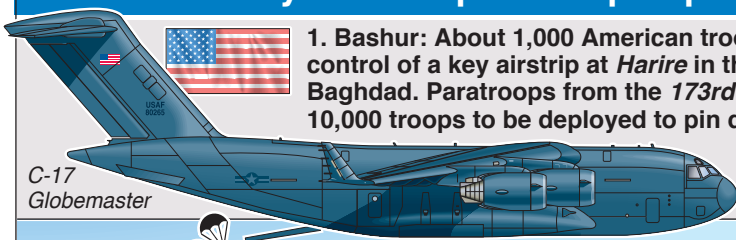


Day 8 – U.S. paratroops open north Iraq front



1. Bashur: About 1,000 American troops parachute into northern Iraq and take control of a key airstrip at *Harire* in the first big U.S. deployment north of Baghdad. Paratroops from the **173rd Airborne Brigade** are the vanguard of 10,000 troops to be deployed to pin down Iraq's northern brigades to stop them joining the defence of Baghdad. Turkey agrees to stay out of northern Iraq after being promised \$8.5 billion by the U.S.



2. Baghdad More than 30 blasts rock centre of Iraqi capital overnight.

15 civilians killed in marketplace in **Shaab** district – U.S. says no conclusive evidence of errant bomb during attack on missile launchers just 100 metres away

3. Karbala: Overnight bombing of **Republican Guard** positions continues

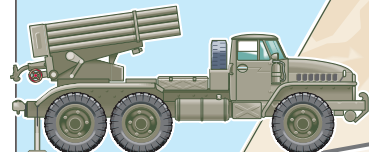
4. Al Hindiyah: **Republican Guard** units use sandstorms for cover to attack U.S. **3rd Infantry Division** in attempt to cut vital supply lines

