

Tuesday, August 17

ON THIS DAY



▲ **2008:** American swimmer Michael Phelps won his eighth gold medal in Beijing, setting a new record for the most golds won at a single Olympics

1807: The first economically viable steamship chugged up New York's Hudson River on its maiden voyage

1960: Gabon gained independence from France

1969: Dr Philip Blaiberg died in South Africa, a record 19 months and 15 days after receiving a heart transplant

2009: Japan announced its economy had returned to growth, meaning five of the world's 10 biggest economies were now on the rebound