



## 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 in Paris**

**1994:** The first private cars boarded the Channel Tunnel train to travel between England and France

**2004: Photographs taken by the Mars Express spacecraft showed signs of geologically recent eruptions on Martian volcanoes**