

Friday, December 25

ON THIS DAY



▲ **2008: American singer Eartha Kitt, famous for her smouldering, feline drawl, died from cancer at age 81**

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

1991: The Soviet Union officially ceased to exist with the resignation of President Mikhail Gorbachev

2007: Turkish forces claimed to have killed hundreds of Kurdistan Workers Party rebels and struck over 200 targets in northern Iraq