

Day 15 – Iraqi troops move to defend Baghdad



1. Baghdad: U.S. ground forces advance to within 15 miles of Iraqi capital. Information Ministry bans six foreign correspondents, including two working for Arabic Al-Jazeera television



2. Northern Baghdad: U.S. spy planes spot units of two of Iraq's northern Republican Guard divisions – **Adnan** and **Nebuchadnezzar Divisions** – heading south to defend city. Pentagon claims to have “effectively destroyed” **Medina** and **Baghdad Republican Guard** divisions

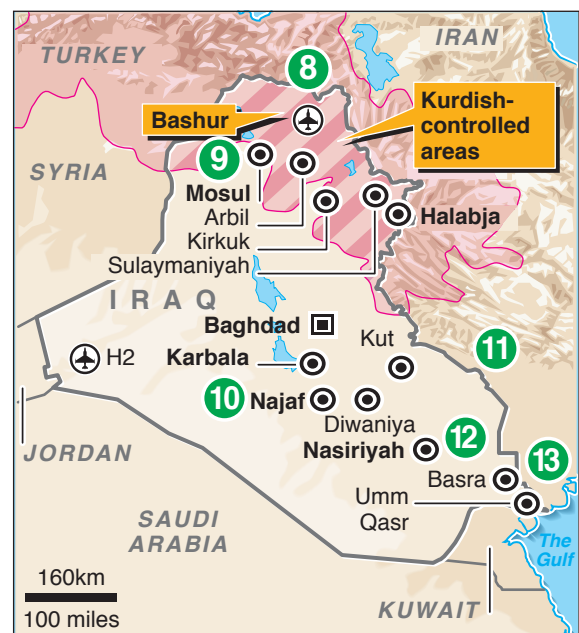
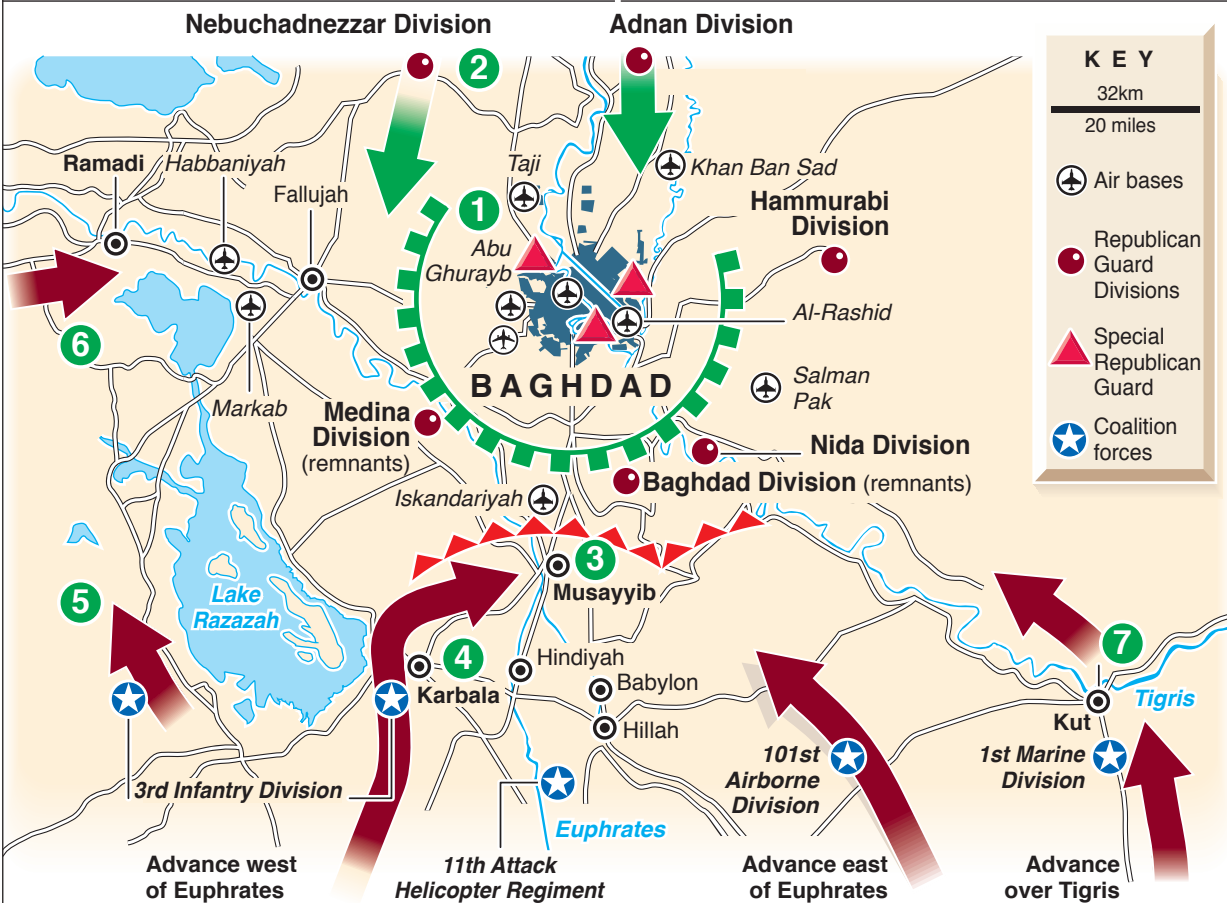
3. Musayyib: U.S. **3rd Infantry Division** repels Iraqi counter-attack on key U.S.-controlled bridge over Euphrates. Regiment of 6,000 Marines crosses bridge wearing full chemical and biological protection

4. Karbala: City bypassed to protect holy sites. U.S. **Black Hawk** helicopter shot down near city by small-arms fire, killing six crew. U.S. Navy **F/A-18 Hornet** warplane shot down by surface-to-air missile – first fixed-wing aircraft to be brought down by enemy fire

5. Lake Razazah: Russian intelligence reports large U.S. convoy moving towards **Ramadi**

6. Ramadi: U.S. and British special forces moving from **H2 airfield** along Baghdad-Jordan highway – possibly to join U.S. convoy and mount western thrust on Baghdad

7. Kut: U.S. reportedly drops two 15,000-lb “daisy cutter” thermobaric bombs on units of **Baghdad Division Republican Guards** north of city. **1st Marine Division** secures key bridge across Tigris



8. Turkey: More than 40 trucks carry supplies to **Bashur** where U.S. **173rd Airborne Division** and **1st Infantry Division** are building northern front

9. Mosul: U.S. planes bomb Iraqi troops, forcing them to retreat in several areas

10. Najaf: **Fedayeen** militias fire anti-aircraft artillery from sacred Shia **Imam Ali shrine**

11. Iranian border: Deep anger over threats to holy sites at **Karbala** and **Najaf**. Reports that thousands of infantry from exiled Iraqi **Badr Corps** – trained by Iranian **Revolutionary Guard** – could enter war

12. Nasiriyah: U.S. marines control most of city – a key crossing point on Euphrates river. Iraqi doctor claims 250 civilians killed and 1,000 injured by heavy fighting during the last week



13. Basra: Fierce exchanges between **British 7th Armoured Division** – **Desert Rats** – and large number of Iraqi troops on outskirts of Iraq's second city. British military allegedly use controversial cluster-bomb type L20 “bomblets” but this is later denied