatening Castro generally achieved the opposite of the desired effect, and either war with or the occupation of Cuba was an enormous risk.

The decision to blockade the island was [for legal reasons] sold as a ‘quarantine’ of Cuba.
manoeuvre, threatening that war with the United States was becoming a very real possibility if the States didn’t leave Cuba alone.

The next day, US planes ascertained that the Soviets were actually performing launch tests on their missiles, leading US ships to take up position off Cuba’s coastline, barring any ships from getting any nearer to the island. By 25 October, Kennedy had written to Khrushchev promising full-scale conflict if the Soviets didn’t remove their missiles from Cuban soil. Khrushchev’s eventual response on 26 October was to suggest a compromise: the USSR would withdraw its nuclear arsenal in exchange for a legal assurance from the US that it would never invade Cuba again, or support any other country attempting to do so.

Kennedy was willing to use this as the basis for some serious negotiations, but Castro, caught in the middle of the standoff, remained unconvinced, distrustful of Kennedy. He wrote to Khrushchev outlining his belief that the US would eventually invade Cuba regardless of what had been agreed, and giving carte-blanche to the Soviets to remain in Cuba with their missiles, as the island’s first best line of defence and deterrent. “I believe the imperialists’ aggressiveness is extremely dangerous,” said the Cuban prime minister in what’s now known as ‘The Armageddon Letter’. If they actually carry out the brutal act of invading Cuba in violation of international law and morality, that would be the moment to eliminate such danger forever through an act of clear legitimate defence, however harsh and terrible the solution would be.”

On 27 October the confrontation escalated alarmingly, when US Air Force Major Rudolf Anderson was shot down and killed in his F-102 fighter when he strayed into Cuban airspace. Further US reconnaissance aircraft attempting to ascertain the lie of the land were also fired upon from the ground, while at practically the same time, dangerous events were occurring beneath the waters of the Caribbean. The US naval destroyer USS Beale had

CUBA
The three leaders state their cases

The Cuban Missile Crisis

dropping depth charges on it, scoring several hits. However, the Beale’s crew didn’t know the B-59 was carrying a 15-kiloton nuclear torpedo. Running out of air and surrounded by ships that wouldn’t allow it to surface, the B-59’s officers came horrendously close to desperately launching their payload before Captain Vasili Arkhipov managed to persuade his comrades to stand down and surrender. He may have saved the world in the process.

As all this was occurring, Kennedy received another letter from Khrushchev offering to withdraw his weapons from Cuba if the US would do the same in Turkey. The attacks on the US planes had not been officially sanctioned by the Russians, but had been on the orders of commanders acting independently. The USSR seemed dangerously close to losing control of its own forces, and if that happened, catastrophic consequences might have been on the cards.

Kennedy replied to Khrushchev accepting his terms: pledging the US would never again invade Cuba if the Russian warheads were removed and, in a private addendum, agreeing to remove the USA’s own missiles threatening the USSR from Turkey. Khrushchev revealed later that Kennedy also offered to remove the US’s nuclear arsenal from Italy: a symbolic gesture only since the Italian weapons were obsolete.

At 9am on 28 October, a message from Khrushchev was broadcast on Radio Moscow, stating that work at the Russian weapon sites in Cuba would cease immediately, and that the arsenal would be dismantled and swiftly returned to the USSR. A relieved Kennedy responded immediately, promising to honour the agreement and calling Khrushchev’s decision “an important and constructive contribution to peace” Castro, who had not been consulted by either side, was furious to learn the news from the radio like everyone else.

The US ‘quarantine’ of Cuba didn’t end immediately, with aerial reconnaissance continuing to monitor whether the Soviets were packing up as promised. These missions were thankfully uneventful, and the Russian missiles and their supporting equipment were successfully loaded onto eight ships, leaving Cuban waters between 5 and 9 November. The blockade officially ended on 20 November and the USA removed its nuclear missiles from Turkey the following April. Castro may have been angry, and Soviet-Cuban relations significantly cooled, but the fact was that his position had been thoroughly strengthened by the Crisis. The US couldn’t now attack Cuba or Castro personally – without breaking the terms of their own peace treaty and risking the full weight of Russian reprisal.

In the aftermath of the Crisis, the Moscow-Washington hotline was set up, directly connecting the two political superpowers to facilitate easier negotiation. No country could win and which could only result in catastrophic consequences might have been on the cards.

“The Soviet Union must never allow circumstances in which the imperialists could carry out a nuclear first strike against it. [If] the imperialists carry out an invasion of Cuba – a brutal act in violation of universal and moral law – then that would be the moment to eliminate this danger forever, in an act of the most legitimate self-defence. However harsh and terrible the solution, there would be no other.” Castro to Khrushchev, 26 Oct 1962

“…You, Mr President, are not declaring a quarantine, but rather are setting forth an ultimatum and threatening that if we do not give in to your demands you will use force. Consider what you are saying! And you want to persuade me to agree to this […] You are no longer appealing to reason, but wish to intimidate us.”

Khrushchev to JFK, 24 Oct 1962

“In our discussions and exchanges […] the one thing that has most concerned me has been the possibility that your government would not correctly understand the will and determination of the United States in any given situation, since I have not assumed that you or any other sane man would, in this nuclear age, deliberately plunge the world into war which it is crystal clear no country could win and which could only result in catastrophic consequences to the whole world.”

Kennedy to Khrushchev, 22 Oct 1962

EXCOMM meets to discuss tactics on 26 October 1962.
estimates suggest casualties of a nuclear war between the US and the USSR would have numbered in the hundreds of millions.

Scarily enough, however, the famous Doomsday Clock, which provides a symbolic, visual representation in ‘minutes to midnight’ of how close the world is at any given time to a politically related global catastrophe, didn’t move during the Crisis, since it happened faster than the clock’s board could react. Immediately before the Crisis it stood at seven minutes to midnight, and afterward it moved back to 12, the world deemed a safer place thanks to the treaty. Today, the Doomsday Clock’s hands stand at two minutes to midnight, ‘thanks’ to the lack of global action to reduce nuclear stockpiles, the potential for regional conflict, the effects of avoidable climate change and the failure of global leaders to address threats. The idea of mutually assured destruction may now feel like an anachronism belonging firmly in the past. But some sources suggest it’s closer than ever.

Force General Curtis Le May for example, although his was a minority opinion, called the Cuban Missile Crisis ‘the greatest defeat in [US] history.’ Le May had stridently argued for an invasion of Cuba from the earliest moments of the crisis, and continued to do so after the Russians’ withdrawal. “We could have gotten not only the missiles out of Cuba, we could have gotten the Communists out of Cuba at that time,” he was still railing 25 years later.

In the end, it was perhaps humanity itself that won the Cuban Missile Crisis, receiving in the process a desperately urgent wake-up call that the balance of international power was being juggled between two super-states who had the capacity to annihilate one another at a moment’s notice, likely taking almost everyone in the world else with them. Conservative estimates suggest casualties of a nuclear war between the US and the USSR would have numbered in the hundreds of millions.
This was the year that many consider to be the true starting point of the 1960s: the Beatles, JFK, “I have a dream”... it was to be a year like no other.

Everyone who is old enough to remember can tell you where they were and what they were doing when they heard that President John F Kennedy had been assassinated.

The shots fired by Lee Harvey Oswald on 22 November reverberated around the world. President Kennedy was visiting Dallas, Texas, and driving in an open-top car, waving to the cheering crowds, when three shots were fired from the sixth floor of the Texas Book Depository. The young president died in the arms of his wife, Jackie, and the shocked world mourned with her (as well as concocted a wide range of conspiracy theories rather than accept a lone gunman could have killed the president). The dark underbelly of the 1960s came to light that day and it wouldn’t be for the last time.

But the hopeful desire for peaceful change that was the other face of the 1960s had come to the fore earlier in 1963, when Martin Luther King Jr led a quarter of a million people in a march to Washington, where he delivered the speech in which he said, “I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character.” The speech helped put civil rights for black Americans at the top of the political agenda.

Meanwhile, in England, secretary of state for war, John Profumo, resigned after admitting lying to Parliament about his affair with Christine Keeler, who was also conducting an affair with a Soviet naval attaché. After his resignation Profumo volunteered at a charity in London’s East End, cleaning toilets.

Defining moments

- **The Feminine Mystique**
  **19 February 1963**
  Betty Friedan wrote *The Feminine Mystique* to try and understand why so many women, apparently happily married and raising children, felt deeply unsatisfied with their lives. In doing so, she started second-wave feminism, which moved on from women’s suffrage to issues of sexuality and the family. More than 50 years later, the world would still be coming to terms with the book’s impact.

- **The Beeching report**
  **27 March 1963**
  The report published by Dr Beeching on *The Reshaping of British Railways* recommends reducing the railway network by a quarter, which means closing 2,128 stations and 5,000 miles of railway lines. The future, Beeching decides, lay firmly with road transport. The country that had invented railways seems set on turning its back on its invention.

- **Where The Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak**
  **9 April 1963**
  It only has 358 words, but the story of Max and the Wild Things is set to continue to enthral children and adults for over half a century - and still sparks debate as to who exactly the Wild Things are and how Max can tame them. The book is the first in a new style of stories where the pictures are married to the stories.
The Great Train Robbery
8 August 1963
The biggest, most notorious robbery in British history takes place when a gang stops a Royal Mail train and steals 120 mailbags, netting over £2.6 million (£38 million in today’s money). The gang, composed of 15 men and two railway informers, are largely apprehended and will go on to serve jail sentences, but very little of the stolen money will ever be recovered.

The Milgram Experiment
October 1963
Psychologist Stanley Milgram advertises for people to help in completing a scientific study of memory and learning. The study is being done at Yale University.

Each person who participates will be paid $1.50 (plus 50c per session) for approximately 1 hour 15 minutes. We need you for only one hour. There are no further obligations. You may choose the time you would like to come Monday, Wednesday, or Saturday.

*No special training, education, or experience is needed. We want:
- Factory workers
- Bank tellers
- Construction workers
- Salespeople
- Professional people
- White-collar workers
- Farmers
- Telephone workers
- Nurses

Smiley face icon
1963
Graphic designer Harvey Ross Ball is commissioned by the State Mutual Life Assurance Company of Worcester, Massachusetts, to come up with a design to cheer up employees bruised by the company’s recent merger. It takes Ball ten minutes to come up with the design, and he’s paid $45. The smiley face goes on to become the most recognisable piece of graphic design in the world.
The Beatles’ first album released in the UK
The Beatles’ debut album, Please Please Me, changed pop culture forever. Signalling a new era for rock and roll music, it’s astonishing to think that the band recorded the album in just one day at a total cost of £400. It also highlighted the fact that singers could also be talented songwriters, as McCartney and Lennon showcased the writing skills for the album.
The Profumo Affair

5 JUNE 1963

John Profumo's affair with 19-year-old Christine Keeler, while she enjoyed a simultaneous relationship with a Russian diplomat named Yevgeny Ivanov, was one of Britain's biggest political scandals. Profumo, the secretary of state for war, initially denied the affair but resigned after confessing the truth. The scandal contributed to the resignation of Prime Minister Harold Macmillan and the defeat of the Conservatives in the 1964 general election.
At Bridego Railway Bridge a gang of 15 men attacked a Royal Mail train on its way to London from Glasgow. The gang beat the train driver, Jack Mills, over the head with a metal bar, leaving him with severe injuries. The majority of the perpetrators were caught and convicted for stealing over £2.6 million – but most of the loot has never been recovered.
“I have a dream” speech

“I HAVE A DREAM” SPEECH
28 AUGUST 1963

A defining moment in the American Civil Rights Movement; Martin Luther King Jr’s speech to over 250,000 people helped galvanise support for change. During the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, King called for an end to racism and called for civil and economic rights in the United States. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize one year after the march for combating racial inequality.
“I have a dream” speech
Assassination of JFK

22 NOVEMBER 1963

In an attempt to mend political fences in Texas, John F Kennedy, the 35th President of the United States, made a visit to Dallas with his wife Jackie. He was fatally shot by former US Marine Lee Harvey Oswald, who was later killed before he could stand trial. Seen to be leading the US back to greatness, Kennedy’s assassination shocked the world and has been the subject of speculation for decades.
1964

While 1963 may be regarded as being the year that the 1960s officially started, 1964 is defined as being when it exploded worldwide.

