

Wednesday, June 30

ON THIS DAY



▲ **1859: Frenchman Charles Blondin walked across Niagara Falls on a tightrope, watched by 25,000 people**

1520: Montezuma II, the last Aztec ruler, was killed by his own subjects during the Spanish conquest of Mexico

1936: Exiled Abyssinian emperor Haile Selassie appeared before the League of Nations to appeal for help following Italy's invasion of his country

1974: Soviet ballet dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov defected to the West

2009: A freight train carrying liquified petroleum gas derailed and exploded in Viareggio, Italy, killing 32 people