



Today in History

October 26, 1977

▲ The world's last natural case of smallpox was recorded in Somalia. Vaccination wiped out the disease, which killed up to 500 million people in the 20th century alone

1825: The Erie Canal, a 363-mile (584-km) waterway connecting Lake Erie with the Hudson River, was opened

1905: Norway gained independence from Sweden

1955: South Vietnam was proclaimed a republic by Ngo Dinh Diem, who declared himself president and executive head of the government

2014: South African national football captain Senzo Meyiwa was shot dead by suspected burglars