This was the year that Beatlemania truly went global. The Beatles toured Europe, the United States, Hong Kong, Australia and New Zealand, recorded and released two studio albums and were all but deafened by the delirious screams of their fans. Something unprecedented was happening.

On 7 February 1964 the Beatles arrived in New York, where 3,000 fans were ready and waiting for them at the airport. When the band appeared live on The Ed Sullivan Show two days later, 73 million people were sat in front of their TV watching them, which was a whopping 34 per cent of the population. The concerts that followed set the template for hysterical fan behaviour that has been followed ever since, but never again matched: screaming, queuing, waiting, the trophy hunting that meant the Beatles required police protection. In the end, a frustrated George Harrison explained why, on 29 August 1966 after over 1,400 concerts, they had had enough of touring: “…nobody could hear us”.

Away from the idolisation of pop stars, the Civil Rights Movement in America gained its first great legislative victory in 1964 with the signing into law on 2 July 1964 of the Civil Rights Act, which prohibited discrimination on race, religion, sex, colour or national origin. Meanwhile, in Britain, on 21 December the House of Commons, in a free vote, decided to abolish the death penalty. The House voted 355 to 170 for abolition, although it would review the decision in five years’ time. On 29 July, in a sign of the loosening of sexual mores in Britain following the introduction of oral contraception, the first clinic to provide contraception to unmarried women opened. A few months before, on 28 March, the signature soundtrack of the 1960s started to be broadcast from the pirate radio station, Radio Caroline, transmitting from a ship anchored in the North Sea.

Defining moments

Charlie And The Chocolate Factory
17 January 1964 (USA); 23 November 1964 (UK)
The book that will cause every chocolate-loving child, and not a few adults, to dream of finding a Golden Ticket in their next bar of chocolate is published. Charlie And The Chocolate Factory remains in print ever since, the most popular of Dahl’s stories of irrepressible children and incompetent adults.

Channel overload
21 April 1964
There had only been two channels available to the British television audience - the BBC and ITV - until BBC2 starts broadcasting on 21 April. The first programme to be broadcast on the channel, after a power cut stops its scheduled evening broadcast on 20 April, is Play School. In 1967, BBC2 becomes the first broadcaster in Europe to broadcast in colour.

Language BASICS
1 May 1964
BASIC (Beginner’s All-Purpose Symbolic Instruction Code) is the first computer programming language to make programming possible for people other than mathematicians and computer scientists. With the spread of microcomputers in the 1970s, BASIC will become the main programming language, fueling the explosive growth of the computer industry.

On 4 April 1964, the Beatles managed to become the first and only act to take all five places in the top five of the Billboard charts in America.
Nelson Mandela imprisoned
12 June 1964
Nelson Mandela and nine other ANC activists are put on trial, facing revised charges, including sabotage and conspiring to overthrow the government. Mandela is found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment on 12 June 1964. He spends the next 18 years on Robben Island, and a further nine imprisoned before his release.

Lenny Bruce convicted
4 November 1964
Lenny Bruce is known for joking about what no one else will dare mention. As a result, he is charged with obscenity and, on 4 November, is found guilty and sentenced to four months in a workhouse. While on bail and appealing the sentence, Bruce dies from a drugs overdose on 3 August 1966, one of the first of the decade’s many drug casualties.

Computer mouse
1964
Douglas Engelbart was trying to work out ways to move an onscreen cursor when he came up with the prototype mouse, consisting of two metal wheels in a wooden shell. In 1972, Bill English adds the trackball, enabling it to move in every direction, and in 1980 the first optical mouse is developed. But the later iterations all derive from Engelbart’s original idea.
As a 22-year-old, wise-cracking underdog, no one presumed that Cassius Clay would defeat World Heavyweight Champion Sonny Liston. After six rounds, Clay defeated Liston in a technical knockout, becoming the youngest Heavyweight Champion ever in one of the greatest upsets in boxing history. Shortly afterwards, Clay converted to Islam and changed his name, becoming the infamous Muhammad Ali.
With more than 51 million people in attendance, the New York World’s Fair was created to showcase American culture and technology of the mid-20th century. It was an occasion for optimism as the country grieved for President Kennedy, a keen supporter of the fair. The Unisphere at the centre has become an iconic symbol of the fair.
Mods and Rockers clash
Britain found itself in the midst of two youth subcultures, the Mods and the Rockers. While the Mods identified themselves with designer suits and 1960s music, the Rockers wore leathers and listened to 1950s rock and roll. In 1964 the tensions reached their peak and fights broke out in a number of seaside towns. Media coverage of these clashes led to the outbreak of moral panic across the country.
MLK signs the Civil Rights Act
MLK signs the Civil Rights Act

2 JULY 1964

President Lyndon B Johnson hands civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr the means to sign the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The culmination of years of struggle, the act marked a turning point in the US’s strict segregation laws that saw people of colour treated like second-class citizens. The act outlawed discrimination based on race, colour, religion, sex or national origin, and changed the face of the US.
Opening of the Olympics in Japan
Opening of the 1964 Olympics in Japan

10 OCTOBER 1964

The 1964 Olympics in Tokyo, Japan, were the first summer games to be held in Asia. They were also the first to be telecast internationally without the need for tapes to be sent overseas, as well as being the first to be partially broadcast in colour. However, most importantly, the games signified Japan’s reacceptance into the world community after the devastation of WWII.
In 1965, the dark side of the decade started to come to the fore, with war, assassination and murder all jostling for space in the news headlines.

In South-East Asia, what had been a simmering conflict with the US acting mainly in a support capacity, escalated dramatically during 1965. The war in Vietnam was between the American-backed South Vietnamese government and the communist-supported Viet Cong, but by the end of 1965, President Lyndon B Johnson had increased the number of American troops from 23,000 at the end of 1964 to 154,000 by December 1965, with American soldiers taking on a much more direct role in the conflict, the price of which would be greatly increased casualty levels.

In further sign of increasing levels of violence, on 21 February 1965, the black consciousness leader, Malcolm X, was assassinated in Harlem while preparing to address an audience. His killers were members of the Nation of Islam movement that Malcolm X had previously advocated, but which he had split from in 1964.

Continued evidence of the still toxic state of race relations in America was provided by the riots that broke out on 11 August in Watts, a mainly black suburb of Los Angeles. Through five days of rioting and looting, 30 people were killed, hundreds injured and 2,200 arrested. The Watts Riots required 20,000 National Guardsmen to restore order.

In Britain on 28 October, Ian Brady and Myra Hindley were charged with the murder of ten-year-old Lesley Ann Downey. Brady and Hindley carried out five murders between July 1963 and October 1965, their victims ranging in age from ten to 17. The Moors Murders became the most notorious criminal case of the 1960s, and Brady and Hindley the twin faces of evil.

In Africa, Britain’s last colony, Rhodesia, declared independence on 11 November. Its prime minister, Ian Smith, was committed to keeping power in the hands of white people. The white-ruled republic endured until 1980, when it became Zimbabwe.

The miniskirt
1965
Hemlines have been rising through the 1960s, and in 1965 fashion designer Mary Quant gives the new look a name - the miniskirt - borrowed from her favourite car and design classic, the Mini Cooper. Quant couples the short skirts with brightly coloured patterned tights, high boots and a playful attitude, encapsulated in the woman who is the face of Swinging London: Twiggy.

Winston Churchill’s funeral
30 January 1965
Winston Churchill, the imposing man who rallied country and Empire during the darkest days of World War II, is laid to rest following a state funeral that sees leaders from 110 nations attend and over 350 million people in Europe watch on television. With no-one to fill the void he leaves, Churchill’s passing would go on to be seen as signifying the end of the era of Imperial Britain.

A flag for Canada
15 February 1965
Canada’s flag has traditionally been the Red Ensign with the coat of arms of Canada. But after the Great Canadian Flag Debate that ran from 1963 to 1964, it is decided that the maple leaf design will be adopted, a decision proclaimed following the signature of the proclamation by Queen Elizabeth, as well as the Canadian prime minister and attorney general.
Intelsat I 6 April 1965
Intelsat I is the first commercial communications satellite to be launched into geosynchronous orbit, meaning it can remain in a fixed position above a particular point on Earth. The satellite, nicknamed Early Bird, proves the feasibility of satellite communications, connecting Europe and America by television and telephone. Even after being decommissioned, it remains in orbit.

Dune 1 August 1965
Frank Herbert’s epic science fiction novel, *Dune*, introduces his readers to the desert world of Arrakis and Paul Atreides, the longed-for messiah of the nomadic dwellers on Arrakis, the Fremen. *Dune*, with its layered portrayal of societies and eco-systems, goes on to become the template of much future science fiction, both in written and visual formats.

AstroTurf 25 December 1965
Chemstrand, a division of Monsanto Company, had been working on artificial grass since 1962 and on Christmas Day 1965, James Faria and Robert Wright files for a patent on what they call Chemgrass. After being installed in the new enclosed Astrodome, Chemgrass becomes AstroTurf to take advantage of its association with the home of the Houston Oilers.

TOP OF THE POPS
- The Rolling Stones
  *I Can’t Get No* Satisfaction
- The Who
  *My Generation*
- Bob Dylan
  *Highway 61 Revisited*
- James Brown
  *Papa’s Got A Brand New Bag*
- The Mamas and the Papas
  *California Dreamin’*

SILVER AND SMALL SCREEN HITS
- The Sound of Music
- For a Few Dollars More
- Doctor Zhivago
- Help!
- Thunderbirds

© Getty
Malcolm X assassinated
Malcolm X assassinated

21 FEBRUARY 1965
As he prepared to lecture an audience at the Audubon Ballroom in Harlem, New York, Malcolm X, the infamous human rights activist, could not have known that he had in fact already made his final speech. Bursting forth from the audience in a flurry of bullets, three members of the Nation of Islam, an organisation that Malcolm X had previously belonged to, shot the 39 year old 21 times, fatally wounding him.
Bloody Sunday

7 MARCH 1965

Sparked by the fatal shooting of civil rights activist Jimmie Lee Jackson, the Selma marches were a peaceful protest conducted by 600 unarmed civilians seeking the right to vote. The march began peacefully, but as soon as it crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge it was met with a wall of state troopers armed with tear gas and clubs. The violence that ensued prompted President Lyndon Johnson to send a voting bill to Congress on 15 March.
On 2 July 1964, President Lyndon Johnson had signed the Civil Rights Act, outlawing discrimination on the basis of colour, race, religion or sex. But while the passage of the act through Congress and the Senate was a historic achievement, blacks in Southern states still faced entrenched discrimination, in particular with respect to voting rights. For instance, the Alabama state legislature required people registering to vote to pass a literacy test and pay a poll tax. What made the discrimination even more invidious was the test being administered by white people whose judgement was final and often arbitrary. Every effort was made to make it difficult for black people to even attempt to register, with restricted opening hours for centres of registration (often only one or two days a month), intimidation and threats of sacking to anyone who did try to register to vote. The end result was that in Dallas County, Alabama, according to a 1961 report, only 130 blacks were registered to vote, out of a population of 15,000 eligible voters. Dallas County, with Selma as its county seat, had a majority of black citizens but, because so many were disenfranchised, political power there lay in the hands of the white minority — and they intended to keep it.

