

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

April 11th to April 17th

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### April 11th

- On April 11th, 1912, the glorious RMS *Titanic* lifted its anchor to begin its luxurious journey from Southampton, England to New York City. Little did the people on board know that the “unsinkable ship” would be fully submerged underwater in just a few days' time.
- Many years later in 1966, Frank Sinatra released the song “Strangers in the Night” which marked his return as the jazz-pop king when it reached #1 on the Billboard charts. The song “Strangers in the Night” and the album it was part of (also named *Strangers in the Night*) was such a hit because it combined the contemporary pop music at the time with big band wind instruments. Later, Sinatra received two Grammy nominations for the album, the Record of the Year award, the Best Male Vocal Performance award, and over one million copies of the *Strangers in the Night* album were sold.
- Lastly, in 2012, April 11th has the honor of being the release date for the 2012 film, *the Avengers*. The success of the prior Marvel films like *Captain America*, *Iron Man*, *Thor*, and many more are responsible for the mind blowing \$1.519 billion box office yield.

### April 12th

- April 12th holds the date of the Battle of Fort Sumter, the start of the American Civil War, in 1861. The South Carolinian base was attacked resulting in an intense 34-hour battle until the soon to be Union Commander, Robert Anderson and 86 of his men surrendered.
- About 80 years later, President Franklin D Roosevelt died in office and was succeeded by President Harry Truman, the 33rd president. This was a tragic loss to a large portion of the US as FDR's commitment to helping the unemployed, farmers, and the general economy was noteworthy.

### April 13th

- On April 13th, 1970, Apollo 13, a spacecraft, was forced to turn back home due to an oxygen tank explosion on board. Luckily, the crew survived but they had to turn back around to Earth just before they reached the moon in order to survive.
- Also on this day in 1986, the Spanish Grand Prix, a Formula 1 race, was taking place. For some time, the 1st and 2nd place drivers, Ayrton Senna and Nigel Mansell, were rumored to have tied but after close inspection Senna was proclaimed the winner from 0.014th of a second.

### **April 14th**

- To start on a rather unfortunate event, April 14th, 1865 marks the assassination of President Lincoln. While watching *Our American Cousin*, a comedy, John Wilkes Booth pulled the trigger on Lincoln resulting in fatal wounds. He died the next day.
- Also, on April 14th, 1958, the space race between the Soviet Union and the United States had taken off. Laika, a Soviet space dog, was launched into space in Sputnik 2. Although copious amounts of information regarding space travel was discovered after the event, Laika unfortunately burned up in Sputnik 2 while falling down in Earth's orbit.
- Lastly, on the night of April 14th, 1912, the RMS *Titanic*, or the "unsinkable ship," impacted with a deadly iceberg in the Atlantic Ocean. Thousands either drowned or froze from the sub-zero temperatures of the icy water.

### **April 15th**

- Although the Titanic's impact with the lethal iceberg occurred on the 14th of April, 1912, the Titanic was fully submerged in the Atlantic in the early hours of April 15th. This resulted in the death of about 1500 people. Contrasting, the tragedy of the Titanic sinking surprisingly had some positive effects including many policy changes in maritime and most importantly SOLAS. SOLAS, or Safety of Life at Sea, introduced a treaty based on the construction, equipment, and operation to make ships and boats safer.
- On a lighter note, in 1955, Ray Kroc opened the first ever McDonalds restaurant and at this time he most likely underestimated the financial growth it would gain in the future years of the company. The restaurant was opened in Des Plaines, Illinois and yielded \$366.12 (\$3,593.09 adjusted for inflation) on its first day. Comparing this with McDonalds' daily revenue in 2021, McDonalds yields about \$57,745,205 (which would be about \$566,708,856.26 in 1955).

### **April 16th**

- On April 16th, 1935, Babe Ruth played at his first National League baseball game for the Boston Braves with a home run.
- Continuing the baseball theme, in 1983, Steve Garvey, who most notably played for the Los Angeles Dodgers, set a new National League record after playing 1,118 consecutive games.
- Four years later, Michael Jordan was the second person to set a record for receiving 3000 points in a season.
- To finish with this sports filled day, in 2008, Olympic sprinter Usain Bolt received a Laureus World Sports Award for his notable sprinting performance.

### **April 17th**

- In 1860, April 16th holds the date for one of the longest boxing matches ever. In Farnborough, England, John Heenan and Tom Sayers had a 2 hour and 27 minute boxing match consisting of 42 rounds. This fight was deemed illegal due to the fighters not

wearing gloves but a large crowd still formed to watch the event. The fight ended when the police stopped it, resulting in a draw between Heenan and Sayers.

- Also on April 17th, the fictional location, Westeros, and the cast of Game of Thrones premiered on April 17th, 2011 on HBO. Game of Thrones or “GOT” has become one of the most popular shows ever, with its 7th and final season consisting of over 10 million viewers on HBO (and most likely millions more illegally watched it online).