

Friday, January 8

ON THIS DAY



▲ **1324: Venetian explorer Marco Polo died**

1297: Francois Grimaldi seized the Genoese fortress on the Rock of Monaco, founding the Grimaldi dynasty

1889: New York scientist Dr Herman Hollerith patented the first, electrically-operated computer; the company formed to market his device evolved into the giant IBM

1976: Chou En-lai, premier of China since the communists took power in 1949, died in Beijing at age 78

2009: The Bank of England cut interest rates to 1.5 percent, the lowest level in its 315-year history