Local activists in Selma and Dallas County had made repeated attempts to register voters but when these failed, eight people invited the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) to assist in gaining local blacks their rights. One of the factors that led the SCLC board, including Martin Luther King, to accept the invitation was the reputation the Dallas County police force, under its sheriff, Jim Clark, had for brutality. Clark employed 200 deputies, some of whom were members of the Ku Klux Klan, arming them with electric cattle prods. Dr King and the SCLC had learned that time-honoured rule of the news media: if it bleeds, it leads. To garner the national attention they needed in order to put pressure on President Lyndon Johnson to bring forward legislation against the sort of discrimination black voters faced in places like Selma, they needed to find city authorities that were brutal enough and stupid enough to attack and beat nonviolent protestors under the lenses of TV cameramen. In Sheriff Jim Clark, King and the SCLC had found their man.

As the first stage in the campaign, Dr King, the SCLC and local activists organised mass voter registrations to highlight the invidious restrictions placed on black voters. Unable to suppress their violent bigotry, Sheriff Clark and his men responded brutally and over 3,000 people were arrested through January 1965, including Dr King. But despite a court ruling in favour of the civil rights protestors, by February Dr King could still say, in a letter to the New York Times, “This is Selma, Alabama. There are more Negroes in jail with me than there are on the voting rolls.”

Then, on 18 February 1965, police broke up a protest in neighbouring Perry County. Trying to escape the Alabama state police, Jimmie Lee Jackson, a poor farm worker who was also a deacon in his church, took refuge in a café but the police followed him in and then shot him. Jackson managed to stagger out, but died eight days later from his wounds.

Jackson’s death stoked emotions that were already running high. In order to stop the protests turning violent, SCLC organiser James Bevel proposed a march from Selma, the county seat, to Montgomery, the state capital, a distance of 80
Civil rights marches cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama.

The long march to vote
kilometres (50 miles), to present their grievances to the governor. Dr King was in Atlanta, so the march was led by the Reverend Hosea Williams along with student activist, John Lewis.

On Sunday 7 March, about 600 marchers set out from Selma and came to the Edmund Pettus Bridge over the Alabama River. The bridge has a central hump, so it was only when they crested the hump that the marchers realised that the police and state troopers were waiting for them on the other side. The governor of Alabama, George Wallace, had ordered that the march was to be prevented from reaching Montgomery by any means necessary. Sheriff Jim Clark needed no further encouragement. With his mounted posse, Clark charged into the marchers, beating them with clubs while police fired tear gas. Even when the protestors tried to retreat, the mounted police charged after them, still flailing with their clubs.

That evening, ABC, one of the national networks, stopped its programming to show viewers film of the brutality visited, by American lawmen, upon nonviolent protestors. The following day, the national press was covered with pictures of police beating women and men. Sheriff Jim Clark, too stupid to stop himself or his men, had fallen for the trap that had been set for him.

In response to the violence, Dr King called on local religious leaders to join him in a second march from Selma to Montgomery that would take place two days later, on Tuesday 9 March. But when Judge Frank Minis Johnson placed a temporary restraining order on the march, Dr King and the other protest leaders were faced with a dilemma. Judge Johnson had given many rulings in favour of black civil rights and it was thought that he would lift the order. In the end, Dr King led some 2,000 marchers to Edmund Pettus Bridge where they knelt and prayed, in sight of Alabama state troopers, before turning round and returning to Selma. As a result, the day became known as ‘Turnaround Tuesday’.

But the protestors’ nonviolence was again met by violence – that evening James Reeb, a white Unitarian Universalist minister who had joined in the march, was set on by segregationists and beaten badly. He died two days later from his injuries.

On 15 March, President Lyndon Johnson addressed a joint session of Congress, and the whole nation via television, saying, “Their cause must be our cause too. Because it is not just Negros, but really it is all of us, who must overcome the crippling legacy of bigotry and injustice. And we shall overcome.” Two days later, the president brought new legislation to ensure voting rights for black people before Congress. Meanwhile, Judge Johnson had lifted the restraining order against the marchers while also directing local law enforcement that they were not to harass the marchers.

On 21 March, the third march to Montgomery left Selma, protected by FBI agents. Among the marchers were Joe Young, a blind man from Georgia, and Jim Letherer from Michigan, who did the march on crutches. The marchers took four days to reach the state capital and the weather was often foul, but by the time they reached Montgomery the number of marchers had grown to 25,000. On their last night, as the marchers camped in the grounds of St Jude, a Catholic establishment on the outskirts of Montgomery, entertainers such

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**Defining moment**

**Freedom Day 7 Oct 1963**

Around 400 black people arrive at Dallas County Courthouse to register to vote. Annie Lee Cooper is one of the people waiting in line. The registrars work as slowly as possible and take a very long lunch break. But Freedom Day marks the beginning of the struggle for the vote in Dallas County, and Alabama more generally.

**Dr King arrested**

Leading a protest, Dr Martin Luther King is arrested and put into Selma jail.

1 February 1965

**Political progress**

President Lyndon Johnson says he will urge legislation for voting rights to be considered by Congress.

6 February 1965

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**Timeline**

- **Start of the campaign**
  Dr King begins the campaign. Some 700 black people come to a meeting at Brown Chapel despite a court injunction forbidding such gatherings.

  2 January 1965

- **First attempts to register**
  Dr King leads 300 marchers to the courthouse to attempt to register for the vote. Nobody manages to register.

  18 January 1965

- **Further attempts to register**
  This time, when people come to try to register, Sheriff Clark arrests them.

  19 January 1965

- **Punching back**
  Annie Lee Cooper, waiting to register, slugs Sheriff Clark when he pokes her with his club. She is arrested.

  25 January 1965

- **Death in the café**
  Jimmie Lee Jackson, hiding from state troopers in a café, is shot in the stomach. He dies eight days later.

  18 February 1965
Defining moment

Bloody Sunday 7 March 1965

Not knowing what’s waiting for them on the other side of Edmund Pettus Bridge, 600 marchers cross the Alabama River only to come face-to-face with Sheriff Jim Clark (left) and his deputies, mounted on horses, ready and spoiling for a fight. The police and state troopers attack the marchers, putting 16 in hospital and injuring at least 50 others. Pictures dominate the TV channels and newspapers.

Court orders
The day after Bloody Sunday, Judge Frank Johnson, concerned for their safety, places a temporary injunction against further marches. 8 March 1965

Defining moment

March to Montgomery 25 March 1965

The third march from Selma to Montgomery finally reaches the intended destination and does so without injury or violence. Outside the State Capitol, Dr Martin Luther King Jr asks, rhetorically, how long black people will have to wait for their right to vote. The answer: “Not long, because the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.”

On the road again
Marchers set out for the third time from Selma, heading to Montgomery, the state capital. 21 March 1965

Death of the minister
James Reeb, with three other ministers, is attacked by the Ku Klux Klan. Reeb dies from his injuries two days later. He was 38. 11 March 1965

Death in the night
Viola Liuzzo, a white Unitarian Universalist minister and mother of five who had come to Montgomery to help with the march, was shot by the Ku Klux Klan in her car. 25 March 1965

Children lead the marchers into Montgomery towards the State Capitol building on the last day of the third march.

Demonstrators lock arms in front of the Dallas County courthouse in Selma, Alabama. Sheriff Jim Clark had them all arrested.

The woman who did not turn the other cheek

Based as it was in Christianity, the Civil Rights Movement enjoined its activists to practise nonviolence, to turn the other cheek as Jesus had told his disciples, and the movement’s followers kept to this precept with astonishing self-discipline and courage. However, under the sorts of provocation people faced, tempers could snap, and no one’s temper snapped more famously than that of Annie Lee Cooper. A Selma native, she had moved when young to Kentucky, before returning to Selma in 1962 to look after her mother. Cooper had registered to vote when she lived in Kentucky and Ohio, and she was determined to vote in Alabama too, but first she had to register. She tried often, to no avail. “Once,” she said, “I stood in line from 7am to 4pm but never got to register.” On 7 October 1963, activists organised a Freedom Day when 400 black people, the maximum allowed by the courts, waited outside Dallas County courthouse to register, and Annie Lee Cooper stood among them. She wasn’t able to register, but when her employers saw her there, they fired her. On 25 January 1965, Annie Lee Cooper tried again, joining the queue of black people waiting outside Dallas County courthouse to register to vote. But this time, Sheriff Jim Clark turned up with his deputies. Clark ordered Cooper to leave, prodding her in the neck with his club, until Annie Lee Cooper finally let go of the principles of nonviolence, swung round and landed a sweet right hook on Clark’s jaw, knocking him to the ground. Clark’s deputies then waded in, pushing Cooper down and holding her there while the enraged Jim Clark beat her with his club. Annie Lee Cooper was arrested and held for 11 hours in jail: she sang spirituals during her imprisonment.

as Harry Belafonte and Nina Simone performed for the excited crowd. On the morrow, they knew they would be making history.

On 25 March, Dr King led the marchers through Montgomery. In response to reports of snipers waiting to shoot him, 15 black clergymen who looked like King walked abreast of him at the front of the procession. However, when the marchers reached the State Capitol building, Governor Wallace refused to see them. Dr King proceeded to address the marchers and, via television, the nation.

“Our aim must never be to defeat or humiliate the white man, but to win his friendship and understanding. We must come to see that the end we seek is a society at peace with itself, a society that can live with its conscience. And that will be a day not of the white man, not of the black man. That will be the day of man as man.”

Less than six months later, on 6 August 1965, President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act, with Dr King and other civil rights leaders by his side.
US troops land in Vietnam
US troops land in Vietnam

8 MARCH 1965
Landing on China Beach in central Vietnam, 3,500 American Marines became the first US troops to arrive in the country on 8 March 1965, joining up with the 23,000 military advisers already in Vietnam. Tasked with defending a nearby airbase, the soldiers arrived two days after the commencement of Operation Rolling Thunder, a relentless bombing campaign that claimed tens of thousands of Vietnamese civilian lives.
When model Jean Shrimpton wore a miniskirt at the Melbourne Cup Carnival in October 1965, she probably didn’t realise that she was in fact helping to launch a revolution in women’s clothing. Credited as the invention of London-based designer Mary Quant (who named her creation after her favourite car), the miniskirt took the fashion world by storm, helping women everywhere to cast off the old-fashioned styles expected of them.
A very mini skirt
SEARCHING THE MOORS

OCTOBER 1965
Following the arrests of arguably two of the most reviled child killers in criminal history, 150 police officers were deployed to search Saddleworth Moor for the five victims of Ian Brady and Myra Hindley. On 16 October officers found the body of ten-year-old Lesley Ann Downing, a grim discovery followed five days later by the location of 12-year-old John Kilbride’s decomposed remains.
Searching the moors
1966

Discover more about the year when England stunned the nation by achieving the impossible and Chairman Mao turned China upside down

Of all the unusual, almost miraculous events of the 1960s, can anything match England winning the World Cup? The British had invented football, exported it round the world, and then slowly seen those upstart foreigners, in the guise of galloping Magyars and irrepressible Brazilians, become masters of the game. But in 1966, the World Cup came to England and over the course of 20 days, England advanced to the final. England were leading 2-1 into the final minute, when Germany equalised. Extra time.

Alf Ramsey, England manager, forbade his exhausted players to lie down at the break, telling them, "You've won it once. Now you'll have to go out there and win it again." They did, with Geoff Hurst scoring twice in extra time, his last goal providing the most memorable commentary in British sporting history when, as Hurst closed in on goal, Kenneth Wolstenholme said, "Some people are on the pitch. They think it's all over. [Hurst scores.] It is now!" Geoff Hurst remains the only player to score a hat-trick in a World Cup final, and 1966 remains England's only football triumph.

One of the most traumatic events in Welsh history happened on 21 October 1966 when a massive spoil heap from the Merthyr Vale colliery collapsed, sending a wave of slurry into the village of Aberfan, burying the school. 116 children and 28 adults died in the disaster.

School staff tried to save the children: Nansi Williams, the dinner lady, saved five children by shielding them with her body; Dai Benyon, the deputy head, tried to shield his children with his blackboard.

In China, Chairman Mao launched the Cultural Revolution to remove the final obstacles to his absolute rule. By the time it was over, China had experienced years of chaotic near anarchy and anywhere between half a million and three million people had been killed.

