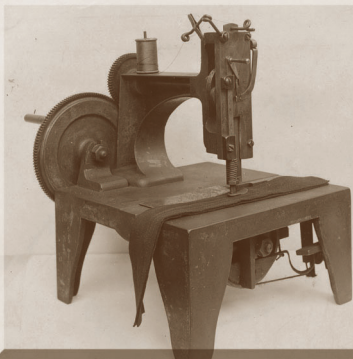


Wednesday, August 12

ON THIS DAY



▲ **1851: Isaac Singer was granted a patent on his sewing machine**

1928: More than 3,000 competitors from 46 countries took part in the Olympic Games in Amsterdam

1949: Starlings on the minute hand of London's Big Ben made the clock lose four-and-a-half minutes

1978: China and Japan signed an historic treaty of peace and friendship in Beijing

2008: Russia's President Medvedev ordered an end to fighting in South Ossetia. The five-day conflict killed 2,500 people and displaced 100,000 more in Georgia and South Ossetia