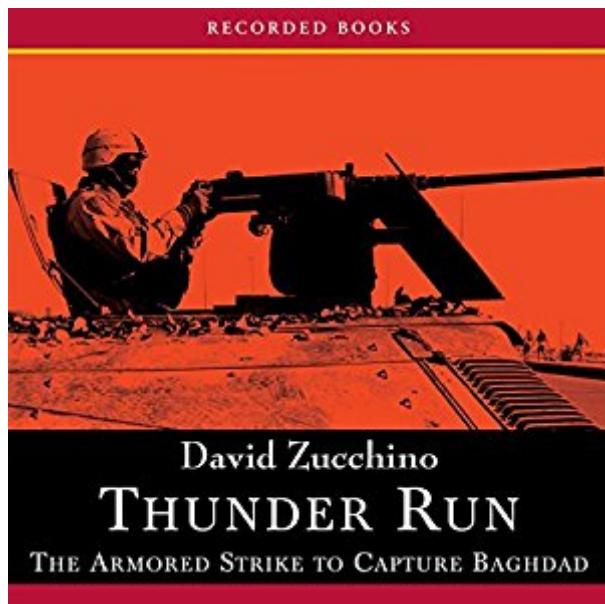


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# Thunder Run: The Armored Strike To Capture Baghdad



## **Synopsis**

Called "the best account of combat since Black Hawk Down" by Men's Journal, Thunder Run is a no-holds-barred look at the sweep of Baghdad, Iraq in 2003 by U.S. armed forces. One of the boldest gambles in modern military history, the surprise attack on Baghdad by three battalions of tanks and APCs and less than 1,000 men total was the single stroke that is credited for ending the Iraqi war. The three days of fierce fighting that followed the initial attack are captured in stunning detail by Richard M. Davidson's powerhouse narration.

## **Book Information**

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 15 hours and 37 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Recorded Books

Audible.com Release Date: November 17, 2011

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B0068Z8P62

Best Sellers Rank: #87 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > History > Middle East #256 in Books > History > Military > Iraq War #281 in Books > History > Military > Weapons & Warfare > Conventional

## **Customer Reviews**

One of the most surprising moves by the United States military in Operation Iraqi Freedom was the quick inception and execution of the two "thunder runs" into Baghdad as they were quickly dubbed (a Vietnam-era term) on April 5 and 7, 2003. The surprise, as author David Zucchino informs in his new book Thunder Run, was that the idea was implemented nearly spur of the moment, and that the soldiers on both sides of the conflict had no idea it was coming. The military had planned to besiege Baghdad, surrounding the city with the 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) while cordoning off sections of the city piece by piece via air assaults from the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions. Everyone thought and planned the siege would be a lengthy and potentially very bloody process, including the Iraqis - they had correctly discerned the American strategy and had prepared well for it. Once the coalition reached Baghdad, commanders decided that a military demonstration into, instead of in front of, the city was in order. The highways into the city were practically unobstructed; the route

chosen was a pure concrete and asphalt highway that arced from the southern to western ends of the city, ending with Saddam Airport, which was already in 3rd Infantry Division hands. The intention of the first run was to be the first of many, a risky armored thrust into enemy-held urban territory where tanks were supposedly wholly vulnerable. The second would quickly follow-up the apparent success of the first, two days later - and this time the Americans had come to stay. Mr. Zucchino writes the physical and emotional peaks and troughs of combat in a powerful yet readable way.

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