Valle of The Dolls
10 February 1966
Jacqueline Susann's novel goes on to become the first modern blockbuster publishing phenomenon, racking up 31 million sales to date, spending a phenomenal 65 weeks on the New York Times bestseller list and launching the modern 'event' novel. With sales like that, no wonder Susann could say, "I don't think any novelist should be concerned with literature".
Flowers For Algernon 
March 1966
Flowers For Algernon tells the story of Charlie Gordon, a mentally subnormal man who is given the same intelligence enhancing surgery as Algernon, a lab mouse. He becomes a genius but realises the change is reversing when Algernon becomes erratic and dies. Written as Charlie's reports on himself, it ends with Charlie able to remember that he had once been smart.

'Save Star Trek' 
8 September 1966
Star Trek never achieved high viewing figures through its three seasons in production, but it attracts an enthusiastic fan base, whose advocacy for the series, in the form of 116,000 letters to NBC, prevents cancellation. These fans keep the series alive in reruns until it becomes more popular in repeat than it had ever been originally, leading to the Star Trek franchise.

Silence 
1966
Shusaku Endo’s novel, Silence, is one of the 20th-century’s most powerful novels, exploring faith, suffering and the silence of God. Endo, a Catholic, endured religious discrimination in Japan and racism in France. Telling the story of a 16th-century Jesuit missionary to Japan tortured into abjuring his faith, Endo tells the story of Japan’s tortuous encounter with the outside world.

TOP OF THE POPS
- The Beach Boys
  Good Vibrations
- The Beach Boys
  Pet Sounds
- Bob Dylan
  Blonde On Blonde
- The Beatles
  Revolver
- The Monkees
  Last Train To Clarksville

SILVER AND SMALL SCREEN HITS
- The Good, the Bad and the Ugly
- Blow-Up
- Andrei Rublev
- Star Trek
- Mission: Impossible
The glittering modelling career of Lesley Hornby, better known as Twiggy, began in 1966 after a fashion journalist spotted the blonde 16-year-old’s photograph in a Mayfair hair salon. Proclaimed in an article as ‘The Face of 1966’, Twiggy would become a world-famous model, one splashed across the covers of the most respected fashion magazines and paraded on all the prestigious catwalks.
Indira Gandhi is elected
Indira Gandhi is elected

19 JANUARY 1966

Following in the fabled footsteps of her father, Indira Gandhi became India’s first female prime minister in January 1966 and only the country’s third ever democratically elected leader since its independence in 1947. A controversial figure, Gandhi faced fierce opposition from the outset. However, this didn’t prevent her from shaping India into a formidable military power.
Luna 9 touches down
Luna 9 touches down

3 FEBRUARY 1966

In a key victory for the Soviet Union during the Space Race against the US, the Luna 9 became the first spacecraft to achieve a soft landing on the surface of the Moon and the successful transmission of data back to Earth from another planetary body. Part of the wider Luna programme (1959-76), the 99 kilogram spacecraft beamed numerous photographs back to Earth and tested the radiation levels on the lunar surface.
A kindergarten student thrusts a spear into a straw effigy labelled 'US bad'. In 1966, Chairman Mao ordered that China be purged of capitalism, calling upon the youth to spearhead the movement. The Red Guard was mobilised to rid the country of anyone deemed untrustworthy. In schools, textbooks were censored and pupils were encouraged to openly criticise the West.
Children forced to drive Mao’s revolution
England win the World Cup

30 JULY 1966

On arguably the greatest day in English sporting history, England defeated West Germany in a thrilling final at Wembley Stadium. Watched by 32.3 million people (the largest TV audience in UK history), England initially fell behind before securing a 2-1 lead, until Wolfgang Weber’s 89th-minute equaliser. Cue the extra time and a brace from Geoff Hurst that secured his hat-trick (the only one ever scored in a World Cup final) and a 4-2 victory for the hosts.
England win the World Cup
Within hours, London’s Evening Standard had hit the streets. ‘Champions of the World’, ran the headline. ‘A dream come true. England have won the World Cup,’ it began. The following day, the Sunday newspapers also picked up the news, inevitably splashing it across their front pages: ‘Golden Boys!’ the Sunday Mirror proclaimed, before adding a chirpy note to the world’s bankers: ‘Britain’s reserves went up yesterday by one valuable gold cup.’ There was no doubt that this would be a day to savour for decades to come.

On 30 July 1966, 96,924 people packed into Wembley Stadium and 32.3 million British viewers tuned in on their televisions to watch England take on West Germany in the World Cup final. Today, the names of the England players who took part that day can be reeled off one by one like old friends. But back then – despite Alf Ramsey declaring, ‘we will win the World Cup’ when appointed England manager in 1962 – not many fans really believed they could do it.

“I don’t think England supporters expect England to win anything and there was certainly that same feeling even back then,” says West Ham fan John James, who attended the final in 1966. And yet Ramsey stuck to his word. He had formally taken charge on 1 May 1963, and promptly began to do things his way. Not for him the lack of control over team selections suffered by the previous manager, Walter Winterbottom. Ramsey made his own choices, and whether that was naming Bobby Moore as England captain at just 22, or playing without wingers in the face of disbelief, he stood by every decision he made.

As hosts, England automatically qualified for the 1966 FIFA World Cup, along with defending champions Brazil. That left 14 other places which were taken by Argentina, Bulgaria, Chile, France, Hungary, Italy, North Korea, Mexico, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland,
Legends of the ’66 World Cup

Bobby Moore lifts the Jules Rimet trophy aloft in one of the most enduring images in English sporting history.
Uruguay, the Soviet Union and West Germany. All of England’s games were held at Wembley and, while the team started slowly with a 0-0 draw against Uruguay, they then went on a sensational run of victories that took them straight to the final.

The night before the big day, Ramsey - with a nagging sense that the occasion could overwhelm his men - tried to help the players relax. Without fanfare, they went to watch *Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines* at a local cinema. ‘Alf loved going to the pictures so we all strolled down to the picture house,’ recalls winger Terry Paine, who had just achieved promotion to the First Division with Southampton and played against Mexico in the second game. “And you know what? Not one photo was taken or autograph was asked. Can you imagine that today? You wouldn’t get within 100 metres of anybody but that was a remarkable feature of football in those days.”

It wasn’t the first time Ramsey had tried to relieve anxieties among the squad. You could say it had become a speciality of his. After that group stage draw, he took the players to Pinewood Studios. “We mixed with stars such as Sean Connery and went on the set of the James Bond film,” says Paine. “That was extra special and it got us over the disappointment.” Ramsey treated the international side as if it were a club team. He adopted similar principles to those that had seen him turn Ipswich Town into league champions at the first time of asking. The team became close-knit and fostered a feeling of togetherness that would serve them well on the pitch.

On the eve of the final against West Germany, most of the talk concerned striker Jimmy Greaves and whether or not he would play in place of Geoff Hurst. For most of the tournament Greaves had partnered Roger Hunt up front, but an injury granted Hurst a place in the team for the quarter-final. Hurst scored the only goal in that game and went on to provide an assist for Bobby Charlton in the semi. Unwilling to change a winning side, Ramsey decided to overlook Greaves for what would have been the biggest game of his life. “Being a West Ham fan, I was pleased that Hurst was going to be involved in the final,” says James. “The atmosphere for the games

I GOT TO THE DOOR OF THE DRESSING ROOM JUST AS BOBBY ARRIVED CARRYING THE GLEAMING JULES RIMET TROPHY

Norman Giller, sports historian

LEGEND OF MANAGEMENT: SIR ALF RAMSEY

What Alf Ramsey lacked in pace and height, he more than made up for with an uncanny knack for ensuring he was in the right part of the pitch at the right time. He made his professional debut on 26 October 1946 in a second division game for Southampton against Plymouth Argyle and proved himself to be an intelligent right-back. But after 96 appearances for the club, scoring eight goals, he left for Tottenham Hotspur and won the first division in 1951.

When his playing days were over, Ramsey went on to manage Ipswich Town in the Third Division (South) in 1955, leading them to promotion as champions. He won the first division with the club in 1961-62, an incredible success that led to him managing England. After winning the World Cup in 1966, he took England to third place in the UEFA European Championship in 1968 but quarter-final defeats at the 1970 World Cup and 1972 Euros, coupled with failure to qualify for the 1974 World Cup were disappointments that saw him sacked by the FA.
had also begun to change for the better. It had been quiet in the earlier rounds. For the final, there was a fabulous atmosphere. There were lots of Germans in the stadium – we were surprised at how many – but they were well outnumbered. It was something to behold.”

Back then, the fans didn’t wear replica kits. They just weren’t available to buy. Neither did they fly the flag of St George, preferring the Union Flag instead. The supporters also turned up with their England rosettes proudly pinned to their clothes, swinging their rattles and making a tremendous noise. “It was very different to the guys with their drums and trumpets today,” says Arsenal fan Roy O’Neil, who recalls buying his ticket from an agency at the Barbican in London for five times its face value, and ending up in a neutral zone of the stadium surrounded by Italian fans. “I remember the game being the first time I had heard the clapping routine which is still used today, the one that ends in the shout ‘England’. It was unique at the time.”

The game got underway at 3pm. England versus West Germany; Bobby Charlton pitted against Franz Beckenbauer; Bobby Moore marking the first victory in winning the coin toss and electing to kick off. The crowd were in high spirits and then, in the 12th minute, Helmut Haller cut the atmosphere completely dead. A cross from Sigfried Held was knocked from the head of Ray Wilson to his feet, allowing the German to fire a low cross-shot to Gordon Banks’ right: 1-0 to West Germany. Just six minutes later, however, Moore sent a free kick flying over the German defence, into space created by Hurst. With a glancing header, he equalised.

England were playing tremendously well. “As a Liverpool fan, I was impressed with Hunt up front, or Sir Roger Hunt as he has always been known at Anfield,” enthuses Dr Rogan Taylor, director of the Football Industry Group at the University of Liverpool. Hunt fired directly at the German goalkeeper Hans Tilkowski but just couldn’t quite get it past. “The team were all playing their part and no one was letting the side down,” says O’Neil. But the crowd started to quieten as the minutes ticked away. “The fans didn’t do much to lift the team at this point, I remember that quite starkly,” says Manchester United fan John Toye. “But they began cheering again once Martin Peters scored to put England ahead again.” It was the 78th minute and Peters shot from close range, having initially hit Horst-Dieter Höttges from a Hurst attempt.

AFRICA PULLS OUT

Unfortunately, there were no sporting legends from Africa in the World Cup of 1966. Every team in the continent decided to pull out of the qualifiers in protest at the teams which topped the African zone having to play-off against European or Asian opposition for their place in the finals.

The feeling was that Africa should be offered a direct route for qualification, and the boycott led to the rules being changed for the 1970 tournament. One consequence of this action was that North Korea took part in the World Cup for the first time in 1966, which caused problems at home: the country wasn’t recognised by the UK, and so it was almost refused entry. Today, six of the 32 finalists are taken from Africa.
BOBBY MOORE WAS ONE OF THE GREATEST DEFENDERS THERE HAS BEEN ... HE DIDN'T HAVE PACE BUT HIS SOCCER BRAIN WAS SECOND TO NONE
Terry Paine, 1966 World Cup winner

With five minutes to go, the players who hadn't been selected to play in the team that day had assembled on the touchline on the orders of Ramsey and they were fully anticipating a win. They were all part of the team, Ramsey had told them, and so they must be supportive of those on the pitch. They waited for the referee to blow his whistle and then - drama.

In the 89th minute, just moments after a narrowly wide shot by Charlton had England fans groaning, Wolfgang Weber shot towards the England goal. It crossed the line and the watching crowd went completely silent. “What a gut-wrencher at the stroke of full time,” says James. The score was 2-2 and that meant only one thing: an agonising extra 30 minutes of play. “No way did we think the team would win in extra time. The team was dejected but Alf came out, waved his finger and gave them a lecture.” Whatever his words, it seemed to do the trick.

