

Day 19 – U.S. tanks occupy central Baghdad



Abrams M1

1. Baghdad: U.S. tanks and armoured vehicles from **3rd Infantry Division** smash into presidential compound



C-130

2. Airport: First American aircraft, two C-130s and a C-17 transport, bring in supplies. **101st Airborne Division** exchange artillery fire with Iraqi forces

3. Qanal al Jaysh: *Marine Expeditionary Force* fight street-to-street battles for control of bridge over *Army Canal*. Iraqi fighters rig strategic bridge with explosives and dig out embankment to weaken it. Marines control bridge but cannot cross it

4. West Baghdad: Some 20,000 U.S. troops set up cordons around capital to cut city off from rest of country. Tikrit road – to Saddam Hussein's home town – severed by special forces



5. Abu Ghurayb: Convoy of cars carrying Russian diplomats, including Russia's ambassador to Iraq, comes under fire near airport, five wounded

6. Ain Sifni: More than 1,000 Kurdish *Peshmerga* backed by U.S. special forces take northern town

7. Mosul: U.S. plane bombs convoy of U.S. special forces and *Peshmerga* fighters south of city, killing 18 and wounding 45 others. *Wajy Barzani*, Kurdish special forces commander and younger brother of *Massoud Barzani* – leader of Kurdish Democratic Party – reported to be in critical condition

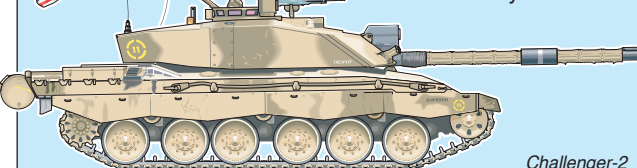
8. Kirkuk: *Peshmerga* fighters and U.S. special forces push closer to key Iraqi-held oil city

9. Salman Pak: U.S. Marines destroy tanks and armoured personnel carriers at headquarters of *Republican Guard Second Corps*. Marines also overrun what is believed to be a terrorist training camp, killing fighters from Sudan and Egypt

10. Karbala: Troops of **101st Airborne Division** push into centre of holy city after two days of street-by-street fighting with *Fedayeen* militia. U.S. supply lines secured

11. Nasiriyah: U.S. Marines begin recovery of remains of 18 troops killed in two weeks of fierce fighting with *Fedayeen* militias around "Ambush Alley." Fighting was to secure strategic bridges over the *Euphrates* – vital for U.S. supply lines

12. Basra: 95 tanks and 80 armoured personnel carriers of **7th Armoured Brigade – Desert Rats** – move into Iraq's second city from west



Challenger-2

3 Commando Brigade push forward from south against *Fedayeen* militia and *Ba'ath Party* loyalists. Commander in charge of defending southern Iraq, *Ali Hassan al-Majid* – known as "**Chemical Ali**" – killed by coalition air strike

