



Today in History

August 17, 1945

▲ **The Proclamation of Indonesian Independence started the diplomatic and armed-resistance which led to the Netherlands acknowledging Indonesia's independence**

1893: Provocative film vamp Mae West, after whom inflatable life jacket was named, born

1983: Ira Gershwin, U.S. lyricist and elder brother of George, died in Beverly Hills aged 86

1988: President Zia ul-Haq of Pakistan was killed when his plane exploded after take-off

1996: Ruth Perry was chosen to chair Liberia's ruling council, thus becoming Africa's first woman head of state