The rest of the squad remained in situ for the duration of that half and, unlike James, Paine was confident. “I still believe Gordon Banks was the greatest goalkeeper the world has seen, he was a superstar,” he says. “Bobby Moore was one of the best defenders there has ever been – he didn’t have pace but his soccer brain was second to none. Ray Wilson could match Brazil’s Garrincha for pace and Nobby Stiles was of the old school and did a great job. Martin Peters was an intelligent guy coming in from the left-hand side. Bobby Charlton speaks for himself. And young Alan Ball, the best one-touch player in the world. Then we had Geoff Hurst alongside the hard-working Roger Hunt.”

Ball crossed to Hurst in the 101st minute and Hurst smashed the ball on the underside of the crossbar, causing it to bounce down on to the line and be cleared. But did it go in? Referee Gottfried Dienst consulted his linesman Toiq Bahramov. “I remember him running over to this day,” says Paine. “The Russian linesman said something which sounded like it would be ‘yes’. The goal was given and from our point of view it was in.”

The West Germans tried to rally but England were on a high. Some supporters ran on to the pitch and at home, viewers listened to a distracted Lancastrian BBC commentator named Kenneth Wolstenholme utter the infamous words: “Some people are on the pitch! They think it’s all over!” Hurst blasted into the net and the crowd went wild. “It is now!” England had won the World Cup.

All across the country, people jumped in celebration. “I was only 10 and watched it in our front room on our old battered black-and-white set while my mum went shopping,” says Manchester United fan John Horne. “After the game, I went outside and...
repeatedly smashed the ball against our coal shed wall for the next three hours, imitating Geoff Hurst’s winning goal.” The result meant so much to so many people and enthusiasm for football soared among the population.

As Haller sneaked away with the match ball, whipping it from under Hurst’s nose as he celebrated his hat-trick, the celebrations continued in the dressing room. “I got to the door of the England dressing room just as Bobby arrived carrying the gleaming, real Jules Rimet trophy”, says sports historian and former Daily Express chief football reporter Norman Giller, who has now recalled the entire day in a comprehensive new book called July 30 1966, Football’s Longest Day.

Giller went to hug the captain in congratulation of the feat but Alf Ramsey appeared, irked by the disputed goal, and the journalist knew it was time to leave. Ramsey’s spirit quickly lifted but the players were still in disbelief. “Will somebody pinch me,” George Cohen was heard as saying. “Am I dreaming?” He wasn’t. The players went to a reception at The Royal Garden in Kensington but the fans weren’t ready to give up celebrating. As they got wind the players were at the luxury-five star hotel, they gathered outside, cheering as their new heroes appeared on the balcony. The excitement lasted for weeks. Frank Wood, a reporter on the Bolton Evening News, recalled fans wanted to play tribute to England’s newest footballing legends. “There was one guy who twice walked the Pennine Way who suggested that all the stiles along the 250-mile route should be known as ‘Nobbies’. That didn’t happen but it didn’t matter. The players had secured their place in history, the most successful England side of all time. “To win a World Cup, you need at least five world-class players,” says Paine. “We probably had more than that.” Result.

**LOSING THE WORLD CUP**

Although England achieved success in 1966, they actually managed to lose the World Cup - in the most literal sense. The trophy was stolen on the afternoon of 20 March 1966 from the Methodist Central Hall in Westminster where it had been put on display. It led to a nationwide hunt and much embarrassment for the FA but it also heralded another sporting legend: Pickles, a black-and-white collie, who sniffed out the Jules Rimet Trophy seven days later wrapped in a newspaper in a hedge in London. “It was all over the news because there was this mystery element to it”, recalls screenwriter Michael Chaplin, who based the TV drama, *Pickles: The Dog Who Won the World Cup*, on the story in 2006. “It was almost like a classic Ealing comedy - this ridiculous event whereby this iconic piece of silverware was taken and no one knew who did it. I thought it was charming; a British caper which lent itself well to an entertaining film.”
For more than 50 years, England’s third goal in the final has proved controversial, with doubt cast over whether the ball crossed the line after it hit the crossbar and bounced down. While the goal stood following consultation between the referee and the linesman, the Germans have always believed it should have been ruled out.

In 2010, it appeared scorer Sir Geoff Hurst himself thought the same. He told a press conference to promote sponsorship of the Football Conference, “I have to admit that the ball didn’t cross the line”. But it later emerged it was an April Fool’s joke, much to everyone’s relief. Thankfully, earlier this year Sky Sports used the EA Sports Performance system to prove once and for all that it did cross the line. Or maybe not. Bild Sports of Germany continued to dispute the claim and there have been tests which show the opposite is true. A decision set to go into extra time itself, perhaps.
Stiles’ pass is collected by the diminutive Alan Ball, who races towards the byline.

Ball’s cross finds Geoff Hurst in the German box. The striker turns sharply past defender Willi Schulz and on to his right foot.

Hurst lets rip a powerful shot that beats Tilkowski and bounces down off the crossbar.

The ball is cleared but Roger Hunt wheels away in celebration. After a lengthy pause, the referee signals a goal.

Ball beats German defender Horst-Dieter Höttges and fires a cross towards the centre of the penalty area.

Hurst lets rip a powerful shot that beats Tilkowski and bounces down off the crossbar.
Hippies, Hair and the Summer of Love jut up against war in the Middle East, pioneering advances in heart surgery and continuing racial inequality in the US

This was the Summer of Love, the apotheosis of the 1960s hippie movement. Its centre was the Haight-Ashbury district of San Francisco but there were events, concerts and ‘happenings’ throughout America and Britain. The summer actually started in the winter, with the Human Be-In on 14 January in San Francisco’s Golden Gate Park, a ‘happening’ with bands including Jefferson Airplane and The Grateful Dead, poets (Allan Ginsberg) and hippie drugs guru Timothy Leary; this was where he first proclaimed the hippie mantra, “Turn on, tune in, drop out”. The counterculture, a culture opposed to what it saw as the prevailing materialism and consumerism of the American mainstream, had found a voice. Hippies converged on San Francisco during the following months, particularly after Scott McKenzie had a hit with San Francisco (Be Sure To Wear Flowers In Your Hair). The Monterey Pop Festival (16-18 June) brought thousands more; the artists, who included Hendrix, The Who and Janis Joplin, donated their fees to charity. Drugs, particularly LSD and cannabis, became vehicles for expanding consciousness.

But there was little love in the Middle East. Between 5 and 10 June, Israel fought the Six-Day War against Egypt, Jordan and Syria, gaining a rapid and unexpected victory with minimal casualties. The larger Arab forces suffered greater losses. Israel gained control of much territory, including the Sinai Peninsula and Gaza Strip from Egypt, the Golan Heights from Syria, and the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan.

Following the capture of East Jerusalem, Jews were able to worship at the Western Wall.

On 3 December, Dr Christiaan Barnard performed the first heart transplant on 53-year-old Louis Washkansky. Washkansky survived the operation but died 18 days later from lung failure.

Argentinian revolutionary Che Guevara, the poster boy of communist insurrection, was executed on 9 October in Bolivia.

Defining moments

- **Round the world**
- **28 May 1967**
  On 27 August 1966, Francis Chichester sailed out of Plymouth Harbour in his boat, Gypsy Moth IV. Nine months later, he returns there, having sailed solo around the world, stopping off en route only once, in Sydney. This was the first solo voyage around the world. Chichester took up yachting after being diagnosed with terminal cancer in 1958. The disease eventually got him in 1972.

- **One Hundred Years Of Solitude**
- **30 May 2017**
  Gabriel García Márquez’s novel of the Buendía family defines magical realism as a literary genre and brings Latin American literature to the attention of the world. The book will go on to be translated into 37 languages and sell over 30 million copies, and all this despite the fact that Márquez has always refused to sell the film rights.

- **Loving vs Virginia**
- **12 June 1967**
  Mildred Jeter and Richard Loving of Virginia moved to Washington DC to marry, as interracial marriages were illegal in Virginia. They returned, but were arrested on 11 July 1958 and sentenced to a year in prison, suspended if they moved out of state. The case was appealed to the US Supreme Court and nearly a decade later the court rules Virginia’s law violates the American Constitution.
Hair
17 October 1967
The musical that defines the, somewhat nebulous, ideals of hippie counterculture, Hair, opens Off-Broadway before moving on Broadway in 1968. With its on-stage nudity, drug taking and anti-Vietnam war stance, plus some era-defining songs, including Aquarius and Good Morning Sunshine, Hair brings the 1960s counterculture into the theatrical spotlight.

First ATM
27 June 1967
The first automatic teller machine is installed in the Barclays Bank branch in the London suburb of Enfield Town, with Coronation Street star Reg Varney inaugurating the machine. John Shepherd-Barron led the team that invented it, taking his inspiration from chocolate vending machines. "I hit upon the idea of a chocolate bar dispenser, but replacing chocolate with cash".

The Naked Ape
October 1967
In his book, Desmond Morris, a zoologist and ethologist, compares humanity's behaviour to the great apes and argues many of our traits are evolutionary adaptations to cope with life as hunter gatherers. He also states the abnormal size, in comparison to other apes, of women's breasts and male penises, are evolutionary adaptations to this primordial lifestyle.
Super Bowl I

15 January 1967

Held as part of a merger agreement between the rival NFL and AFL leagues, the first Super Bowl was contested by the Kansas City Chiefs and the Green Bay Packers. While the Chiefs bettered their NFL opponents in the first half, the superiority of the Packers told in the second, the Wisconsin-based outfit running out 35-10 winners. Fifty-two Super Bowls have taken place, the last of which featured two teams worth a combined $6.35 billion in a game watched by over 100 million people.
First woman runs Boston Marathon

19 APRIL 1967

In an understated act of defiance, Kathy Switzer became the first registered woman to run the Boston Marathon. After being told by her coach that a "fragile woman" couldn't go the distance, Switzer finished in four hours and 20 minutes despite an official attempting to physically remove her. Switzer would help overturn a ban on female runners competing against men in 1972.
The Six-Day War
In a blistering response to the mobilisation of Arabic forces, Israel ignited the Six-Day War of 1967 with a bombing raid that destroyed 90 per cent of Egypt’s air force. Israel then turned its ire on the invading Jordanians, forcing them out of Jerusalem before storming the Golan Heights in an offensive that forced Syria to accept a ceasefire. Israel had lost 700 men: its enemies’ losses totalled approximately 18,000.
The Summer of Love

SUMMER 1967

A group of hippies keep a large ball, painted to represent the globe, in the air during a gathering in San Francisco to celebrate the summer solstice, day one of the ‘Summer of Love’. It was a social phenomenon where over 100,000 people supporting the hippie culture descended on San Francisco to listen to music, share liberal ideas and protest against the Vietnam War.
First human heart transplant
Louis Washkansky sits up in bed following his successful heart transplant surgery, the first of its kind in history. Surgeon Christiaan Barnard performed the nine-hour long procedure at the Groote Schuur Hospital in Cape Town, South Africa. Sadly, Washkansky died just 18 days later following treatment to suppress his immune system so that the heart was not rejected, leaving him susceptible to pneumonia.
It seemed like the world had gone mad in 1968, with the assassination of Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy, plus civil uprisings across the world.

1968 was labelled as being the Summer of Love, 1968 can only be thought of as the year of rage and horror. The horror came in the wake of the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr and then Robert Kennedy just a couple of months later. The rage exploded in riots in Paris and throughout the US following King's murder. Meanwhile, in south-east Asia, the Viet Cong launched the Tet Offensive and in Europe Soviet tanks put an end to the Prague Spring. By the end of the year, all of the hope and belief in love and peace that dominated 1967 seemed a very long time in the past.

Nothing symbolised the dashing of hopes more than the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr on 4 April 1968. As leader of the Civil Rights Movement, King had got used to receiving many death threats and had accepted the possibility of his death as part of the struggle for civil rights. King had gone to Memphis to support black sanitation workers striking for equal pay and, on 3 April, he gave a speech where he noted how he had accepted the risk of death but said, “I’m not concerned about that now. I just want to do God’s will. And He’s allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I’ve looked over. And I’ve seen the promised land.”

