



The Crusades (1095-1314)

The story of the Crusades, the Knights Templar, the Hospitallers and the Tutoic Knights.

1070

Possible founding date of the Hospital of St. John in Jerusalem by Amalfi merchants.

13 Nov 1093

Battle of Alnwick

Nov 1093

Donald Bane becomes King of Scotland

1095

The First Crusade (1095-1099) is initiated when Byzantine Emperor Alexius Comnenus requests help in reconquering the lost territory of Asia Minor. Western Europe sends enormous support to take Jerusalem from the control of Islam.

1095

Pope Urban II preaches the first Crusade.

1098

The crusaders of the First Crusade defeat Prince Redwan of Aleppo capturing Antioch and most of Syria, killing the Turkish inhabitants.

15 Jul 1099

Jerusalem fell to the crusaders of the First Crusade who slaughtered the Jewish and Muslim inhabitants.

1099

Crusaders beat Saracens in Battle of Ascalon

1099

Crusaders set fire to Mara Syria

1099

The first Crusaders begins siege of Hosn-el-Akrad Syria.

1099

After the Crusaders take Jerusalem, they divide their new territories into four principalities.



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1110

Crusaders march into Beirut causing a bloodbath.

1113

Hospital of St. John recognized by papal bull as separate order.

1118

Hugh of Payens of Burgundy and Godfrey of Saint Adhemar, a Fleming, with seven other knights were credited with founding the Templars whose headquarters was on or near the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

1126

Hospital of St. John displayed possible military attributes, its 'constable' was cited in sources.

1127

Possible date of the founding of the German Hospital of St. Mary in Jerusalem.

1128

Probable circulation of St. Bernard of Clairvaux's 'Liber ad milites templi de laude novae militiae'.

Jan 1129

Council of Troyes recognized the Temple as an order.

1131

King Alfonso I of Aragon and Navarre attempted to turn over the kingdom to the Templars, Hospitallers, and Knights of the Holy Sepulcher in his will.

1143

Two sources of Pope Celestine II mention a German hospital in Jerusalem in some kind of dispute with the Hospital of St. John and the German hospital was put under the supervision of the Hospital of St. John.

1147

According to a legend - a Crusader taken prisoner returns with papermaking skills.



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1147

The beginning of the Second Crusade (1147-1149).

24 Jun 1148

Damascus: Attack

1160

(1160-1170) John of Würzburg mentioned the German hospital in Jerusalem in his Description of the Holy Land.

1164

Templars attempt a reconciliation.

1165

Ramjbam & his family reach Acre Palestine.

1172

German monk Theodorich wrote 'Guide to the Holy Land'.

1176

Sophia, Countess of Holland, was buried in the German hospital in Jerusalem.

1 May 1187

Hospitallers and Templars defeated by the Muslims at Nazareth.

4 Jul 1187

Battle of Hattin lost by crusaders when Hospitallers, Templars, and the 'flower of the nobility' are devastated.

Nov 1187

The Third Crusade is ordered (1187-1192) after the Muslim capture of Jerusalem. Richard I, future King of England, takes the Cross. Richard I, German Emperor Frederick I and French King Philip Augustus lead the cursade.

1189

Emperor Frederik I Barbarossa and 100,000 crusaders depart Regensburg.



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16 Mar 1190

The Crusades began the massacre of Jews in York, England. The Jewish population of York fled to Clifford's Tower overlooking the rivers Ouse and Foss during an anti-Jewish riot. A crazed friar set fire to the tower and rather than be captured, the inhabitants committed mass suicide.

Sep 1190

King Guy of Jerusalem awarded Teutonic Order or 'Teutonic Knights' a portion of a tower in Acre. The order perhaps shared the tower with the English Order of the Hospital of St. Thomas.

1190

The crusaders lay siege to Acre.

1190

Crusaders kill 57 Jews in Bury St Edmonds England.

6 Feb 1191

Questionable bull of Pope Clement III approving the German hospitaller order at Acre.

10 Apr 1191

Richard's fleet leave Sicily

20 Apr 1191

Philip V arrives in Acre.

