

Hunting The Ace Of Spades

The story of Eric Maddox, the man who got Saddam Hussein

It was a game of cat and mouse. And the mouse was winning....

Of course, calling Saddam Hussein a “mouse” is surely one of the worst misnomers of all time. He butchered hundreds of thousands of his own people, including many with chemical weapons, not to mention starting a war that led to more than a million deaths.

He saw himself as a modern day Babylonian monarch in the mold of Nevuchadnezzar. When he went too far, a coalition of Western armies started two wars with him, the second ending his rule. Though he was no longer in charge, he evaded the invaders for almost a year... despite the fact that tens of thousands of troops were searching high and low. The mouse had completely confounded the cat.

Until a man named Eric Maddox solved the puzzle.

One question remained: Would Maddox have time to track down Saddam Hussein before his tour of duty ended?



Foreword

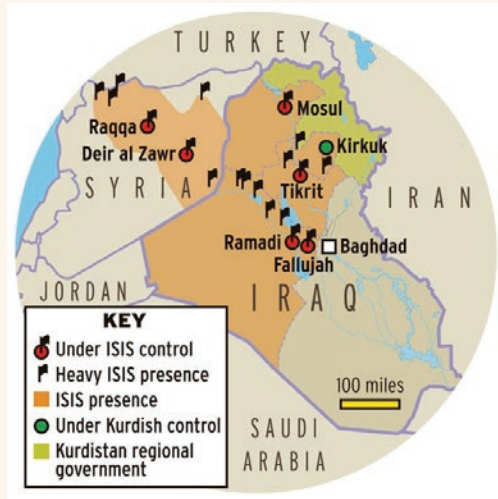
America and the entire world were shocked in early June by an unbelievable development in Iraq. A jihadist group, previously considered relatively unimportant, began to spread through Iraq, capturing one major city after another.

In a matter of just weeks, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) grabbed control of most of Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, as well as a large portion of the surrounding Nineveh province and the city of Fallujah (known in ancient times as Pumbedisa). ISIS has also captured Tikrit, Saddam Hussein's home town and the administrative center of the Salah ad Din Governorate. Wherever ISIS arrived, its fighters brutally massacred anyone who stood up to their dictates or who was suspected of disagreeing with their ideology. In recent weeks the group has made further progress and is now threatening to march on Baghdad.

The Iraqi government that the United States helped set up after Saddam Hussein was removed from power proved completely ineffectual against the heavily-armed masses of ISIS fighters. The incompetent Iraqi soldiers, trained and outfitted by the US Armed Forces, threw down their weapons, took off their uniforms and ran. Reports indicate that just 800 ISIS fighters succeeded in overwhelming 30,000 Iraqi soldiers in and around Mosul.

After all the time, money and effort America spent on erecting a democratic government in Iraq, the entire country is now on the way to falling apart entirely. The jihadist group that is overrunning Iraq consists of radical Sunni Muslims who are so barbaric that even Al Qaeda severed its former ties to the group. (The present government of Iraq is composed of Shiites.)

What makes ISIS even more dangerous is that it has ample funding for its needs. ISIS



Top: Territory overrun by ISIS as of June 2014. Bottom: First areas of Iraq that were conquered by ISIS forces (in red).

began raking in millions of dollars after capturing oil-rich cities in nearby Syria in 2012. Since capturing Mosul, ISIS has multiplied its wealth fourfold by plundering the central bank. Add to that tens of millions of dollars' worth of American military equipment, including tanks, trucks, armor and weapons that Iraqi troops abandoned in the chaos of their flight, and the group's value is assessed at \$2 billion!

Magnifying the heartache is the fact that the United States spent nearly \$1 trillion (!) to win the war in Iraq and rebuild the country. Some of that money was wasted through bureaucratic incompetence or

appropriated by corrupt local officials. Still, US forces did manage to instill enough law and order in Iraq for a capable government to have a solid foundation on which to build a republic.

The US initiated the Iraq War on the basis of faulty intelligence reports. Nevertheless, the invasion resulted in toppling a monster from power, a man who killed hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of his citizens in the course of his violent reign. We must also not forget that Hussein advanced the cause of terror not only in his own country but around the world as well. His favorite target was Israel, where he sent millions of dollars to finance terror operations against Jews. During the Gulf War he fired Scud missiles directly at Israel, despite the fact that Israel was not at war with him.

Sadly, looking back at the saga of Iraq in the beginning of the 21st century, the US wasted an opportunity. President Obama entered the White House and decided to withdraw US forces from Iraq, after the previous president had reached an agreement with the Iraqi government to leave behind a force of 20,000 American soldiers when America left Iraq in 2011. This force was to include army instructors and intelligence experts whose job was to assist the Iraqi government in keeping control of the



Convoys of ISIS terrorists driving expensive cars entered Iraq without being noticed by US intelligence groups.



ISIS fighters advancing into Iraq.



Civilians fleeing the murders and kidnappings by the Islamic extremists who took over Mosul.



Millions of dollars' worth of American military gear is now in the hands of ISIS Jihadists.



Muslim radicals from ISIS burning loads of cigarettes while implementing strict Sharia law throughout the land.