The next evening, King stepped out on to the balcony of the motel where he was staying when a single bullet struck him down, fatally wounding him. His killer, James Earl Ray, was arrested two months later at London Heathrow Airport following a worldwide manhunt.

When the news spread of King's assassination, riots broke out across the United States in more than 100 cities, with particularly violent confrontations in Washington, Chicago and Baltimore. Sometimes called the Holy Week Uprising, by the time the riots had wound down over 45 people were dead and inner-city Washington looked like a war zone.

The England cricket tour to South Africa was cancelled after apartheid South Africa objected to England's mixed race cricketer.

Defining moments

- **Tet Offensive** 30 January 1968
  Believing to be near to winning the war in Vietnam, American public opinion is stunned when the Viet Cong launches a series of attacks throughout South Vietnam. Although the offensive is a major defeat for the Viet Cong, it proves a political triumph, as it convinces American opinion, rightly or wrongly, that the war in Vietnam is unwinnable.

- **France erupts** May 1968
  France comes to the brink of civil war as civil unrest, strikes and student occupations of universities brings the country to a standstill. Workers and students, protesting the rule of President Charles de Gaulle, cause him to flee the country for a few hours on 29 May but he returns and, bolstered by his supporters, calls national elections, which his party wins by a landslide.

- **Assassination of Robert F Kennedy** 5 June 1968
  Robert Kennedy runs in the presidential primaries for the nomination from his party, the Democrats. After giving a speech to supporters, Kennedy leaves the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles when Sirhan Sirhan, a Palestinian angry at Kennedy's support for Israel, shoots him at short range. Robert Kennedy dies 26 hours later.

Gary Lockwood and Keir Dullea in capsule together in a scene from 2001: A Space Odyssey, a cinematic masterpiece by Kubrick.
Prague Spring ends
21 August 1968
Alexander Dubček’s election as first secretary of the Communist Party in Czechoslovakia sees him attempt to allow his people a greater degree of freedom than they had in the years of Soviet domination, calling his experiment, “Socialism with a human face”. The Soviet Union, determined to stop this experiment, send over 500,000 troops into the country to crush reforms.

Do Androids Dream Of Electric Sheep?
1968
Philip K Dick’s novel of the android hunter, Deckard, and his mission to ‘retire’, that is to terminate, androids passing themselves off as human beings brings into focus the whole question of what it is to be human. It also provides the inspiration for Ridley Scott’s genre-defining film, Blade Runner.

Chariots Of The Gods?
1968
Erich Von Däniken’s book argues that the religions and technologies of ancient civilizations are the result of encounters with extraterrestrial cultures who appear to be gods to the people they encountered. He also argues that the primitive human societies could not have built the Pyramids or Stonehenge on their own, but rather were helped by alien visitors.
Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated

4 APRIL 1968

Police and members of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference stand over the body of Martin Luther King Jr. following his assassination at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee. The death of the civil rights leader sparked riots in over 100 cities across the States. King used impassioned speeches and non-violent protests to pave the way in civil rights for African-Americans.
Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated
Born into the degradation of the Great Depression and the strife of ongoing racial division, Michael King Jr would, alongside his father, adopt the name Martin Luther in honour of the radical German theologian. Despite battling depression and a young scepticism to religion, King would become one of the most influential activists for racial equality: a passion that would eventually take his life.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR (BORN MICHAEL KING JR)
American, 1929-68

Born into the degradation of the Great Depression and the strife of ongoing racial division, Michael King Jr would, alongside his father, adopt the name Martin Luther in honour of the radical German theologian. Despite battling depression and a young scepticism to religion, King would become one of the most influential activists for racial equality: a passion that would eventually take his life.
Martin Luther King Jr rose from a simple Baptist minister to a crusader for nonviolent protest and racial equality, and his death resonated around the world.

The Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s – a social and political upheaval that changed the United States, and indeed the wider world – has immortalised many of its most famous activists. Some were radicals, urging African Americans to break the shackles of enforced segregation and create a new nation of black supremacy, while others preached a policy of peace, believing only diplomacy and reason could undo the prejudices of old.

Martin Luther King Jr, the son of a Baptist minister and one of the figureheads of the Civil Rights Movement throughout the 1950s and 1960s, was one such peaceful individual – but unlike his contemporaries, his legacy owes itself as much to the aftermath of his death as it does the inspirational actions of his life. As a figure campaigning for change in a country struggling to shake off its divisionist traditions, King refused to accept the segregation that forced African Americans into lives as second-class citizens.

He organised sit-ins and led rallies and protests, but always promoted a mantra of nonviolence – his position as a minister and his natural talent for public speaking made him a force of nature, captivating the media and befuddling both the radical black activists of the movement and the white traditionalists refusing to alter the status quo. It also made him a target. His life was filled with attacks and assassination attempts, but whether by luck or the grace of god, King survived almost every one.

In life, King was the voice of a new era, one that wanted to make all citizens equal in the eyes of god and the Constitution, a peaceful force in a nation ready to blow like a powder keg. In his later years, he was a key influence on the ratification of the Civil Rights Bill, which granted civil equality for African Americans, but his death helped secure the last – and perhaps the most vital – legislative change of the Civil Rights Movement: the Housing Act. The wave of mourning felt across the nation following his murder, however tragic, was exactly what was needed to ensure every citizen – regardless of colour or creed – could have a home that was protected from discrimination.
Death of a King

The rise to fame

15 January 1929
Born Michael King Jr in Atlanta, Georgia, he's the middle child of Reverend Michael King and Alberta Williams King.

1934
King finds inspiration in the works of German theologian Martin Luther. He renames himself and his eldest son in tribute.

1944
A gifted student, King graduates at the age of 15 and passes the entry exam for the prestigious Morehouse College.

1948
King graduates with a BA in Sociology. He becomes a minister and enters the Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania.

1 December 1955
King joins the Montgomery Bus Boycott following Rosa Parks’ arrest. Four days later, he’s elected the spokesman for the movement.

1957
The Southern Christian Leadership Conference is formed by King to battle segregation and attain civil rights for African Americans.

1960
King is arrested and sentenced to four months in prison. Presidential candidate Kennedy helps to remove the sentence.

20 September 1958
While at a book signing, King is stabbed in the chest by a mentally ill woman. He is hospitalised but will make a full recovery.

13 April 1963
King launches the Birmingham campaign. Nonviolent protesters are blasted with water canons and arrested during sit-ins.

10 May 1963
After a month of protests, the Birmingham agreement is struck, enabling African Americans to use shops and public services.

3 January 1964
After years as the figurehead of nonviolent, and more importantly successful, protests, King appears on the cover of Time magazine.

28 August 1963
King delivers his iconic ‘I Have A Dream’ speech to 250,000 activists on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, Washington DC.

2 July 1964
The Civil Rights Act is signed into law by President Lyndon B Johnson. King and fellow activists celebrate, but many white citizens choose to ignore the new law.

4 April 1968
A day after he delivers his final ‘I’ve Been To The Mountaintop’ speech, King is fatally shot in Memphis. Riots and mourning engulf the US.

It’s a common misconception that King and Malcolm X were close – in fact they only met once. Despite his early extreme views, X would eventually share the same ideals of nonviolence.
THE DAYS BEFORE

As Martin Luther King Jr made the fateful steps towards that final evening in Memphis, the years-long Civil Rights Movement was reaching its crescendo.

In 1968, after more than a decade of activism, true change was finally about to become a reality for African Americans living in the United States. Despite the abolition of slavery during the presidency of Abraham Lincoln, non-white citizens still lived a half life, forced into segregation and robbed of the equality championed in the Constitution. Now, with spring in full swing, Martin Luther King Jr and the Civil Rights Movement had done (to some) the unthinkable: they had changed the opinions of the people with power, people with the power to change the law.

Yet with the bill mere months away from being signed into law, those final days of King’s life were becoming a tense affair. The movement was splintering, with more aggressive elements, such as the Black Panthers group, bringing negative attention to the cause. Progress was being made, but riots were becoming as common as the peaceful protests promoted by King. Events were boiling to a crescendo.

Of course, such a radical change did not occur overnight, but recent actions had set events into an even swifter motion. The Civil Rights bill itself had originally been called for by President John F Kennedy in 1963 - charismatic yet ferocious in his political demeanour. JFK was a force to be reckoned with, but even he encountered considerable resistance (and calls for a counter bill) in the Senate. His assassination later that year rocked the nation, but it also passed the presidency to Lyndon B Johnson - a man as passionate about achieving true equality for American citizens as his predecessor.

King followed the path of the bill with great interest, and his presence in many of the Senate hearings throughout its existence bound the two together. King met with President Johnson a number of times as the bill inched towards completion. Such a realisation enabled King to begin to focus his attention elsewhere: specifically, the need to improve the lives of the USA’s poorest Americans. Now, King and his compatriots had their eyes on the biggest prize of all: amending the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Despite so many years at the head of the Civil Rights Movement, and legislative change very much a reality for African Americans across the country, King was still leading the charge on all fronts. In 1968, he was organising the ‘Poor People’s Campaign’, which aimed to address the serious economic deficit that alienated poorer areas of society. More importantly, it was a multicultural cause. King was determined to address the poor living conditions of all Americans, regardless of ethnicity.

On 28 March, King made his first major push of the campaign, directing his attention not towards Washington DC as he had in the past, but towards Memphis and the ongoing Memphis Sanitation Strike. The strike - which saw 1,300 black workers walk out due to dangerous working conditions, discrimination and the horrific deaths of two workers - was national news, and King was determined to use Memphis as a catalyst to kick start the campaign.

However, an unusual burst of riots and violent incidents brought the campaign considerable negative press, with high-ranking civil rights activist Bayard Rustin even pulling out of the campaign because he felt it was too broad and unrealistic in its goals of demanding widespread economic rejuvenation.

On 3 April, King flew into Memphis proper in order to make a speech at the Mason Temple (the world headquarters of the Church of God in Christ) - his flight was initially delayed due to a bomb threat, but he made it in time to make the address.

The speech, ‘I’ve Been To The Mountaintop’, became one of King’s most iconic and well-known orations. “Somewhere I read of the freedom of assembly,” he declared. “Somewhere I read of the freedom of speech. Somewhere I read of the freedom of press. Somewhere I read that the greatness of America is the right to protest for rights. And so just as I say, we aren’t going to let dogs or water hoses turn us around. We aren’t going to let any injunction turn us around. We are going on.”

Enemies of the King

J Edgar Hoover
When it comes to counting your enemies, having the radical director of the FBI as one of them is a feat in and unto itself. While it’s not been proven that Hoover had any objection to King’s objectives in the Civil Rights Movement, he did attempt to destabilise its progress upon discovering communist spies among his top advisers.

Governor George Wallace
When George Wallace took the Oath of Office for the governorship of Alabama, he brought with him an iron desire to enforce and maintain racial segregation. It was a stance he pursued for many years, especially in spite of King’s movements, but he would recant his views in later life.

Malcolm X
While Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr weren’t enemies as individuals, their beliefs on how to achieve equality for African Americans were, for a certain amount of time, polarised in the extreme. In his early years, Malcolm X struggled with King’s staunch stance of nonviolence, believing that equality could only be achieved through force.

Stokely Carmichael
Once upon a time, a young Stokely Carmichael was a devoted and passionate supporter of King’s SNCC, but like many young adherents, he eventually became frustrated with the slow progress of the movement. He would go on to coin and promote the term ‘black power’ - a phrase King would describe as “an unfortunate choice of words.”

