

## February 13, 1961 (Monday)

- The Congo government announces the death of Patrice Lumumba, without taking responsibility for his execution.

## February 14, 1961 (Tuesday)

- Discovery of the chemical elements: Element 103, Lawrencium, is first synthesized in Berkeley, California.

## February 15, 1961 (Wednesday)

- A total solar eclipse is visible in parts of the Northern Hemisphere.
- President John F. Kennedy warns the Soviet Union to avoid interfering with the United Nations pacification of the Congo.
- Sabena Flight 548 crashes near Brussels, Belgium, killing 73 people, including all 18 members of the United States figure skating team and several coaches.
- **Died in the crash of Sabena Flight 548:** Maribel Vinson, 49, nine-time US national figure skating champion, and her two daughters: Laurence Owen, 16, US national ladies' singles champion, and Maribel Owen, 20, US national pairs champion; Dudley Richards, 29 Maribel Owen's pairs partner; Dona Lee Carrier, 20, and her ice dance partner Roger Campbell, 19; Patricia Dineen, 25, and her husband and ice dance partner Robert Dineen, 25; Ray Hadley, Jr., 17, and his sister Ila Ray Hadley, 18, ice dance competitors; Harold Hartshorne, 69, skating judge and former ice dancer; Laurie Hickox, 15, and her brother and pairs partner William Hickox, 19; Gregory Kelley, 16, US junior men's singles champion; Edward LeMaire, skating judge, and his 14-year-old son; Bradley Lord, 21, US men's singles champion; Rhode Lee Michelson, 17, ladies' singles competitor; Douglas Ramsay, 16, men's singles competitor; Edi Scholdan, Austrian figure skater and coach, and his 13-year-old son; Diane Sherbloom, 18, and her ice dance partner Larry Pierce, 24; Stephanie Westerfeld, 17, ladies' singles competitor;

## February 16, 1961 (Thursday)

- Cyprus's first nationality law is enacted.
- Closure of the Sunday Lake mine at Wakefield, Michigan.
- Congress of Confédération Africaine de Football delegates takes place in Cairo.

## February 17, 1961 (Friday)

- **Born:** Angela Eagle and Maria Eagle, British politicians, in Bridlington
- **Died:** Nita Naldi, 66, silent film star

## February 18, 1961 (Saturday)

- The USS South Dakota (ACR-9) sinks in Powell River, British Columbia, Canada.

- The Committee of 100 stage a sit-down protest at the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall, London.
- Kwame Nkrumah lays the foundation stone of the Kwame Nkrumah Ideological Institute in Winneba, Ghana.
- After 22 years of publication, British comic *Radio Fun* is merged into *Buster*.

## February 19, 1961 (Sunday)

- **Born:** Justin Fashanu, English footballer, in Hackney, London (died 1998)

## February 20, 1961 (Monday)

- **Born:** Imogen Stubbs, British actress, in Newcastle upon Tyne
- **Died:** Percy Grainger, 78, Australian composer; Romany Marie, 75, American restaurateur and bohemian personality

## February 21, 1961 (Tuesday)

- The African state of Gabon adopts a new constitution. Léon M'ba becomes President, with significant additional powers.
- **Born:** Ranking Roger, English ska vocalist, in Birmingham; Rhonda Sing, Canadian wrestler, in Calgary (died 2001)

## February 22, 1961 (Wednesday)

- **Born:** Clifford Meth, American writer, in Queens, New York; Jean-Christophe Novelli, French celebrity chef, in Arras
- **Died:** Nick LaRocca, 71, jazz cornettist

## February 23, 1961 (Thursday)

- Geoffrey Charles Lawrence becomes acting Chief Minister of Zanzibar, then still under British control.
- Duncan Carse is dropped off by HMS Owen, with 12 tonnes of supplies and a prefabricated hut, at Ducloz Head in South Georgia, at the start of a short-lived attempt to become a latter-day Robinson Crusoe.

## February 24, 1961 (Friday)

- "Iranian Airways" and "Pars Airways" merge to form Iran Air.

## February 25, 1961 (Saturday)

- The last public trams in Sydney, Australia, cease operation, bringing to an end the Southern Hemisphere's largest tramway network.

## February 26, 1961 (Sunday)

- **Died:** King Mohammed V of Morocco, 51 following a minor operation. His son, Hassan II is proclaimed his successor.

## February 27, 1961 (Monday)

- The Roman Catholic Diocese of Tula is created.
- Opening of the first congress of the Spanish Trade Union Organisation (OSE).

## February 28, 1961 (Tuesday)

- The Saarlouis electric tramway closes after nearly 48 years in operation.
- **Born:** Mark Ferguson, New Zealand actor and TV presenter, in Sydney, Australia

## March 1, 1961 (Wednesday)

- President of the United States John F. Kennedy establishes the Peace Corps.
- Uganda becomes self-governing by holding its first general elections.