6 May 1191

Richard sails to Cyprus.

11 May 1191

Meeting in Limassol

12 May 1191

Richard the Lionheart married Bernegaria of Navarre, daughter of Sancho VI, King of Navarre, in Limassol, Cyprus.

1 Jun 1191

Richard controls Cyprus.



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6 Jun 1191

Richard arrives at Tyre and attacks Acre.

12 Jul 1191

Siege of Acre ended in crusader victory.

1192

The third crusade ends.

Apr 1195

Count Palatine Henry of Champagne provided Teutonic Knights the house of Theodore of Sarepta in Tyre.

Mar 1196

Count Palatine Henry conferred possessions in Jaffa (Joppa) on Teutonic Knights.

21 Dec 1196

Pope Celestine III took the 'Hospital of St. Mary of the Germans in Jerusalem' under his protection.

1196

Hermann von Salza may have accompanied Landgraf Hermann von Thüringen to the Holy Land.

20 May 1197

German emperor Henry VI gave the Teutonic Knights a hospital in Barletta, Italy.

18 Jul 1197

Henry VI gave Teutonic Knights a church and cloister (of the Holy Trinity) in Palermo, Sicily

5 Mar 1198

Teutonic Knights established as a military order in a ceremony in Acre's Temple which was attended by the secular and clerical leaders of the Latin Kingdom.

Aug 1198

Pope Innocent III proclaims the the fourth crusade (1198-1205).



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1198

First military action of the Teutonic Knights with King Amalric II of Jerusalem. Amalric gave them (in August) a tower in Acre, formerly belonging to the Order of St. Nicholas.

1198

The Fourth Crusade was funded by Enrico Dandolo, doge of Venice.

19 Feb 1199

Bull of Pope Innocent III confirmed the Teutonic Knights' wearing of the Templars' white mantle and following of the Hospitallers' rule.

Aug 1200

Teutonic Knights paid the sons of Theodore of Sarepta 200 besants for the house in Tyre to complete the 1195 deal.

1202

(1202-1204) The Crusading effort led by Boniface of Montferrat was diverted from Palestine or Egypt to Constantinople with influence of Venetians and pretender to the Byzantine throne.

1202

Gerold of Bozen gave the Teutonic Knights a hospital in Bozen.

Apr 1204

The crusaders of the Fourth Crusade capture Constantinople. The sack of Constantinople causes a firm Byzantine hatred of the West.

1205

The end of the fourth crusade.

1205

William of Champlitte and Geoffrey of Villehardouin conquered Patras, Andravida, Pundico Castro, Modon, and Coron in the Morea; Battle of Koundoura won by William of Champlitte and Geoffrey of Villehardouin with about 600 men over 5,000 Byzantine Greeks

1206

Statutes of Margat adopted by the Hospitallers in annual chapter meeting.



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1208

Innocent III calls for the Albigensian Crusade (1208-1229) in order to destroy the heretical threat of the Albigensians.

1208

Teutonic Knights 'marshal' appears in the sources which indicates the military nature of the order.

1209

(early 1209) Geoffrey Villehardouin, Prince of Achaia, in dividing up the Peloponnese in his capital of Andravida, gave the Templars, Hospitallers, and Teutonic Knights four knightly fees; the Teutonic Knights' fee is near Kalamata.

1209

Teutonic Knights side with Hospitallers and barons in Acre against the Templars and prelates; origin of long-standing opposition between the Templars and Teutonic Knights.

3 Oct 1210

Probable date of election of Hermann von Salza as grand master of the Teutonic Knights; the date coincided with the date of the marriage in Tyre of John of Brienne to Mary; it was also the date of John's coronation as King of Jerusalem.

1211

Burzenland settled by the Teutonic Knights with the authority of Hungary's King Andrew II.

Jul 1212

Spain reconquers the Iberian peninsula from the Muslims in the name of Christianity.

Jul 1212

Peter II of Aragon defeats the Moors at Las Navas de Tolosa.

1212

Adomadana given to the Teutonic Knights by King Leo of Armenia.

