

Tuesday, December 9

ON THIS DAY



▲ **2005: London's iconic red Routemaster double-decker bus was retired after half a century of service**

1824: Spanish forces were heavily defeated at the battle of Ayacucho in the Peruvian War of Independence

1941: China formally issued a declaration of war against Japan, Germany and Italy

1967: The Cunard liner *Queen Mary* docked at Long Beach, California, at the end of her final voyage

2004: New Zealand's Parliament passed legislation giving same-sex couples the same civil rights enjoyed by married couples