

**Friday, July 31**

# ON THIS DAY



▲ **2007: Operation Banner, the 38-year deployment of British troops in Northern Ireland, ended, marking the conclusion of the British Army's longest-ever continuous operation**

**1556: St Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuit order, died in Rome**

**1919: The Weimar Constitution was adopted in post-war Germany, establishing a republic**

**1994: Dutch driver Jos Verstappen had a miraculous escape when his car caught fire while being refuelled during the German Grand Prix**

**2008: NASA announced it had discovered water on Mars**