1212

The Children's Crusade, in spring th German phase and in June the French phase.



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12 Sep 1213

Simon de Montfort defeated Raymond of Toulouse and Peter II of Aragon at Muret, France. Peter II is killed.

12 Feb 1214

King Leo of Armenia granted Teutonic Knights Amudain, the castle of Sespin, and more.

Nov 1215

Pope Innocent III called the fifth crusade (1215-1229) at the Fourth Lateran Council (12th ecumenical council) in Rome. Hermann von Salza was probably present representing the order of the Teutonic Knights.

18 Feb 1216

Innocent III issued a bull of protection for the Teutonic Knights.

Dec 1216

Hermann von Salza attended Frederick II's court in Nuremberg which was the first meeting between the Teutonic Knights' grand master and the emperor.

1216

The Dominican order is founded by St. Dominic of Spain and was authorized by Innocent III. Its purpose is to convert Muslims and Jews and to put an end to heresy. The Dominicans eventually become the main administrators of inquisitorial trials.

Feb 1217

The Teutonic Knights' Hermann von Salza received possessions in Sicily from Frederick II while at Ulm.

24 Jun 1217

Frederick II granted the Teutonic Knights the same status as the Templars and Hospitallers in the Kingdom of Sicily.

1218

(1218-1219) Patriarch of Jerusalem, church officials, Templars and Hospitallers advised Pelagius not to accept peace terms of Sultan al-Kamil to surrender Jerusalem; contrary advice offered by King John of Jerusalem, Earl Ranulf of Chester, and the German leaders



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1218

(May-Aug) Crusading army lands in Egypt; Hermann von Salza at Damietta; Saphadin died (1199-1218); al-Kamil, his son, became caliph (1218-1238); crusaders captured Damietta.

Nov 1220

Hermann von Salza was with Frederick II in Italy; first identified by name as Hermann von Salza in documents.

1220

(Spring) Hermann von Salza of the Teutonic Knights went to Acre with King John of Jerusalem.

1220

Leopold VI of Austria presented the Teutonic Knights the site of the castle of Montfort near Acre.

9 Jan 1221

Honorius III gave 57 privileges to the Teutonic Knights. As an order, they now were on the same level as the Templars and the Hospitallers.

Apr 1221

Hermann von Salza accompanied the duke of Bavaria and other German nobles to Damietta. They arrived in May.

30 Aug 1221

Battle of Mansurah when the crusaders surrendered in Egypt (Templars led the rearguard action) subsequently there was a peace treaty. Hermann von Salza and the master of the Temple held as hostages by the Muslims.

1222

The 'Golden Bull' of Hungary, first issue.

1223

Hermann von Salza of the Teutonic Knights negotiated with the pope over Gunzelin.

1224

Hermann von Salza of the Teutonic Knights was involved in the Treaty of Dannenberg.



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Nov 1225

Frederick II married Isabella (Yolande) of Brienne and claimed the throne of Jerusalem.

1225

The Teutonic Knights were forcibly expelled from Burzenland by king Andrew II. Conrad of Masovia then requested aid from the Teutonic Knights in Prussia.

1226

The 'Golden Bull of Rimini' from Frederick II for the Teutonic Knights giving them wide-ranging authority in the name of the empire in Prussia.

1227

Montfort rebuilt and renamed Starckenberg.

18 Feb 1228

Frederick II took control of Jerusalem from the Egyptian Sultan al-Kamil by negotiating a treaty. Hermann von Salza of the Teutonic Knights was with Frederick.

12 Mar 1228

Hermann von Salza of the Teutonic Knights sent a letter to Pope Gregory IX from Joppa informing him about the treaty.

18 Mar 1228

Because Frederick II was excommunicated by the Pope, he is crowned King of Jerusalem in the church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem which was then the high court in the house of the Hospital of St. John.

18 Feb 1229

The fifth crusade ends when a treaty restores Jerusalem to the Franks.

Apr 1229

Frederick II gave the Teutonic Knights the former house of Germans in Jerusalem and a house that once belonged to King Baldwin located in the Armenian street near the church of St. Thomas.

