On This Date

1946 – The Royal Navy launched the HMS Dreadnought, the first modern battleship with fast steam turbine engines and large guns. The launch sparked a naval arms race.

1946 – Gangster “Lucky” Luciano was deported to Italy, capping a deal that commuted his prison sentence in return for Navy/Mafia collaboration during WWII.


2009 – For the first time, a hypervelocity collision occurred between two satellites (Cosmos 2251 and Iridium 33). The impact speed was about 26,000 mph.

Trivia for the Birds

A hummingbird weighs less than a nickel. Hummingbirds flap their wings between 50 and 70 times a second. It is the only bird that can fly backward.

Quote of the Day

“Be kind to people on the way up—you’ll meet them again on your way down.”

~ Jimmy Durante

Happy Birthday!

Jimmy Durante (1893–1980) was a singer, pianist, comedian, and actor. Born to Italian immigrants in the Lower East Side of New York City, he dropped out of school in the seventh grade to become a full-time ragtime pianist. Durante’s gravelly delivery, jazz-influenced songs, and large nose (nicknamed “Schnozzola”) helped make him one of America’s most familiar and popular personalities from the 1920s through the 1960s. In 1934, he composed “Inka Dinka Doo,” which became his theme song for the remainder of his career.