



Today in History

August 17, 1945

▲ **Dr Sukarno declared Indonesia independent from the Netherlands. Appointed president, he led efforts to resist Dutch re-colonization after World War II**

1970: Venera 7, the first spacecraft to land successfully on the surface of another planet, Venus, was launched

1995: Alison Hargreaves, the first woman to climb Everest without oxygen, died in an avalanche on K2

1996: An international paedophile ring was uncovered in Belgium

2000: A Norwegian diving team set sail for the Barents Sea to try to rescue 118 men trapped in Russia's stricken nuclear submarine Kursk