

A photograph of the Space Shuttle Columbia on the launchpad at night. The shuttle is white with black and red markings, including the word "USA" on the side. It is surrounded by a complex network of green metal scaffolding and support structures. Bright lights illuminate the scene, creating a dramatic effect against the dark sky.

Today in History

April 14, 1981

▲ The space shuttle Columbia, seen here on the launchpad, made a perfect landing following its maiden flight. Columbia blew up on re-entry in February 2003

70: Titus, son of Emperor Vespasian, surrounded the Jewish capital Jerusalem with four Roman legions

1915: U.S. bacteriologist Dr Harry Plotz discovered the typhus vaccine

1986: The world's heaviest authenticated hailstone, weighing one kilogram, fell in Bangladesh

2014: More than 270 girls were abducted from a government school in Chibok, Nigeria, by the Islamist terrorist group Boko Haram