

Thursday, March 9

ON THIS DAY



▲ **1934:** Soviet astronaut Yuri Gagarin, the first man to orbit the earth, was born in Smolensk

1074: All married Roman Catholic priests were excommunicated by Pope Gregory VII

1924: Italy annexed the independent city of Fiume but abandoned claims to Yugoslavia's Dalmatian coast

1992: Former Israeli prime minister and Nobel peace prize winner Menachem Begin died

2004: Five British citizens detained for two years at the U.S. military base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, were returned to Britain