



Today in History

December 9, 1934

▲ **Oscar-winning British actress Judi Dench was born. A star of stage and screen for 60 years, she reached mass audiences as spy chief M in seven James Bond films**

1905: France legalised the separation of church and state, establishing secularism but guaranteeing freedom of worship

1937: Japanese troops attacked the Chinese city of Nanking

1979: The WHO certified that the smallpox virus had been eradicated after a worldwide vaccination campaign

2008: Astronomers described a giant black hole at the centre of our galaxy, 27,000 light years from Earth