ON THIS DAY

▲ **2009: U.S. merchant ship captain Richard Phillips** *(right)* **was rescued when U.S. navy snipers shot dead the three Somali pirates who had held him hostage for four days**

1861: The American Civil War began when the Confederate Army attacked Fort Sumter in South Carolina

1933: Spanish opera singer Montserrat Caballe was born

1980: Samuel Doe was installed as head of state in Liberia after President Tolbert was assassinated in a coup

2009: After years of hyperinflation the Zimbabwean dollar was abandoned as an official currency

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