



## Today in History

*January 17, 1991*

▲ The U.S. and allies launched Operation Desert Storm to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation. The aerial and naval bombardment continued for five weeks

**1871:** A U.S. patent was issued for an “endless wire rope way”, later used for the world’s first public cable car

**1991:** Richard Branson and Per Lindstrand completed the first crossing of the Pacific by hot-air balloon

**1996:** In Norway, four men were jailed for stealing Edvard Munch’s famous painting, The Scream

**2011:** In the wake of protests in Tunisia, a man set himself on fire outside parliament in Cairo, Egypt