



Today in History

20 May



1941 German paratroops assault Crete

New Zealand, British, Australian and Greek forces defending the Mediterranean island of Crete fought desperately to repel a huge airborne assault by German paratroopers.

The Battle for Crete raged for 12 days before the Allies were driven off the island. Casualties were high on both sides. More than 650 New Zealanders were killed and 2000 taken prisoner. Read more...

Image: German paratroops over Crete

Internal links

The battle: days 1-3 - The Battle for Crete Peter Fraser

External links

Official history of the Battle for Crete (NZETC)



1773 NZ's first sheep released

During his second voyage to New Zealand in 1773, James Cook released a ewe and a ram from the Cape of Good Hope (South Africa) in Queen Charlotte Sound. They survived only a few days, an inauspicious start to this country's long association with sheep.

Sheep farming has played an important part in New Zealand's economic history. For many tourists, sheep symbolise New Zealand as a nation. Numerous jokes have been made over the years about New Zealanders and sheep, or the proportion of people to sheep. The sheep population peaked at just over 70 million in 1982. By 2010 there were less than half that number, as profits declined in comparison with other types of farming.

Sheep farming established itself in the 1850s and for several decades wool accounted for more than a third of New Zealand's exports by value. Following the first export shipment of frozen meat in 1882, sheep meat became a significant source of revenue as New Zealand forged a role as Britain's farmyard.

More than half of New Zealand's sheep are Romney, an English breed valued as a dual-purpose animal capable of producing both wool and meat of good quality. Romneys are also able to tolerate New Zealand's varied climates.

External links

Cook's Three Voyages (Te Ara) James Cook biography (DNZB) Whakatu tribes (Te Ara) Agricultural production (Te Ara) Sheep images and media (Te Ara) Life of James Cook (Google Books)

This Week in History



13 June 1866  
Murder on the Maungatapu track



14 June 1984  
Muldoon calls snap election



15 June 1935  
Lovelock wins 'Mile of the century'



16 June 1923  
Baby-farmer Daniel Cooper hanged



17 June 1843  
The Wairau incident



18 June 1895  
Minnie Dean goes on trial



19 June 1940  
Niagara sunk by German mines off Northland

Timeline Sect

Month Calendar

Today in History

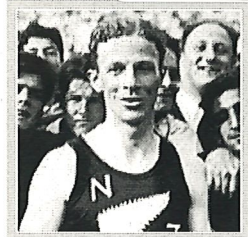
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See historic e the year by e below. Why r birthday?



Visit

Kiwi of the



Jack Lovelock

One of our greatest athletes, Berlin Olympic gold medalist Jack Lovelock led a remarkably full life before his tragic death in 1949, just a few days shy of his 40th birthday.

more

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THIS WEEK'S QUIZ

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CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

Politics and Government

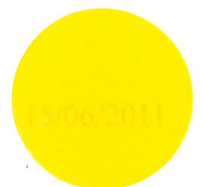
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PROTEST AND REFORM  
TREATY OF WAITANGI

POST SECOND WORLD WAR

OTHER CONFLICTS  
WAR MEMORIALS

Hands On History

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Nation Dates  
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