

A photograph of astronaut Ed White during the first U.S. spacewalk. He is wearing a white spacesuit and a large, reflective helmet. He is holding a white tool or equipment. The background is a clear blue sky.

Today in History

June 3, 1965

▲ Major Ed White made the first spacewalk by a U.S. astronaut, an experience he enjoyed so much that he had to be ordered back into the Gemini 4 spacecraft

1875: French composer Georges Bizet died in the same year his popular opera Carmen was first staged

1973: A Soviet Tupolev 144 supersonic airliner crashed at the Paris Air Show, killing 15 people

1975: Brazilian soccer hero Pele signed a three-year contract with the New York Cosmos for \$7 million

1980: A computer error indicating a missile attack by the USSR triggered a nuclear alert in the United States