## March 2, 1961 (Thursday)

- A partial lunar eclipse takes place.
- **Died:** Olaf Hagerup, 71, Danish botanist

## March 3, 1961 (Friday)

- Hassan II is crowned King of Morocco.
- Successful first launch of the RM-90 Blue Scout II rocket from Canaveral LC-18B, US.
- Elsie May Batten, a 59-year-old shop assistant, is found stabbed to death with an antique dagger in the antique shop where she worked, off Charing Cross Road in London. 21-year-old Edwin Bush is later executed for her murder, the first British murderer to be caught by use of the Identikit system.
- **Died:** Paul Wittgenstein, 73, Austrian-born pianist

## March 4, 1961 (Saturday)

- **Born:** Ray Mancini, American boxing champion, in Youngstown, Ohio
- **Died:** Pudge Wyman, 65, American football player

## March 5, 1961 (Sunday)

- Soccer: F.C. Internazionale Milano score their biggest ever victory ver S.S. Lazio by seven goals to nil.
- **Born:** Marcelo Peralta, Argentinian musician, in Buenos Aires

## March 6, 1961 (Monday)

- President of the US John F. Kennedy signs Executive Order 10925, relating to equal employment opportunities.
- British soap opera *Coronation Street* is fully networked by ITV, with a new schedule of Monday and Wednesday evenings at 19:30.
- **Died:** George Formby, 56, British singer, comedian and actor

## March 7, 1961 (Tuesday)

- **Born:** Martina Schettina, Austrian artist, in Vienna

## March 8, 1961 (Wednesday)

- Max Conrad, "the Flying Grandfather", circumnavigates the earth in 8 days, 18 hours and 49 minutes, setting a new world record.
- The first U.S. Polaris submarines arrive at Holy Loch.
- **Died:** Sir Thomas Beecham, 81, English conductor; Gala Galaction, 81, Romanian writer

## March 9, 1961 (Thursday)

- Sputnik 9 is launched by the USSR from Baikonur LC1, carrying "Ivan Ivanovich" (a dummy cosmonaut), the dog Chernushka, mice, and a guinea pig.
- **Born:** Andrei Ivanțoc, Moldovan politician, in Opaci; Rick Steiner, American wrestler, in Bay City, Michigan

## March 10, 1961 (Friday)

- The first unambiguous detection of Venus using Radar astronomy is made by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.
- **Born:** Mitch Gaylord, American gymnast, in Van Nuys, California; Greg Kolodziejzyk, Canadian cyclist, in Fort St. John, British Columbia

## March 11, 1961 (Saturday)

**This section has no content.**

You can help Wikipedia by introducing information to it. *(July 2010)*

## March 12, 1961 (Sunday)

- Long-running BBC radio music show *Your Hundred Best Tunes* moves to the 9–10 pm timeslot with which it will be associated for the next 45 years.

## March 13, 1961 (Monday)

- Black and white £5 notes cease to be legal tender in the UK.
- A dam bursts on the Dnieper River in the USSR, killing 145.
- United States delegate to the UNSC Adlai Stevenson votes against Portuguese policies in Africa.
- President of the United States John F. Kennedy proposes a long-term "Alliance for Progress" between the United States and Latin America.
- Cyprus joins the Commonwealth of Nations, becoming the first small country in the Commonwealth.

## March 14, 1961 (Tuesday)

- **Born:** Mike Lazaridis, founder of Research In Motion, in Istanbul

## March 15, 1961 (Wednesday)

- South Africa withdraws from the Commonwealth of Nations.
- The Union of Peoples of Angola, led by Holden Roberto, attacks strategic locations in the north of Angola. These events result in the beginning of the colonial war with Portugal.
- **Died:** Sir Walter Womersley, 1st Baronet, 83, British politician

## March 16, 1961 (Thursday)

- 1961 Yuba City B-52 crash: A B-52F-70-BW Stratofortress bomber, 57-0166, c/n 464155, carrying two nuclear weapons, is abandoned by crew and crashes 15 miles (24 km) west of Yuba City, California, tearing the nuclear weapons from the aircraft on impact, but they do not detonate.
- The MV *Lizzonia* (ex *CHANT 35 / Empire Farouche*) is in collision with MV *Arctic Ocean* 3 nautical miles (5.6 km) north west of the Varne Lightship, in the English Channel. The ship was abandoned and later sank.<sup>[3]</sup>

## March 17, 1961 (Friday)

- Israel stages a dress rehearsal for a military parade in the Israeli-occupied part of Jerusalem, in which heavy military armament takes part.
- **Born:** Mauricio Pimiento, Colombian politician involved in the Colombian parapolitics scandal, in Bucaramanga
- **Died:** Susanna M. Salter, 101, first woman mayor in the United States