5. Kirkuk: Warplanes pound frontline Iraqi positions 35km east of key oil city

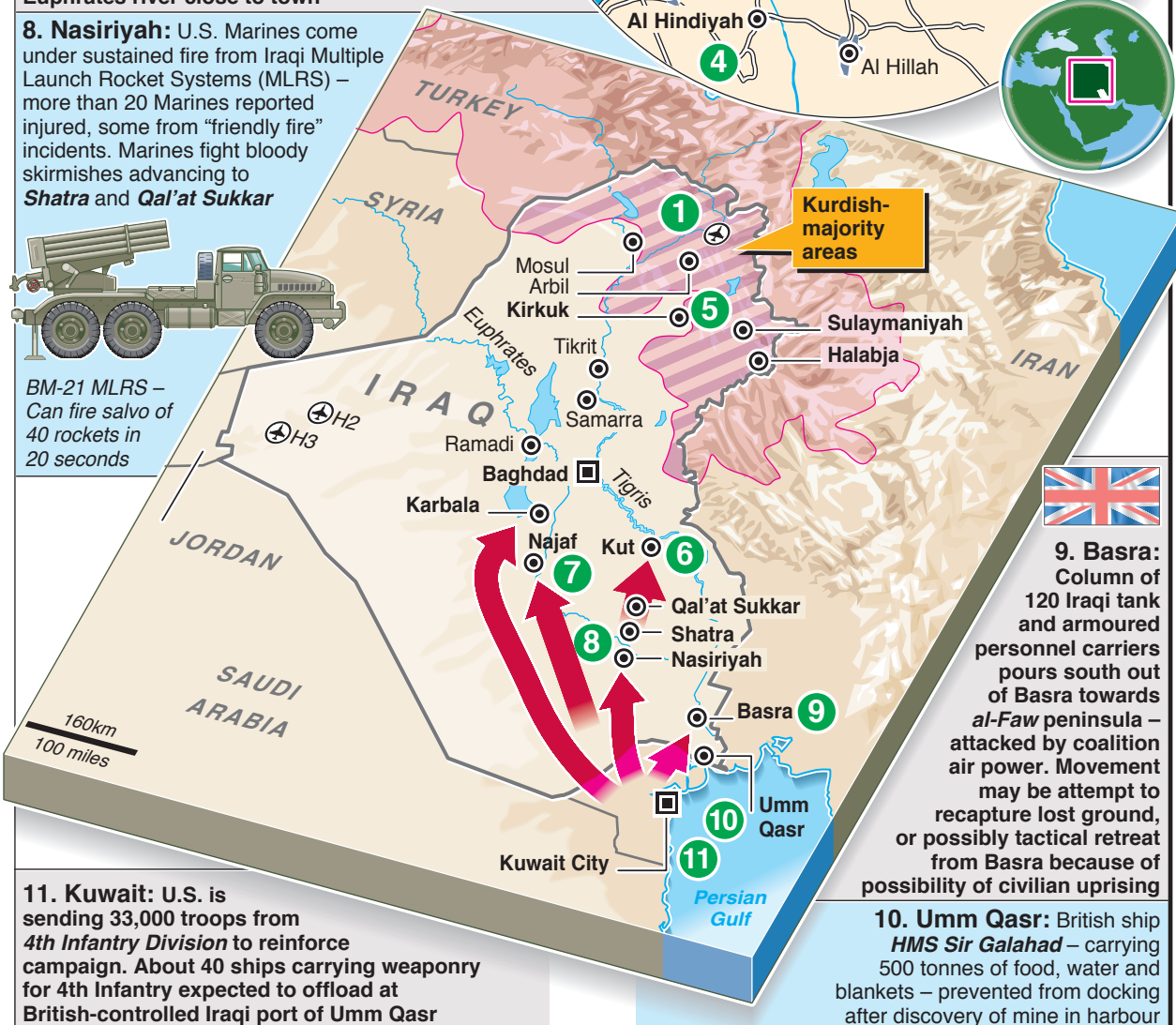
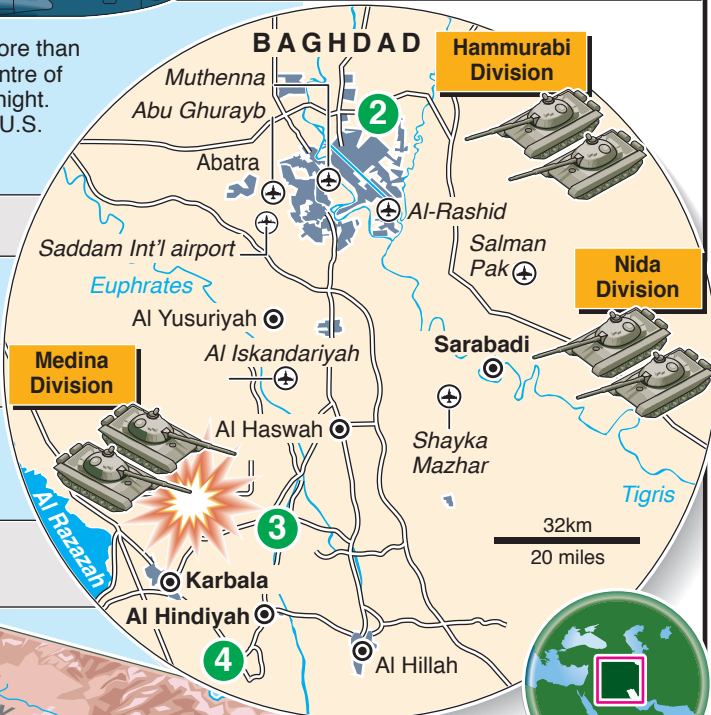
6. Kut: **Republican Guard Baghdad Division** – infantry division with 10,000 soldiers – reported to have moved to **Kut** to block U.S. **1st Marine Division's** eastward thrust on capital

7. Najaf: U.S. **7th Cavalry** fights fierce battle with Iraqi forces for control of bridge over Euphrates river close to town

8. Nasiriyah: U.S. Marines come under sustained fire from Iraqi Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS) – more than 20 Marines reported injured, some from "friendly fire" incidents. Marines fight bloody skirmishes advancing to **Shatra** and **Qal'at Sukkar**



BM-21 MLRS – Can fire salvo of 40 rockets in 20 seconds



9. Basra: Column of 120 Iraqi tank and armoured personnel carriers pours south out of Basra towards **al-Faw** peninsula – attacked by coalition air power. Movement may be attempted to recapture lost ground, or possibly tactical retreat from Basra because of possibility of civilian uprising

10. Umm Qasr: British ship **HMS Sir Galahad** – carrying 500 tonnes of food, water and blankets – prevented from docking after discovery of mine in harbour

11. Kuwait: U.S. is sending 33,000 troops from **4th Infantry Division** to reinforce campaign. About 40 ships carrying weaponry for 4th Infantry expected to offload at British-controlled Iraqi port of Umm Qasr