

A photograph of Soviet gymnast Olga Korbut celebrating with her arms raised in a stadium. She is wearing a white long-sleeved leotard with a red V-neckline. The background is a blurred crowd and a flag.

Today in History

May 16, 1955

▲ **Soviet gymnast Olga Korbut was born. She captivated audiences at the 1972 Munich Olympics, where she won a silver and three gold medals**

1763: French chemist Louis-Nicolas Vauquelin, who discovered chromium and beryllium, was born

1943: The RAF dropped “bouncing bombs”, invented by Barnes Wallace, on dams in Germany’s Ruhr Valley

1995: The Polish currency, the zloty, was floated on international currency markets

2003: Five near-simultaneous suicide bombings killed 41 people in Casablanca, Morocco