

Today in Math History...

-17 September 1802

Baron Georg von Vega killed. Von Vega, a military officer and mathematician famous for his military campaigns and his table of logarithms, was murdered for *“his money and his watch.”*



He entered military service in 1780 as professor of mathematics at the Artillery School in Vienna. As a military man Vega was involved in several wars. In 1788 he fought against the Turks at a battle near Belgrade commanding gun positions. He also fought against the French at many battles in this time of revolution and wars in Europe.

Vega calculated π to 140 places, a record which stood for over 50 years. This appears in a paper which he published in 1789.