



## Today in History

*December 22, 640*

▲ The Saracen caliph Omar is reputed to have ordered the destruction of the famous Library of Alexandria following the Muslim conquest of Egypt

**1993:** The Australian government voted to allow aborigines to reclaim rights to land seized by European settlers

**2001:** “Shoe bomber” Richard Reid tried to blow up a U.S. jet with explosives hidden in his shoes

**2003:** Colombian rebels freed five hostages, four Israelis and a Briton, held in the jungle for 102 days

**2010:** President Obama signed a law allowing gays in the U.S. military to be open about their sexuality