

A color photograph of James Dean. He is wearing a light-colored, short-sleeved military-style shirt with buttons, which is open at the collar. He is also wearing dark jeans with a brown belt. He has a cigarette in his mouth and is looking directly at the camera. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a vehicle or structure.

Today in History

February 8, 1931

▲ **James Dean, actor and cult hero who personified teenage rebellion in films such as *Giant* (above) and *Rebel Without a Cause*, was born. He died in a car crash at age 24**

1861: The southern states which had seceded from the Union agreed to set up the Confederate States of America

2006: The virulent H5N1 strain of avian influenza, or bird flu, was found on a chicken farm in Nigeria

2011: Chechen warlord Dokka Umarov claimed responsibility for the Moscow airport bombing that killed 35 people

2012: Scientists successfully drilled down to Lake Vostok, a lake sealed 3km beneath the Antarctic