

An artistic rendering of the Galileo space probe in orbit around Jupiter. The probe is shown with its large, green, circular antenna deployed, and its various instruments and solar panels are visible. Jupiter's characteristic orange and white bands and the Great Red Spot are clearly visible in the background.

# Today in History

*September 21, 2003*

▲ **Nasa's Galileo space probe ended its eight-year mission by crashing into Jupiter to avoid contaminating one of the planet's moons with bacteria from Earth**

**1937:** J.R.R. Tolkien's classic tale, *The Hobbit*, was first published

**1990:** Nicu Ceausescu, playboy son of Romania's late communist dictator, was jailed for 20 years

**1993:** Russian President Boris Yeltsin dissolved parliament and called elections after the defiant assembly sought to strip him of his powers

**1998:** Flamboyant Olympic sprint champion Florence Griffith-Joyner died from a heart attack, aged 38