

A large, silver, teardrop-shaped balloon with "BREITLING ORBITER 3" written on it in red and black. It is floating in a clear blue sky over a vast, snow-covered mountain range. The balloon's basket is visible at the bottom.

Today in History

March 01, 1999

▲ **Bertrand Piccard and Brian Jones took off from Switzerland in Breitling Orbiter 3 on what would become the first successful flight around the world in a balloon**

1954: The U.S. conducted its second hydrogen bomb test, on Bikini Atoll in the Pacific

1959: Archbishop Makarios returned to Cyprus from exile

1974: Former White House officials were indicted for obstructing the investigation into the Watergate scandal

2004: Thousands of Shiite Muslims gathered in the holy city of Karbala in Iraq for the festival of Ashura, previously banned by Saddam Hussein