

A close-up portrait of Helmut Schmidt, a middle-aged man with grey hair, wearing a dark suit and a white shirt. He is looking slightly to the right with a faint smile. The background is blurred, showing another person's face.

## Today in History

*December 23, 1918*

▲ **Helmut Schmidt, Chancellor of West Germany from 1974-82 who steered the country into the major league of Western powers, was born. He died last month, aged 96**

**1690:** English astronomer John Flamsteed was the first to observe the planet Uranus, not realising it was undiscovered

**1950:** Pope Pius XII announced that the tomb of Saint Peter had been found under the Vatican

**1990:** Slovenians voted en masse to become independent from Yugoslavia

**2000:** A U.S. motorist in Oregon was rescued after 16 days trapped in his car which was buried by deep snow