



Today in History

August 8, 1786

▲ **Dr Michel-Gabriel Paccard and his guide Jacques Balmat made the first ascent of Mont Blanc, a climb that traditionally marks the start of modern mountaineering**

1942: Mahatma Gandhi launched the Quit India movement, calling for full independence from British rule

1996: Fashion designer Ossie Clark was found stabbed to death in his Notting Hill council flat in London

2001: Hollywood golden couple Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman divorced after 10 years of marriage

2008: The Beijing Olympic Games opened with a spectacular four-hour ceremony at the Bird's Nest stadium