



Richard I was a son of Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine. He was also known as Richard the Lionheart (Richard Coeur de Lion) because of his bravery fighting against Saladin during the Third Crusade. His objective, during that campaign, was to recapture Jerusalem (which had fallen to Saladin in 1187).

Royal Monarchy, the official site of Britain's monarchy, provides a brief biography of this English king who did not speak English:

Henry's elder son, Richard I (reigned 1189-99), fulfilled his main ambition by going on crusade in 1190, leaving the ruling of England to others.

After his victories over Saladin at the siege of Acre and the battles of Arsuf and Jaffa, concluded by the treaty of Jaffa (1192), Richard was returning from the Holy Land when he was captured in Austria. In early 1193, Richard was transferred to Emperor Henry VI's custody.

In Richard's absence, King Philip of France failed to obtain Richard's French possessions through invasion or negotiation.

In England, Richard's brother John occupied Windsor Castle and prepared an invasion of England by Flemish mercenaries, accompanied by armed uprisings. Their mother, Queen Eleanor, took firm action against John by strengthening garrisons and again exacting oaths of allegiance to the king.

John's subversive activities were ended by the payment of a crushing ransom of 150,000 marks of silver to the emperor, for Richard's release in 1194. Warned by Philip's famous message 'look to yourself, the devil is loosed', John fled to the French court.

On his return to England, Richard was recrowned at Winchester in 1194. Five years later he died in France during a minor siege against a rebellious baron. By the time of his death, Richard had recovered all his lands.

His success was short-lived. In 1199 his brother John became king and Philip successfully invaded Normandy. By 1203, John had retreated to England, losing his French lands of Normandy and Anjou by 1205.

Although he enjoyed great triumphs during the Third Crusade, King Richard never achieved his objective. Not only did he fail to capture Jerusalem, he never set foot inside the city.

During his decade-long reign (from 1189-1199), Richard spent a total of six months in Britain.

See, also:

Image and Bio: Robin Hood - Robin Longstride

Image and Bio: King John I

Image: Eleanor of Aquitaine

Video: Katherine Hepburn (Eleanor) and Anthony Hopkins (Richard I)

Video: Richard the Lionheart and the Third Crusade

Video: Richard and His Men Fighting in the Crusade

Video: The English Longbow - Machine Gun of the Middle Ages

Story: The Magna Carta

Credits:

Image of Richard I from Westminster, online courtesy [Royal Monarchy.gov](http://royalmonarchy.gov)

Quoted passages, from Royal Monarchy's biography of Richard I.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Richard-I-The-Lionheart0>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Richard-I-The-Lionheart0>

Media Stream



Richard I - The Lionheart

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Richard-I-The-Lionheart1>