

Name: Richard

Nickname: Coeur De Lion ("The Lionheart")

Reign: 1189-1199



Actions

At a young age Richard sided with the French king in a war against his own father. He lost and had to beg for his father's forgiveness. He was forgiven and given the task of eliminating the remaining rebels. He did so with incredible skill. This is where he earned the nickname "The Lionheart" for his incredible feats in battle. A few years later, he rebelled against his father again. This time, after killing his older brother, Richard was named king of all England.

Six months after becoming king he left England to go on Crusade. Before going he admitted his sins of his past and swore to turn away from them and serve God. He spent nearly all of England's money to raise an army. He even raised taxes on the English and sold jobs in his government to those who would pay. He even reportedly said "I'd sell London itself if I could find a buyer." He commented that England was "cold and always raining" and seemed to want to leave his country as soon as possible. Interestingly, it appears that he may not have even spoken English and instead spoke only French. He basically used his home country as little more than a giant piggy bank.

While on Crusade, Richard fought valiantly. He quickly conquered some islands near Jerusalem. During one battle he was so sick that he was being carried on a stretcher into battle. He continued to fight shooting a number of enemy guards with a crossbow while still on the stretcher! He eventually signed a peace treaty with the Muslims granting Christians the right to visit Jerusalem. He had to leave before completely conquering Jerusalem, however, since he heard reports that his brother was trying to take power back in England.

On his way back he was kidnapped by another European leader whom he had offended earlier. He was held until a ransom of nearly two billion dollars was paid by the people of England. This nearly bankrupted the kingdom. He was eventually freed and retook his place as king. At which point he continued to avoid England as much as possible.

Witness Testimony

"Never have I faced a bolder or wiser opponent." -Saladin, Muslim General

"He was a bad son and a bad king but a gallant and splendid soldier." Steven Ruciman, Historian

Death

Killed in battle. Richard attacked the castle of one of his own subjects over an argument about buried treasure. Richard was shot by a child from the castle using a crossbow. The king was reportedly distracted by a defender using a cooking pot as a shield. Additionally, he was not wearing any armor thinking the battle would be easy.