Omali Yesheitela
Much like Malcolm X, Yesheitela (born Joseph Waller) rejected King’s ideas of racial integration, instead believing that the US (as well as the wider world) could only prosper under black supremacy and a new African nation. He continued to be active in violent protests and, unlike Malcolm X, he never resinded those supremacist views.
By April 1968, Martin Luther King Jr and the Civil Rights Movement had almost achieved all of their goals – the Civil Rights Act had been signed into law a mere two days earlier and the Housing Bill Act, which protected the homes of all citizens, was coming into effect. Equality was fast becoming a reality, broadcast across the airwaves of every TV and radio around the world, and King remained the triumphant face of peaceful activism in defiance of age-old tensions and domestic uncertainty. And so, with victory all but certain, King travelled to Memphis for his last push to the mountaintop.

From a simple stroll onto a motel balcony to the flight of an unsuspecting assassin, we break down the murder of a civil rights icon

**THE ASSASSINATION**

**4 April 1968**

15:30

Earlier in the day, ex-convict James Earl Ray had used local news reports and newspapers to determine where King would be staying. At about 3.30pm, he rents room 5B in the run-down Bessie Brewster boarding house, situated across the street from the Lorraine Motel. Ray then heads out and purchases a pair of binoculars for $41.55 from a local store, and returns to the room to watch from his vantage point at the boarding house. He uses a spot in the communal bathroom as a sniping position and waits for King to appear.

17:30

It’s a balmy evening in Memphis, Tennessee and Martin Luther King Jr, key members of his entourage and a large contingent of the movement are staying in the birthplace of rock and roll following King’s delivery of the iconic I’ve Been To The Mountaintop speech at the Mason Temple the day before. King is staying at the Lorraine Motel, a two-storey building on Mulberry Street in downtown Memphis. A popular choice for King when staying in Bluff City, he has just finished getting ready for a dinner with local minister Billy Kyles.

18:01

Booked into room 306, King has just finished shaving (he’s running late due to an animated conversation with minister Kyles). A group of civil rights members (James Bevel, Chauncey Eskridge, Jesse Jackson, Hosea Williams, Andrew Young and the driver Solomon Jones Jr) are waiting out front in a white Cadillac. Wiping away the shaving powder, King steps out onto the balcony. A single shot rings out; it strikes King through the cheek. Kyles is halfway down the stairs outside when he hears the shot and rushes back to King’s room.

18:01

With his single shot striking true, James Earl Ray begins preparing to leave. He places his high-velocity rifle, binoculars, a small radio and a newspaper into a box and wraps it in an old green blanket. Mulberry Street and the surrounding area has already descended into chaos. The shot was loud and everyone knows King is staying across the street. Ray places the bundled box outside the Canipe’s Amusement Store next to the boarding house. He quickly walks to his nearby car, a white Mustang, and drives away as police arrive.
Death of a King

The weapon

Within a few minutes of the shot being fired on that fateful evening in 1968, Memphis police found a Remington 760 ‘Gamemaster’ (a high-velocity rifle), several unspent rounds and a number of other effects wrapped up in a bundle. Interestingly, the rifle was not found at a vantage point – instead it was discovered abandoned outside the Canipe’s Amusement Store across the street from the Lorraine Motel where King was staying. However, FBI and local police reports differ on whether the rifle was actually the one used to kill, with some suggesting the bullet recovered from King’s body was incompatible with the purported murder weapon.

Delegate Walter E Fauntroy holds the rifle that was used to kill King.

The red and white wreath at the Lorraine Motel marks the spot where King was assassinated.

It was from this window, on the first floor of the Betty Brewster boarding house, that James Earl Ray took the shot that killed Martin Luther King Jr.
Ray had racist beliefs

While he was born in Illinois, Ray and his family eventually relocated to Bowling Green, Missouri – a city with a considerable Ku Klux Klan presence. Drawn in by the radical yet influential views of the KKK, Ray reportedly embraced its racist views at a young age – it’s these views, tempered by a life of poverty and crime, that may have driven Ray to kill one of the most prominent African Americans in the country’s history.

He was, and always had been, a poor man

Some believe that one of Ray’s motives for the killing may have been purely financial. He’d been born into poverty and had struggled on the breadline for most of his life. Unable to find success in education, Ray’s youth and subsequently adulthood spiralled into a mixture of petty crime and prison spells. There’s a possibility that the mysterious ‘Raoul’ character – who Ray was adamant had hired him to carry out the assassination – could have paid him to take the shot.

He wanted the infamy

For most of his life, Ray had lived in inherent obscurity. Born into a life of abject poverty with little aptitude for education, Ray found a sense of twisted purpose and confidence as a criminal. There’s a possibility that Ray, knowing the global media attention the death of King would garner, wanted the macabre celebrity status being an assassin would bring.
TRIAL AND AFTERMATH

With the country in a state of shock and national mourning, the attention of the world turned to the man who took the fatal shot.

Within moments of unleashing the bullet that would take Martin Luther King Jr’s life, James Earl Ray packed his rifle and other effects into a box, wrapped it in an old cloth and fled the boarding house he’d been using to stalk the outspoken minister. Dumping the bundled box outside a nearby amusement arcade, Ray had run to his white Mustang and sped out of Memphis as King lay dying on the first floor of the Lorraine Hotel.

In the days that followed, Ray acquired a Canadian passport under the false name of Ramon George Sneyd and took shelter in the city of Ontario. The FBI issued a warrant for his arrest, adding him to their notorious Most Wanted list while also putting an APB out on all of his known aliases. Two months later, on 8 June, while he was attempting to leave the United Kingdom, check-in staff realised the name Sneyd was on the Royal Canadian Mounted Police watch list. Airport officials also discovered a second passport on Ray under another assumed alias.

Ray was immediately arrested, and extradited to the United States a few days later. In the two months since his flight, the FBI had begun what would, at the time, become the most expensive investigation in the Bureau's history. The manhunt for Ray had spread across five countries, including an excursion to Canada and the search for Ray in the United States. In the end, the FBI had brought Ray to justice after months of relentless pursuit.

Ray initially confessed to everything to avoid a death sentence, but three days later he withdrew his guilty plea. According to Ray, a mysterious man called ‘Raoul’ (whom Ray had met in Canada) had orchestrated the entire operation, directing Ray to purchase a rifle and reserve a specific room at the Betty Brewster boarding house. Evidence of such a figure, beyond Ray’s own testimony, was never found, and with Ray’s troubled history with the law, the prosecution was assured of its confidence in Ray as the killer.

But what had led him into this position? Ever since his teenage years, Ray had been a habitual criminal. Bold but predominantly unsuccessful in his career, his rap sheet was a pockmarked road of armed robberies and thefts. He’d escaped from prison a number of times, including an excursion from Missouri State Prison the year before King was gunned down. Unafraid of wielding a weapon, Ray was described as fearless - but his crimes had never gone as far as murder. A petty thief, undoubtedly, but a killer?

Ray adamantly denied he killed King (a stand he kept until his death in 1998). However, despite the purely circumstantial evidence - including witnesses who identified Ray fleeing the scene - he was convicted of King's murder and sentenced to 99 years in prison.

So why was Ray convicted on such a slim case of evidence? Conspiracy theories continue to run rife as to the inner machinations of the prosecution's case, but one fact was clear: someone had to be made accountable. Five years earlier, the president himself had been gunned down in a similar fashion. Captured on film and immortalised in the minds of all, it left the nation shocked at the simple yet barbaric act of assassination. Much like King, JFK was a popular and charismatic figure and his very public execution galvanised the US into a common desire for justice.

JFK’s death was a shocking twist on a Cold War backdrop. King’s assassination, however shocking, united the nation in collective mourning. It didn’t quell the violence perpetuated by the movement’s more radical elements, but it did accelerate the road towards equality. Three months after his death, the Civil Rights Act was signed into law, finally ensuring the constitutional rights of every citizen against unlawful persecution and segregation.

Conspiracy theories
Many remain convinced there’s more to the story

The mysterious ‘Raoul’
Ray remained adamant he had been hired by a man named Raoul. He had apparently met him in Canada and travelled with him to Memphis to oversee the hit. The FBI dismissed this claim, but in 1998 a retired FBI agent revealed he had found pieces of paper in Ray’s car referring to such a suspect.

Lloyd Jowers ordered the hit
One theory doesn’t even include Ray as the shooter. It centres on Lloyd Jowers, who ran the Lorn’s Grill bar across the road from the Lorraine Motel where King was staying. Jowers, in 1993, claimed Memphis produce dealer Frank Liberto paid him $100,000 to hire a hitman - and it wasn’t Ray.

It was a government hit
According to Ray’s last lawyer, William Pepper, the US government was behind it. In his book, The Truth Behind The Murder Of Martin Luther King, Pepper claims a mafia hitman was hired, with the CIA, the FBI and army intelligence all involved in the plot to halt King’s influence and frame the unwitting Ray.
Robert F Kennedy is assassinated

5 JUNE 1968

Robert F Kennedy lies on the floor of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles after being shot multiple times by Palestinian Sirhan Sirhan. The US was going through a period of huge unrest and Kennedy was attempting to unify the American people through his devotion to civil rights. Sirhan admitted at his trial that he murdered Kennedy because of his support of Israel.
Robert F Kennedy is assassinated
Gold medallist Tommie Smith and bronze medallist John Carlos stand in protest of the unfair treatment of African Americans in the United States at the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico. The pair each raised a hand sporting a black glove during the national anthem. Smith later stated in his autobiography that the gesture was not a “Black Power salute” but a “human rights salute.”
Olympic human rights salute
Nixon wins the presidential election

5 NOVEMBER 1968

Former vice president and republican candidate Richard Nixon strikes a victorious pose next to his wife and children after winning the presidential election. The dynamics of the presidential race changed significantly following the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy, leading Nixon to beat the incumbent democratic nominee Hubert Humphrey by three percentage points.
Nixon wins the presidential election
The year that heralded a man landing on the Moon, the Woodstock festival and the Manson Family slaughtering Sharon Tate

Houston, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed." When these words were heard crackling over the speakers at Mission Control, the watching world collectively let out the breath it had been holding. They were down, safely. The promise made by President Kennedy “before this decade is out, of landing a man on the Moon” had been kept. Strapped into the Lunar Module, astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin looked out onto the stark greys and blacks of the lunar landscape. They were about to do something beyond the dreams of human history: they were about to set foot on the Moon.

It truly was the most extraordinary achievement, especially when you consider that it had been only 64 years since the Wright brothers had made the first flight, piloting their Flyer a few hundred feet. Now two men were about to set foot on the Moon. At 2.39am on 21 July, Neil Armstrong, suited up, opened the hatch of the Lunar Module. At 2.51am he began to climb down and, at 2.56am his left foot finally touched dust. “That’s one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for mankind.” Buzz Aldrin then joined Armstrong on the Moon’s surface 12 minutes later, looking out on a scene of “magnificent desolation”.

Meanwhile, on the Command Module orbiting the Moon, Michael Collins was to become the loneliest man in history: cut off from sight of Earth on the far side of the Moon.

After collecting together lunar samples, Armstrong and Aldrin returned to the Lunar Module, slept and then 21 hours after landing, blasted off from the Moon. They still had to fulfil the second half of Kennedy’s pledge “returning him safely to the Earth”. Docking with Collins in orbit, they began the three-day journey home, splashing down in the Pacific Ocean at 4.51pm on 24 July. Their mission was a success and they had fulfilled Kennedy’s promise.

With no wind on the Moon, Armstrong and Aldrin’s footsteps are still up there, nearly 50 years later.

Defining moments

- The Godfather
  10 March 1969
  The Mafia novel about a fictional family that introduced into English Italian words such as omertà and Cosa Nostra, Mario Puzo’s huge bestseller also serves as the inspiration for the later film in 1972, widely regarded as one of the best ever made. The “Sleep with the fishes” quote, which has entered modern culture, actually comes from the movie, not the book.

- Concorde
  9 April 1969
  Concorde 002, the British version of the world’s first supersonic airliner, takes off from Filton, Bristol, for its first test flight, reaching a speed of 202mph. In service, it would cruise at Mach 2.02 (1,334mph or 2,140km/h), making the trip across the Atlantic in three and a half hours. It is also, undoubtedly, the most beautiful passenger airliner so far made.

