

Sunday, December 20

ON THIS DAY



▲ **2002: Grote Reber, regarded as the father of radio astronomy, died at age 90. He constructed the world's first radio telescope in 1937**

1860: South Carolina seceded from the United States, leading to the Civil War

1983: PLO leader Yasser Arafat was evacuated from Lebanon, together with 4,000 of his supporters

1987: Over 4,000 people died when the Philippine ferry Dona Paz collided with a tanker in the world's worst ever peacetime maritime disaster

2006: Ireland's 750m-euro Dublin Port Tunnel, 4.5km in length, opened almost 23 months behind schedule