Apr 1229

Peace of Paris ended the Albigensian Crusade.



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1 May 1229

At odds with the Templars and Ibelins, Frederick II departed Acre because he feared losing Apulia to John of Brienne.

1229

Between 1229 and 1244, the German Hospital of St. Mary in Jerusalem is expanded.

1230

Kulm recognized by Pope Gregory IX as belonging to the Teutonic Knights.

1231

Gautier of Brienne gave the Teutonic Knights Beauvoir.

1231

Teutonic Knights' Hermann Balke advanced into Prussia.

1234

Pope took control of Prussia; leased it to the Teutonic Knights.

1234

Teutonic Knights won the battle at Sirguna, Prussia.

Sep 1235

Andrew II of Hungary died and Bela IV succeeded him [until 1270].

1235

(Spring) Dobriner Order incorporated into the Teutonic Knights which was approved by Frederick II and Pope Gregory IX.

23 Dec 1236

Pope Gregory IX taxed the Peloponnesus to support crusading ventures and the preceptor of the Teutonic Knights was identified as one of three collectors of this tithing effort.

Jul 1237

Geoffrey II of Achaia gave the Teutonic Knights a hospital in Andravida.

1237

Frederick II's second Lombard campaign began. Hermann von Salza and the Teutonic Knights were at the Battle of Cortenuova.



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1237

The Bishop of Riga sent a request to Rome that the Pope unite the German Knights of the Sword (the swordbrothers) and Knights of the Cross (the Teutonic Knights) into one order. The Pope agreed and the two orders agreed to fight under one magistrate.

1238

Frederick II's third Lombard campaign, during which Hermann von Salza's health failed.

Mar 1239

Hermann von Salza of the Teutonic Knights, died in Salerno and was buried in Barletta.

Mar 1239

Robert de l'Isle donates property (Villegrot) near Veligosti to the Teutonic Knights.

9 Apr 1241

The Battle of Liegnitz, when Mongols defeat army of Poles and Germans including Hospitallers, Templars, and Teutonic Knights.

5 Apr 1242

Russians under Alexander Nevsky defeat an invasion attempt by the Teutonic Knights on Lake Peipus.

31 Oct 1246

Pope Innocent IV transferred the Hospital of St. James to the Templars.

1248

The Seventh Crusade began [until 1254].

1257

(1257-1261) Teutonic Knights bought large land complex (called Souf or Schuf) northeast of Sidon from Julian Grenier, lord of Sidon for 23,000 crusader besants.

1257

Julian of Grenier, lord of Sidon, donated a fortress called Cave of Tyron to the Teutonic Knights (about 12 miles east of Sidon) signifying the order's role in Holy Land was expanding.



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16 Oct 1258

Peace treaty among the Templars, Hospitallers, and Teutonic Knights signed in Acre.

1258

Teutonic Knights buy a manor from John de la Tour, constable of Sidon, and two manors from John of Schuf and assumed the responsibility for defense north of Acre.

Jul 1260

Teutonic Knights routed at Durben when the Prussians revolted.

1261

Teutonic Knights bought fief made up of several manors called Schuf from Andrew of Schufe.

May 1263

All Teutonic Knight possessions near Sidon lost to Muslims after Baybars won battle of Sidon.

1290

The Teutonic Knights complete a 30 year effort to control Prussians.

18 May 1291

The Sultan of Egypt and his son take the last Christian stronghold of Acre. The Hospitaller and Templar headquarters are moved from Acre to Cyprus and the Teutonic Knights headquarters moved from Acre to Venice

1306

The Hospitallers began conquest of Rhodes.

13 Oct 1307

Members of the Knights of Templar were arrested throughout France, imprisoned and tortured by the order of the King Philip the Fair of France.

28 Nov 1309

Trial of Jacques de Molay, Grand Master of the Templars (in Paris).

1309

The Hospitallers' headquarters was moved from Cyprus to Rhodes.



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1309

Teutonic Knights' headquarters moved from Venice to Prussia.

