

A close-up photograph of a man in a military uniform. He is wearing a red beret with a gold star emblem and a camouflage jacket with red epaulettes. He is saluting with his right hand to his forehead. The background is a clear, bright sky.

Today in History

August 4, 1983

▲ A military coup in Upper Volta led by Captain Thomas Sankara overthrew President Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo. Sankara later renamed the country Burkina Faso

1983: Bettino Craxi was sworn in as Italy's first Socialist prime minister

1993: Japan formally apologised to women forced to serve its soldiers as sex slaves during World War 2

1997: Australian athlete Cathy Freeman became the first aborigine to win a gold medal, for the 400m at the World Championships in Athens

2003: The worst wildfires for 50 years threatened parts of Alberta and British Columbia, in Canada