

# GN45403 On this day in history Week07 Feb 11-17



## Today in History

February 11, 1990

▲ Nelson Mandela, South Africa's black nationalist leader, was freed after 27 years in jail for charges related to the ANC's armed campaign against apartheid

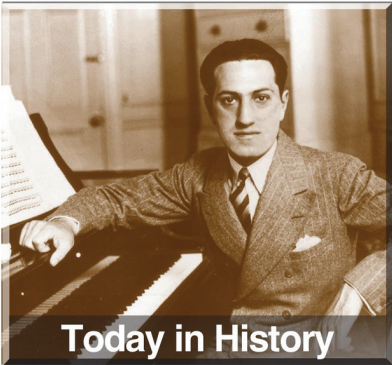
1889: A new constitution, creating a western-style two-house parliament, was promulgated in Japan

1914: A French pilot became the first man to fly over the Alps, reaching the summit

1994: The first space shuttle was launched aboard the shuttle

2001: The first human genome containing all the genes was sequenced

Picture: Getty Images



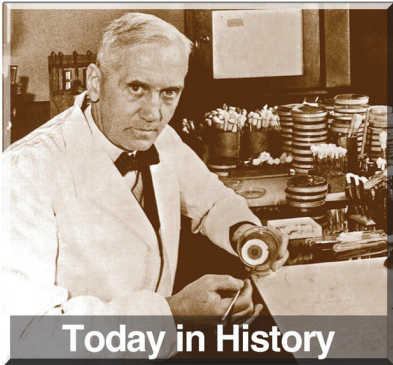
## Today in History

February 12, 1924

▲ George Gershwin played his haunting composition Rhapsody In Blue in public for the first time. It established his reputation as a serious composer

1994: The first people to walk from France to Britain since the Ice Age trekked through the Channel Tunnel

1994: Norway's best known work of



## Today in History

February 13, 1941

▲ Penicillin, discovered in 1928 by Alexander Fleming, was first used on a human patient, an Oxford policeman whose scratches from a rose bush had turned septic

1974: Author Alexander Solzhenitsyn was stripped of Soviet citizenship after The Gulag Archipelago was published  
2008: Australia's parliament issued a



## Today in History

February 14, 1879

▲ La Marseillaise was restored as France's national anthem. It was written in 1792 by Claude Joseph Rouget de Lisle to rally soldiers to defend their homeland

1946: The ENIAC "electronic brain" computer went into operation, performing calculations in seconds that normally took hours



## Today in History

February 15, 2023

▲ Actress Raquel Welch died at age 82. She shot to international fame after playing a deer-skin bikini-clad cavewoman in the 1966 film One Million Years B.C.

1764: The city of St Louis, gateway to the American west, was founded on the west bank of the Mississippi river

1994: North Korea ended a year-long standoff with the IAEA, allowing inspectors to check nuclear plants

1994: Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi refused freedom from house arrest conditional on leaving Burma

1999: Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan was seized by Turkish agents in Nairobi, Kenya

Picture: Newscom

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## Today in History

February 16, 1959

▲ Volatile American tennis star John McEnroe was born. Now a respected commentator, he won the U.S. Open four times and Wimbledon three times

1937: DuPont received a patent for its new synthetic "miracle" fibre, named nylon

1959: Fidel Castro was sworn in as prime minister of Cuba after heading up a guerrilla campaign that forced dictator Fulgencio Batista into exile

1994: A Jerusalem court found former heads of Israel's top four banks guilty of fraud in a 1983 bank shares scandal

1994: A prototype European Union police force, Europol, was launched

Picture: Getty Images

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## Today in History

February 17, 1904

▲ Giacomo Puccini's Madame Butterfly was first performed at La Scala in Milan. The opera was initially unsuccessful but a revised version is now a firm favourite

1864: The first successful attack by a submarine, a hand-propelled vessel, took place in the U.S. Civil War

1964: The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that congressional districts must be roughly equal in population

1999: The U.S. ordered a further 50 warplanes to Europe for use in possible airstrikes against Serbia

2014: A UN Human Rights Council report accused North Korea of crimes against humanity

Picture: Newscom

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satellite  
anchored  
when the  
water park  
in which  
sailed,  
established  
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