

Thursday, May 11

ON THIS DAY



▲ **1888:** Irving Berlin, composer of such songs as *White Christmas* and *Alexander's Ragtime Band*, was born

1686: German physicist Otto von Guericke, inventor of the air pump, died

1812: British Prime Minister Spencer Perceval was assassinated as he entered the House of Commons

1931: Austria's largest bank, Credit-Anstalt, failed, marking the beginning of the financial collapse of central Europe

1949: Israel was admitted to the United Nations

2005: A wave of suicide attacks across Iraq claimed 79 lives