



## Today in History

*December 16, 1949*

▲ **Australia's hairy-nosed wombat, one of the world's rarest large mammals, was said to be nearly extinct, but conservation efforts have since seen a slow recovery**

**1431:** Henry VI of England was crowned King of France at Notre Dame cathedral in Paris

**1884:** U.S. inventor William H. Fruen was issued the first patent for an automatic liquid vending machine

**1944:** A light plane carrying U.S. dance band leader Glenn Miller was lost over the English Channel

**1944:** The Battle of the Bulge, a major German offensive of World War Two, began in the Ardennes