- The Very Hungry Caterpillar
  3 June 1969
  Eric Carle’s book telling the story of the dietary problems of a very hungry caterpillar has been read to millions upon millions of eager children since its first publication. More than 30 million copies have been sold worldwide and it has been translated into 40 languages. It really is a most beautiful butterfly.
Woodstock festival 15-18 August

Due to be a ticketed event, when the organisers changed venues at the last moment they had no choice but to make Woodstock a free festival. Half a million people turn up, and the festival becomes the last flowering of peace, love and dope. Caught on film and memorialised in Joni Mitchell’s song Woodstock, the event comes to define the hopes of an era coming to a close.

Manson Family 9 August 1969

Four members of a cult called the Family, formed by Charles Manson, break into the house of Sharon Tate, actress and wife of the film director Roman Polanski. Once in there they murder Tate, four other people and Tate’s unborn child (she was eight and a half months pregnant at the time). The cult members are acting out the wishes of Manson, who wanted to precipitate a race war.

Troops in Northern Ireland 12-17 August 1969

Increasing tension in Northern Ireland sparks serious rioting. The riots are most serious in Londonderry, where the Battle of the Bogside after the Protestant Apprentice Boys’ march in Londonderry takes place. The Royal Ulster Constabulary is unable to control the violence. With rioting in Belfast too, the British government deploy troops. The Troubles have begun.
Concorde’s first flight

The Concorde 001, the first commercial supersonic airliner, takes to the skies on its maiden flight from Toulouse, France. The Anglo-French passenger jet was built by Aérospatiale Toulouse and piloted by Sud Aviation flight test director, André Turcat, during a time where anything seemed possible for both air and speed technological innovation.
Concorde's first flight
The Stonewall Riots

28 JUNE 1969

A crowd outside the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village, New York, attempt to impede the police from making arrests following the discrimination of the LGBT communities by the legal system. The Stonewall Riots are largely considered to be the most significant event that led to the gay liberation movement and fight for LGBT rights throughout the entire United States.
NASA astronaut "Buzz" Aldrin walks on the lunar surface after the successful landing of the Eagle. Mission commander Neil Armstrong would utter the immortal words "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" upon landing. A third member of the crew, Michael Collins, would stay alone in orbit aboard the command module, commenting "Not since Adam has any human known such solitude."
Man walks on the Moon
Bringing an end to the Space Race, Neil Armstrong became the first man to step foot on the Moon, achieving something many thought would never be possible.
At 8.18pm (GMT) on 20 July 1969, Americans Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first humans to land on the Moon. It is arguably mankind’s greatest accomplishment to date, but over 380,000 kilometres (240,000 miles) away, those people in NASA’s Mission Control Center at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, were celebrating out of relief as much as joy, having just overcome one of the most difficult and technical missions in human history. Inside Mission Control, computer engineer Jack Garman was at the heart of the celebrations, having just saved the mission from disaster minutes prior to the landing.

At the time of the Apollo 11 landing, Garman was very young in comparison to his colleagues. He’d joined NASA as a fresh-faced 21-year-old in 1966, straight out of college. Within just three years he had acclimatised himself with the workings of the computer that would power and control the Apollo 11 spacecraft, and on the day of the landing was tasked with watching over those computers to ensure the landing went without a hitch. These computers were rudimentary at best in nature, though and not easy to operate.

“It was strange, different, to have a system, a vehicle, that was run by computer. I mean, today even our cars are run by computers, but back then almost all the systems were analogue,” explains Garman as he tells us about his work in Mission Control: “They wanted a so-called expert in the control centre, so they gave me a council in the Apollo Guidance Computer support room and that’s where I spent a lot of time during most of the flights to the Moon.”

On the day of the landing, Mission Control was bustling and buzzing with hundreds of people: “During the landing itself I remember that when they got near the lunar surface, Buzz Aldrin made a call-out saying [softly]: ‘We’ve got dust now,’ ” Garman tells us. “The descent engine was firing up dust from the lunar surface. With all the simulations we’d been through it was kind of like a script, but he’d never made that call before! He didn’t follow the script! That was an awakening. I mean, you knew it was real, but still, wow! This is it, they’re about to land.”

It turns out though, that as they were preparing to land, unbeknownst to the astronauts, Garman had performed some vital preparations that would ensure the mission could continue and history would be made that night. Garman and his team were responsible for ensuring they could overcome any programme alarm that might be thrown up by the primitive computer, but one alarm still seemingly stumped some of the brightest minds ever assembled.

During one simulation prior to the landing a computer alarm came up, known as a ‘1202 alarm,’ which Garman
and his team hadn’t seen before. His superior at the time, guidance officer Steve Bales, called for an abort.

“Afterwards Gene Kranz, who was the flight director for the Apollo 11 landing, boy did he get mad,” explains Garman. “He was all over the simulation guys for putting in a simulation that caused an abort this close to the real flight. And the simulation guys said: ‘Uh uh, wrongo bongo fella, you’re supposed to recover from this.’ After the debriefing, oh boy, did the fur fly.”

Kranz told Garman to make sure he knew every possible programme alarm that could come up. So the young computer engineer studied them all and drew himself a cheat sheet he could refer to during the mission. It just so happened that Garman’s diligence in doing his homework helped save the mission when it was just minutes away from landing.

During the mission, as Armstrong and Aldrin were descending to the lunar surface, an error reading came up that suggested the on-board computer was running over capacity, the same 1202 alarm that had come up during the simulation. As had been witnessed in the simulation, such a reading was a cause to abort the mission, as Aldrin and Armstrong would not be able to operate the Lunar Module if the computer was not working. Thanks to the flight director’s insistence that he brushed up on programming alarms, Garman was the only person in the room who knew this alarm was no reason to abort the mission, and he quickly let his superiors know.

“I looked down at the cheat sheet, saw what [the alarm] was and told them it was okay,” says Garman. “As long as there weren’t other indications like that the computer was guiding the vehicle to turn upside down or something, we were go. And that’s the call they made. Now, to be clear, the speed of light is pretty fast, but it’s still a couple of seconds when you’re going from the Moon to Earth, and that’s the same rate at which voice or radio transmission goes. So when the alarm happened we didn’t hear Buzz Aldrin asking what it was for several seconds. And then take a few seconds to give a response and give it back to them, then for the CAPCOM (Capsule Communicator) to call up and say they were go, then add the reaction time for human beings, it was probably [in total] 19 or 20 seconds for the crew before they got

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How the Moon landing unfolded

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NASA and Manned Spacecraft Center (MSC) officials celebrate the historic event of man successfully walking on the Moon.
Inside Mission Control

**Control room**
The Mission Operations Control Room (MOCR) in Houston, Texas was the centre of a complex worldwide network of teams working on the Apollo missions.

**Flight Director**
This was the person responsible for running the entire mission. At the time of the Apollo 11 landing that was Gene Kranz.

**Guidance Officer**
This person monitored the computers on board the Apollo spacecraft. During the landing this was Steve Bales, who Jack Garman reported to.

**Support rooms**
Jack Garman’s Staff Support Room (SSR) was one of seven, although he would often come into the control room to liaise with the Guidance Officer.

**CAPCOM**
The Capsule Communicator (CAPCOM), which was normally an astronaut on the ground, was responsible for communicating between mission control and the astronauts in space.

**Flight Dynamics Officer**
This person was responsible for planning and overseeing all major spacecraft manoeuvres, and was tasked with giving “Go” or “Abort” calls during a mission.

**Screens**
On the three screens would be a multitude of useful data, including telemetry of the spacecraft and live feeds from the astronauts.

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“**As long as there weren’t other indications like that the computer was guiding the vehicle to turn upside down or something, we were go**”

a response from us, very nerve-racking. We know it’s one of the reasons Armstrong lost track of where he was [above the Moon] because he wasn’t looking out of the window. They didn’t know where they had landed for quite a while after they touched down, probably in a large part due to the disturbing nature of these programme alarms.

Just a few seconds later, though, Apollo 11 did indeed land safely. As Aldrin and Armstrong celebrated, so too did everyone back in Mission Control on Earth. “I remember Kranz had to calm everybody down, get back to your seats, it’s time to go through the landing checklist, and get everything safe and get them ready to get out and all that jazz,” says Garman. “It was a very, very euphoric kind of atmosphere; by jove, we actually did it, they actually landed on the Moon.”

Garman describes the mood in Mission Control at the time of the landing as eerie. “What I mean is it’s like being an actor in a play,” he explains. “You go through a lot of rehearsals and dress rehearsals, and then there’s actually opening night. When that curtain goes up there’s a real audience out there and it’s a different feeling. It’s eerier. And that’s as close as I can get to describing what I mean by eerie. When you have been through the procedures and lots of simulated problems, and you’ve been through vehicle tests where you’re watching the real vehicle on the launchpad and then you actually do it for the first time, and they actually land, you go wow, this is something. That’s what I mean by eerie. Not eerie in a sense of unreal, but eerie in the feeling it gave. It was very real, for sure.”

It was an incredibly proud achievement for Garman and his colleagues: “I think that any time you can be in a job where you feel like you’re higher up on the triangle - and I don’t mean that in a superior way – but you’re not in a factory building stuff or supplying food, you’re not even in education providing teaching, but you may actually be helping to further the knowledge of the human race in some way, you can feel good about that. I certainly did. We certainly did. And to be in that kind of a job and to have the excitement and risk and adventure that goes with it, it’s a very self-fulfilling feeling. It was pretty easy to be dedicated and tenacious, spend way too much time at work, that kind of thing. I was very proud to have been part of that, and I was proud to have been part of the on-board computer for the Space Shuttle as well, and for everything else I did for NASA.”

For Garman, Apollo 11 was an experience of a lifetime that will remain one of mankind’s greatest achievements in the history books. “I doubt that sort of accomplishment will be repeated, at least not in my lifetime. I think apart from putting a human being on Mars or something like that, that’s a ways away. Even going back to the Moon or going to an asteroid, even if that happens, it won’t be quite the same as the first time. It never is.”

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**Origins and aftermath**
The Apollo 11 lunar landing was the culmination of the space race between the USA and the Soviet Union that had begun with the Soviets launching the world’s first satellite, Sputnik 1, on 4 October 1957. For much of the Sixties it had seemed the Soviets were ahead due to the many ‘firsts’ they achieved, including the first human in space in 1961. But ultimately, the Soviets’ failure to build a capable manned lunar rocket saw USA claim victory. Five more lunar landings would take place before the Apollo programme was finished, but ultimately this competition would pave the way to cooperation in space exploration between the USA, USSR (now Russia) and other countries that we are still seeing the benefits of today, with programmes such as the International Space Station.
The Tate-LaBianca murders
The Tate-LaBianca murders

9-10 AUGUST 1969

Coroners examine two bodies found on the lawn of the Sharon Tate and Roman Polanski home, after the brutal murders of Tate, her unborn child, three friends and her gardener’s son. These tragic deaths came one day before the murders of Leno and Rosemary LaBianca in their home in Los Angeles, California. Charles Manson orchestrated the murders and instructed members of his ‘Family’ to carry them out on his behalf.
Jimi Hendrix performs in front of nearly 200,000 people at the Woodstock Music and Art Fair in Bethel, New York. The festival is widely regarded to be one of the most enduring moments in the history of popular music. In tune with the idealistic hopes that many people held in the 1960s, Woodstock was a victory of peace and love, even though many feared it would potentially breed catastrophe.
American Indian occupation of Alcatraz

American Indian Occupation of Alcatraz

20 November 1969 – 11 June 1971

A group of Native Americans and Tim Williams, chief of the Klamath River Hurek tribe, approach Alcatraz Island to reclaim it from the US government under the Treaty of Fort Laramie (1868). The island was occupied for 19 months until the government peacefully removed the remaining population. This event was a precedent for Indian activism and influenced federal Indian policy.
American Indian occupation of Alcatraz
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