

TODAY IN HISTORY, 24 April 2026

Major Historical Events

- Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day (1915): The Ottoman Empire began the mass deportation and arrest of Armenian intellectuals in Constantinople, an event widely regarded as the start of the Armenian Genocide.
- The Easter Rising (1916): Irish nationalists launched an armed insurrection in Dublin to end British rule and establish an independent Irish Republic.
- Hubble Space Telescope Launch (1990): The Space Shuttle Discovery lifted off from Cape Canaveral, Florida, carrying the Hubble Space Telescope into orbit.
- Winston Churchill Knighted (1953): Queen Elizabeth II knighted Winston Churchill, creating him a Knight of the Order of the Garter.
- Operation Eagle Claw (1980): An aborted US military mission to rescue hostages in Iran resulted in the deaths of eight servicemen after a helicopter collided with a transport plane in the desert.

New Zealand History

- First Poppy Day (1922): New Zealand held its first-ever Poppy Day to raise funds for war-ravaged areas of France and for unemployed returned soldiers.
- Royal Visit (1920): The Prince of Wales (the future King Edward VIII) arrived in New Zealand for a tour to thank the country for its contributions to World War I.
- Korean War Casualty (1951): Second Lieutenant Dennis Fielden became the first New Zealander killed in battle during the Korean War.

Science & Technology

- Satellite TV Breakthrough (1962): MIT scientists sent the first TV signal via satellite.
- China's First Satellite (1970): The People's Republic of China successfully launched its first satellite, Dong Fang Hong I.
- Space Tragedy (1967): Soviet cosmonaut Vladimir Komarov became the first human to die during a space mission when the parachute of his Soyuz 1 craft failed to deploy correctly.

Notable Birthdays

- Barbra Streisand (1942): The legendary American singer, actress, and director was born in Brooklyn.
- Kelly Clarkson (1982): The first American Idol winner and Grammy-winning singer.
- Jill Ireland (1936): British actress known for her many films alongside her husband Charles Bronson.

Observations & Holidays

National Bucket List Day: Encourages people to start planning their life goals.

National Arbour Day: Often falls on the last Friday in April (depending on the year).