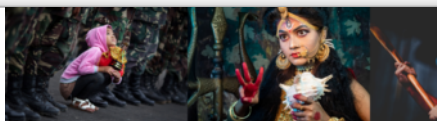




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From today's featured article



Donald Hardman (21 February 1899 – 2 March 1982) was a senior [Royal Air Force](#) (RAF) commander. He joined the [Royal Flying Corps](#) in 1917 and flew [fighters](#) over the [Western Front](#), achieving nine victories to become a decorated [ace](#). Between the wars he saw service with RAF squadrons in India and Egypt. At the outbreak of World War II, Hardman was a [wing commander](#), attached to the [Air Ministry](#). In 1944 he commanded No. 232 (Transport) Group during the [Burma campaign](#). He served successively as Assistant Chief of the Air Staff, Commandant of [RAF Staff College, Bracknell](#), and Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of [RAF Home Command](#). He was [knighted](#) in 1952. Hardman was [Chief of the Air Staff](#) of the [Royal Australian Air Force](#) from 1952 to 1954, and was responsible for reorganising its [geographically based command-and-control system](#) into a functional structure. After returning to Britain, he joined the [Air Council](#) in May 1954, and was promoted to [air chief marshal](#) the following year. He retired from the RAF in 1958. ([Full article...](#))

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Did you know ...

- ... that communist forces set up their headquarters at the [Sacred Heart Cathedral](#) (*pictured*) during the 1948 battle for [Kaifeng](#) in the [Chinese Civil War](#)?
- ... that [Max Stephan](#) was sentenced to death for aiding a Nazi pilot who had escaped from a prisoner of war camp?
- ... that the [1892 Biddle vs. Livingstone football game](#) was the first college football game ever played between [historically black schools](#)?
- ... that Malaysian percussionist [Lewis Pragasam](#) was drumming to "[Joy to the World](#)" at a Christmas concert when he suffered a fatal [heart attack](#)?
- ... that [Spider-Man](#) was chosen as the last character to return in *[Avengers: Endgame](#)*'s [Avengers assemble scene](#) because it was designed to be emotional for audiences?
- ... that the injuries [Anthony W. Case](#) suffered in [a school shooting](#) led him to give up baseball and turn to [astrophysics](#) as a career?
- ... that [Taylor Swift](#) announced her upcoming eleventh studio album, *[The Tortured Poets Department](#)*, while accepting [a Grammy](#) for her album *[Midnights](#)*?
- ... that "[delulu](#) is the solulu" is a catchphrase?



Sacred Heart Cathedral, Kaifeng

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In the news

- At **the British Academy Film Awards**, *Oppenheimer* wins **Best Film** and six other awards, including **Best Actor** for **Cillian Murphy** (*pictured*).
- Russian opposition leader **Alexei Navalny** dies in a **corrective labor colony** near **Kharp**, at the age of 47.
- In **American football**, the **Kansas City Chiefs** defeat the **San Francisco 49ers** to win **the Super Bowl**.
- In **association football**, the **Africa Cup of Nations** concludes with **Ivory Coast** defeating **Nigeria** in **the final**.
- Alexander Stubb** is **elected** President of Finland.



Cillian Murphy

Ongoing: [Israel–Hamas war](#) · [Myanmar civil war](#) · [Red Sea crisis](#) · [Russian invasion of Ukraine](#) ([timeline](#))

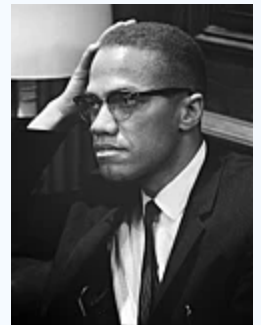
Recent deaths: [Gamini Jayawickrama Perera](#) · [Mike Procter](#) · [Bryan Thomas](#) · [William Post](#) · [Chuck Mawhinney](#) · [Rudolf Jansen](#)

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On this day

February 21

- 1746** – **Jacobite rising of 1745**: The **siege of Inverness** ended with British forces surrendering to the Jacobite army.
- 1862** – **American Civil War**: The **Confederate Army** began **an attempt to gain control of the Southwest** with a major victory in the **Battle of Valverde**.
- 1952** – A number of **student protesters demanding the establishment** of **Bengali** as an official language were killed by police in **Dhaka**, East Pakistan.
- 1965** – American **Black nationalist Malcolm X** (*pictured*) was assassinated while giving a speech in New York City's **Audubon Ballroom**.
- 1973** – After accidentally straying into Israeli-occupied airspace, **Libyan Arab Airlines Flight 114** was shot down by two **fighter aircraft**, killing 108 of the 113 people on board.



Malcolm X

Gaius Caesar (d. AD 4) · **Léo Delibes** (b. 1836) · **Incas (parakeet)** (d. 1918) · **Elliot Page** (b. 1987)

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Today's featured picture



Mud is a small Himalayan village in the cold desert region of [Spiti](#) in [Himachal Pradesh](#), India. In 2011, the village had a population of 213. At an altitude of 3,810 metres (12,500 ft) on the Pin River (a tributary of the Spiti River), the village is located at the base of the Parbati range that towers almost vertically 1,600 metres (5,200 ft, very nearly a mile) above. Mud is notable geologically for the nearby Muth Formation, which consists of white quartz [arenite](#), which has a thickness of 258 to 300 metres (846 to 984 ft) and is resistant to weathering. This photograph shows the village of Mud with the tall rock strata behind.

Photograph credit: [Timothy A. Gonsalves](#)

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- [Site news](#) – Sources of news about Wikipedia and the broader Wikimedia movement.
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Collection of quotations



Wikispecies
Directory of species



Wikivoyage
Free travel guide



MediaWiki
Wiki software development



Wikibooks
Free textbooks and manuals



Wikinews
Free-content news



Wikisource
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Wikipedia languages

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