



Today in History

August 4, 1854

▲ **Japanese merchant ships were ordered to hoist the Hinomaru flag to distinguish themselves from foreign ships. It went on to become Japan's national flag**

1693: French Benedictine monk Dom Perignon is traditionally said to have invented champagne on this day

1870: The Red Cross Society was founded in Britain, seven years after the formation of the international movement in Switzerland

1875: Hans Christian Andersen, Danish writer of many favourite fairy tales, died

1958: The Billboard Hot 100, the United States' weekly singles record chart, was first published