



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