1 January 1973: Britain enters Europe

Britain becomes a member of the European Community

We're in—but without the fireworks

By DAVID McKIE and DENNIS BARKER

Britain passed peacefully into Europe at midnight last night without any special celebrations. It was difficult to tell that anything of importance had occurred, and a date which will be entered in the history books as long as histories of Britain are written, was taken for granted by one and all as a matter of course.

Political party political figures maintained their familiar postures of hope and despair. Mr Heath was staring back from Ottawa, home for the funeral of Mr Lester Pearson, at about the time that Denmark and Ireland, officially became members of the European Community.
Britain became a fully fledged member of the European Economic Community in 1973, after failed attempts in 1963 and 1967.

Click on the photograph above to read Terry Coleman's interview with Maurice Schumann.

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