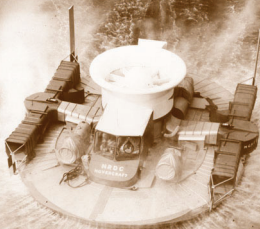


Sunday, December 12

ON THIS DAY



▲ **1955: British engineer Christopher Cockerell patented the first prototype of the hovercraft**

1805: U.S. transport pioneer Henry Wells was born; one of the founders of American Express, he also teamed up with William Fargo to form Wells Fargo

1915: The first plane constructed entirely from metal, built by German Hugo Junkers, made its first flight

1993: Eduardo Frei swept to victory in the first presidential elections in Chile since military rule ended in 1990

2009: Sport's first billionaire, Tiger Woods, temporarily withdrew from golf after admitting to multiple affairs