

Thursday, December 25

ON THIS DAY



▲ **1492:** The *Santa Maria*, flagship of Christopher Columbus, was lost after running aground off Haiti

1776: General George Washington led his troops across the Delaware River to launch a surprise attack on the British in the American War of Independence

1878: Wagner's opera *Parsifal* had its first performance at Bayreuth

1994: Russian bombs pounded Grozny, capital of the breakaway region of Chechnya

2007: A Siberian tiger escaped from its enclosure at San Francisco's Zoo and attacked three visitors, killing a boy of 17 and mauling the other two