

**Saturday, August 23**

# ON THIS DAY



▲ **2006:** Austrian kidnap victim Natascha Kampusch, 18, escaped after being held captive for eight years in a windowless cell under the garage of a house near Vienna

**1818:** The first steam ship service went into operation on the Great Lakes in North America

**1821:** Mexico was declared independent of Spain

**2007:** A 10 million-year-old fossil found in Ethiopia, *Chororapithecus abyssinicus*, raised the possibility that the last common ancestor of gorillas and humans existed two million years earlier than previously thought