

# THE 39 FACTS

1. The 39 Steps was Peggy Ashcroft's second film
2. Robert Donat was affectionately known as the Monte Cristo man
3. One of the film's major motifs is the confining, sexually-frustrating institution of marriage.
4. *North by Northwest (1959)* is widely considered Hitchcock's "American Thirty-Nine Steps."
5. John Buchan's official title was First Baron Tweedsmuir of Elsfield, Oxfordshire
6. Hitchcock's film was remade twice both in the UK: *The Thirty-Nine Steps (1959)*, d. Ralph Thomas and *The Thirty-Nine Steps (1978)*, d. Don Sharp
7. The 1978 version starred Robert Powell as Hannay
8. The 39 Steps is only one of Buchan's several works that feature the character Richard Hannay
9. Madeleine Carroll from the Hitchcock film was the first in a notorious line of Hitchcock's female stars that later included Grace Kelly and Tippi Hedren
10. At the old Wembley Stadium, 39 steps needed to be climbed to reach the Royal Box and collect a winner's trophy
11. The 1959 version of The 39 Steps has by far the most location filming of any of the three versions of the movie.
12. The 39 Steps was Hitchcock's first film with a classic theme that he modelled repeatedly for the remainder of his career
13. Trains are a major theme in Hitchcock's films: *The Lady Vanishes*, *Strangers on a Train*, *Sabotage*, *North By Northwest* and *The 39 Steps*
14. Hitchcock was reported to say, "*What interests me is the drama of being handcuffed*" as one of the major themes of the film
15. There is no Mr Memory in the novel, but he is based on a real-life character
16. Hitchcock's birthday was the 13 August
17. Buchan won the Victory Medal and the British War Medal
18. Hitchcock was a mean practical joker. He handcuffed Robert Donat and Madeleine Carroll together for their very first scene and then "lost" the key for over an hour
19. During World War One, Buchan worked for the British War Propaganda Bureau and as a war correspondent for *The Times*, before joining the Intelligence Corps in France.
20. In the spring of 1915, Buchan became one of five journalists attached to the British Army, responsible for writing articles for both *The Times* and the *Daily News*

21. Patrick Barlow appeared in the *Rolo* television commercial where a honeymooning couple are travelling on a train with a love heart drawn on the carriage window in the condensation.
22. Patrick Barlow was Bridget Jones's mother's love interest in the film *Bridget Jones's Diary*
23. Barlow also starred in *Notting Hill*, and *Shakespeare in Love* as Will Kemp
24. Another leading role of Barlow was as Toad in *The Wind in The Willows* at the National Theatre
25. There are 686,000 entries with Patrick Barlow in them on Google
26. There are 1,480,000 for Alfred Hitchcock
27. Yttrium has the atomic number 39
28. 39 is the international dialling code for Italy
29. 39 is the sum of the 43rd & 44th digits of pi
30. The 39th day of the year is February 8th
31. There are 39 books in the Old Testament
32. The number thirty-nine, symbolizes understanding, thoughtfulness, meditation and mental superiority
33. The fastest train from London King's Cross to Edinburgh is 4 hours and 19 minutes
34. The huge cantilever sections of the rail bridge spanning The Forth are one of the most familiar landmarks of Scotland. Completed in 1890, the bridge was constructed from 54,000 tonnes of steel,
35. Today the bridge, now a 'listed structure', still carries about 150 trains each day across The Forth, and has been regularly maintained over the years.
36. The Code 39 is a bar code broadly used in non-retail applications. It is a bar code that allows for alpha and numeric encodes, as well as some symbols
37. St David's Cathedral in West Wales had 39 steps
38. Shaun Chambers is 39 years old on the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2015
39. There is a restaurant in Styal, near Manchester called "The 39 Steps"



"The length of a film should be directly related to the endurance of the human bladder"

Alfred Hitchcock