

Thursday, December 31

ON THIS DAY



▲ **1999:** Russian president Boris Yeltsin stunned the world by announcing his immediate resignation and appointing premier Vladimir Putin as acting president

1514: Belgian anatomist Andreas Vesalius was born

1775: American Revolutionary general Richard Montgomery was killed leading an assault on Quebec

1938: The first breath tests for car drivers were introduced in Indianapolis

1994: The World Trade Organisation came into being at midnight, succeeding the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade