

GN46503 On this day in history Week52 December 22-28



Today in History

December 22, 1989

▲ Nicolae Ceausescu, Romania's communist dictator, was ousted after 24 years of hardline rule. He and his wife were put on trial and executed within days

1895: German scientist Wilhelm Roentgen made the first X-ray image, of his wife's hand

1989: Reclusive Irish dramatist Samuel Beckett died

1994: The first Channel Tunnel opened between England and France

2004: Photos of Mars Express show signs of geological activity and volcanic eruptions on the planet

Picture: Getty Images



Today in History

December 23, 1834

▲ Englishman Joseph Hansom patented his "safety cab". Light enough to be pulled by a single horse, the cab became popular in major cities around the globe

1672: Italian astronomer Giovanni Cassini discovered Rhea, a satellite of the planet Saturn

1881: The Dominican Republic was established



Today in History

December 24, 1524

▲ Vasco da Gama, Portuguese explorer and navigator who discovered the sea route to India via the Cape of Good Hope in 1497, died from malaria

1914: Britain suffered its first ever air raid when a German monoplane dropped a single bomb on Dover

1924: The first ever air raid when a German monoplane dropped a single bomb on Dover

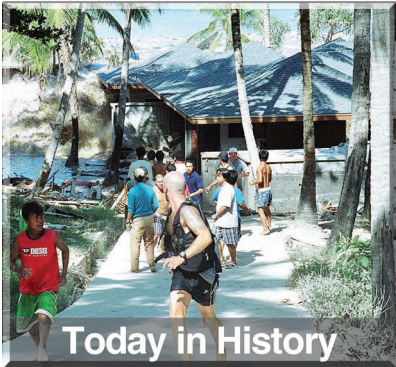


Today in History

December 25, 1914

▲ British and German soldiers exchanged cigarettes and played football as they took part in an unofficial Christmas truce in the trenches of World War I

1584: An Estonian Lutheran pastor described a decorated spruce tree in the market square, the earliest written reference to a Christmas tree



Today in History

December 26, 2004

▲ A magnitude 9.1 earthquake under the Indian Ocean triggered devastating tsunamis which killed around 230,000 people from Indonesia to the coast of Africa

1906: The world's first feature film, The Story of the Kelly Gang, opened in Melbourne, Australia

1975: The Soviet Union's Tupolev-144 became the first supersonic aircraft to go into regular service

2004: Pro-Western opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko won Ukraine's re-run presidential election

2009: The world's longest high speed rail route opened in China, over 900km from Beijing to Guangzhou

Picture: Getty Images

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Today in History

December 27, 537

▲ Istanbul's famous Hagia Sophia was inaugurated. It has been a Greek Orthodox cathedral, then a mosque, a museum, and in 2020 it became a mosque again

1922: Japan commissioned the world's first purpose built aircraft carrier

1949: Indonesia became legally independent from the Netherlands

1969: Libya, Sudan and Egypt (then known as the United Arab Republic), formed a military, political and economic alliance

2023: Jacques Delors, who played a key role in creating the single market, the euro and the modern European Union, died at age 98

Picture: Getty Images

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Today in History

December 28, 1934

▲ British actress Maggie Smith, who died in September, was born. Latterly best known as Downton Abbey's waspish family matriarch, she would have been 90 today

1869: Dentist William Finley Semple received a patent for chewing gum, believing it would help keep teeth clean

1904: The first weather reports relayed by wireless telegraph were transmitted from London

2009: Thailand began repatriating 4,000 ethnic Hmong to Laos, despite international criticism

2009: Russian premier Vladimir Putin launched the East Siberia-Pacific Ocean oil pipeline

Picture: Getty Images

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