



Today in History

May 17, 2015

▲ The Iraqi city of Ramadi, just 70 miles (112km) west of Baghdad, fell to Islamic State fighters after government forces abandoned their positions

1861: Thomas Cook arranged the first package holiday, a six-day trip from London to Paris

1971: The musical *Godspell* opened off Broadway in New York . The show, based on the Gospel of St Matthew, proved a global success

1981: Italians voted in a referendum in favour of a right to abortion

1989: The Communist government of Czechoslovakia freed dissident playwright Vaclav Havel from prison