

A photograph showing two large, intense fires burning in a desert landscape, likely oil wells. Thick black smoke billows from the fires into a cloudy sky. The foreground is a flat, sandy area.

Today in History

February 22, 1991

▲ **Saddam Hussein ordered more than 150 Kuwaiti oil wells to be set alight after the U.S. gave Iraq 24 hours to pull out of Kuwait or face an all-out ground war**

1630: English colonists in America first tasted popcorn, known to Native Americans for over 1,000 years

1940: Four-year-old Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama, was installed as the spiritual leader of Tibet

1994: Canadian scientists reported finding evidence of cigarette smoke in foetal hair, proof that unborn babies can be affected by passive smoking

2007: New Zealand fishermen caught the largest colossal squid in history