12 May 1310

Fifty-four Knights Templar were burned at the stake as heretics in France. They had been established during the Crusades to protect pilgrims travelling to the Holy Land, but came into increasing conflict with Rome.

16 May 1312

Hospitallers awarded Templars' estates throughout western Europe, Cyprus, and Greece.

1312

The Knights Templar were suppressed by Pope Clement at the Council of Vienna.

15 Mar 1314

Geoffroi de Charney and Jacques de Molay, Templar grand master, and Preceptor of Normandy were burned at the stake in Paris.

9 Sep 1320

Teutonic Knight commander in the Morea died in battle against the Greeks near the fortress of St. George.

1376

(1376-1381) Hospitallers leased the Principality of Achaia from Joanna of Naples for 4,000 ducats per year.

1383

(1383 or 1384) Strife between Hospitallers and the Teutonic Knights in the Peloponnesus

1387

Rudolf Schoppe, preceptor of the Teutonic Knights in the Morea, became the field deputy of Pedro Bordo de San Superan.

1391

List of Moreote fiefs included the Hospital of St. John and the Teutonic Knights.

1401

Jacob of Arkel, preceptor of the Teutonic Knights in the Morea, rewarded with vineyards at Modon and Coron by the Venetians.



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1402

Source identified a number of Teutonic Knight monasteries in the Morea including St. Steven in Andravida.

15 Jul 1410

The Lithuanian-Polish forces defeated the Teutonic Knights at the Battle of Tannenberg, thereby halting the Knights' eastward expansion along the Baltic and hastening their decline.

1410

Polish-Lithuanian forces defeat the German Teutonic Knights and extend rule eastward, almost into Russia. Eastern Orthodox Moscow begins a campaign of resistance to Roman Catholic Poland-Lithuania.

21 May 1433

Teutonic Knight procurator John Nichlausdorf in Rome reported he protested to the Byzantine representative the loss of properties in the Morea.

27 Apr 1435

Teutonic Knights' representative at the Council of Basel asked the return of possessions in the Morea from the Byzantines.

1435

Johann Franke attempted to purchase Mostenitsa between 1435-1437.

23 Jul 1456

The siege of Belgrade had fallen into stalemate when a spontaneous fight broke out between a rabble of Crusaders, led by the Benedictine monk John of Capistrano, and the city's Ottoman besiegers. It soon escalated into a major battle which ultimately compelled the wounded Sultan Mehmet II to lift the siege and retreat.

19 Oct 1466

The peace of Torun ended the war between the Teutonic knights and their own disaffected subjects in Prussia.

1500

Turks conquered Modon from the Venetians and expelled the Teutonic Knights from the Peloponnesus.



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1522

Suleiman I captured Rhodes from the Knights of St. John, who were resettled on Malta by Charles V.

1523

The Ottoman Emperor Suleiman the Magnificent successfully overcame the Knights Hospitaller, Order of St. John, from their position on the island of Rhodes in the Aegean Sea.

8 Apr 1525

Albert von Brandenburg, the leader of the Teutonic Order, assumed the title 'Duke of Prussia' and passed the first laws of the Protestant church, making Prussia a Protestant state.

1526

The Teutonic Knights, a German military and religious order of knights and priests, broke away from the Catholic Church to become Lutherans.

1530

The first imperial coronation by a Pope when Pope Clement VII crowns Charles V as the Holy Roman Emperor. Charles restored the Medici to power after capturing Florence and ceded Malta to the landless religious order of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem.

1557

The Russians invaded Poland and started the 14-year Livonian War of succession in the Baltic lands held by the Teutonic Knights.

1561

The Order of the Teutonic Knights in the Baltic States was secularized.

1575

Torquato Tasso, Italian poet, wrote 'Jerusalem Liberated', an epic of the First Crusade.

1647

Gian Francesco Abela, vice-chancellor of the Knights of St. John and the father of Maltese historiography, authored 'Descrittione di Malta'. His antiquities, willed to the College of Jesuit Fathers in Valetta, later formed the nucleus of Malta's National Museum of Archeology.