



Today in History

December 24, 1871

▲ Giuseppe Verdi's *Aida*, set in Egypt, was first performed in Cairo in an opera house built by the Khedive to mark the opening of the Suez Canal

1941: The British Eighth Army recaptured the Libyan city of Benghazi from German forces

1951: Libya declared its independence and proclaimed a monarchy under King Idriss I

1994: Cave paintings around 30,000 years old were discovered in the Ardeche region of southern France

2001: A truce between the new government of Sri Lanka and the Tamil Tigers went into effect