

# AN INTRODUCTION TO THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

OR

THE POOR FELLOW-SOLDIERS OF JESUS CHRIST  
AND OF THE TEMPLE OF SOLOMON

**PRESENTATION  
STUART PARNELL**

**12 AUGUST**

**MANOIR DU QUENGO**

**ROHAN**

## THE BEGINNING

**1065** Turcomans take Jerusalem and rout the Arabs, they desecrate the churches and kill the bishops

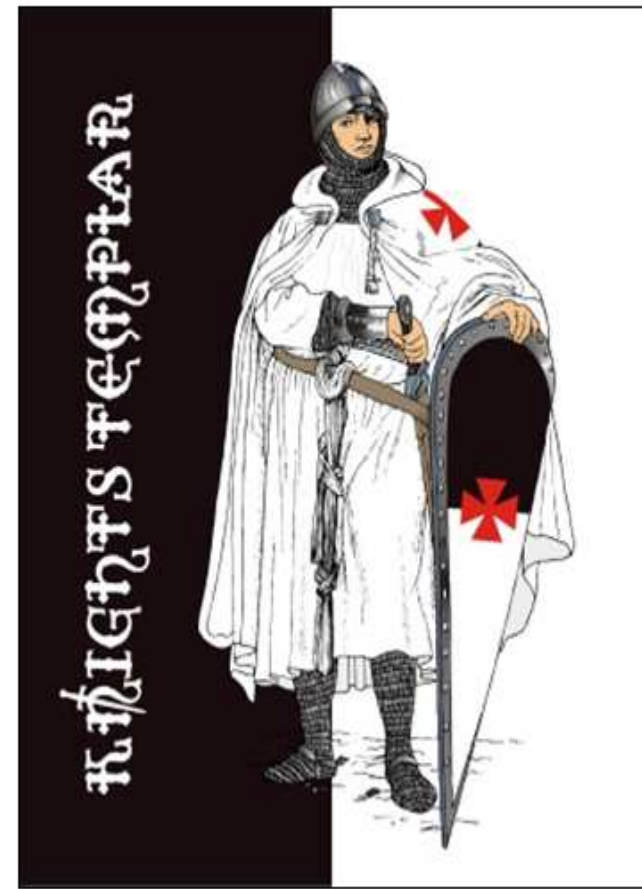
**1099** The end of the first Crusade, Christians hold Jerusalem  
Upsurge in Christian Pilgrimages

**1109** First account of 9 Noble Knights led by Hugh De Payens giving protection to pilgrims on the road from Acre to Jerusalem.



## The Word Spreads

- 1118** King Baldwin gives them accommodation within the Temple grounds on Mount Moriah
- 1120** Baldwin and the Bishop of Tyre see the advantage of a permanent Christian army to extend their hold on the holy land.
- 1123** St Bernard the Abbot of Clairvaux writes the letter titled “ In Praise of the New Knighthood” . This spreads through Europe
- 1128** The Council of Troyes
- 1139** St Bernard gets the Pope to agree to the order coming under the Pope’s direct command



## THE RULES AS LAID OUT BY ABBOT BERNARD

"XXII. It is granted to none to wear white habits, or to have white mantles, excepting the above-named knights of Christ.

XXX. To each one of the knights let there be allotted three horses. The noted poverty of the House of God, and of the Temple of Solomon, does not at present permit an increase of the number, unless it be with the license of the Master.

"XXXI. For the same reason we grant unto each knight only one esquire; but if that esquire serve any knight gratis, and for charity, it is not lawful to chide him, nor to strike him for any fault.

"XXV. If any brother wisheth as a matter of right, or from motives of pride, to have the fairest or best habit, for such presumption without doubt he merits the very worst.

LASTLY. We hold it dangerous to all religion to gaze too much on the countenance of women; and therefore no brother shall presume to kiss neither widow, nor virgin, nor mother, nor sister, nor aunt, nor any other woman. Let the knighthood of Christ shun feminine kisses, through which men have very often been drawn into danger, so that each, with a pure conscience and secure life, may be able to walk everlastingly in the sight of God."



## ENGLAND SECOND ONLY TO JERUSALEM

- ❖ Hugh De Payens visits England after the Council of Troyes and is given gifts for the order.
- ❖ Lands including Farms, estates
- ❖ Villages
- ❖ Churches
- ❖ Temple in London
- ❖ 300 new Knights go with The Master back to Jerusalem from England
- ❖ The Temple church in London
- ❖ 1168 £9,000,000 sent to Jerusalem from Interests in England
- ❖ Over 9000 manors owned in England and Scotland
- ❖ King John works on Magna Charta at the Temple and after being visited by his Barons.



## THE BATTLES

- 1129 Damascus . Defeat
- 1139 Damascus . Defeat
- 1148 Damascus . Defeat
- 1153 Ascalon . Victory
- 1177 Montgisard . Victory
- 1187 Cresson Springs . Defeat
- 1187 Hattin . Defeat
- 1187 Jerusalem . Surrender
- 1191 Acre . Victory
- 1191 Arsuf . Victory
- 1218 Damietta . Defeat
- 1244 La Forbie . Defeat
- 1249 Damietta . Victory
- 1250 Mansurah . Defeat
- 1291 Saphet . Defeat
- 1291 Acre. Defeat



## THE PRIVILEGES

- ❖ ONLY ANSWER TO THE POPE
- ❖ TAX FREE INCOME
- ❖ MASTER WAS RANKED HIGHER THAN
- ❖ BISHOPS AND PRINCES IN COUNCIL
- ❖ EXEMPT FROM ALL TOLLS ON HIGHWAYS
- ❖ AND BRIDGES
- ❖ NO BROTHER COULD BE EXCOMMUNICATED FROM THE CHURCH BY A BISHOP OR PRIEST
- ❖ BY PAPAL BULL ALL TEMPLE PROPERTY WAS GRANTED TO BE A PLACE OF SANCTUARY TO PERSONS SEEKING REFUGE
- ❖ KNIGHTS COLLECTING FOR THE HOLY LAND COULD OVERCOME AN INTERDICT



## THE TREASURES - DID THEY EXIST?

- ❖ VERY WEALTHY ORGANISATION, POOR MEMBERS
- ❖ TRUSTED WITH LOOKING AFTER MUCH TREASURE IN ENGLAND AT THE NEW TEMPLE INCLUDING
  - ❖ THE KINGS TREASURE
  - ❖ BISHOPS
  - ❖ BARONS
  - ❖ PAPAL TOLLS EXACTED ON THE ENGLISH CHURCH
  - ❖ WEALTH FROM ESTATES
  - ❖ CYPRUS SOLD TO THE TEMPLARS BY “RICHARD COEUR de LION “
  - ❖ TODAY’S VALUE BILLIONS OF POUNDS OF WEALTH



## THE DOWNFALL

**1297** JAMES DE MOLAY ELECTED GRAND MASTER

**1302** DISASTROUS ATTEMPT TO TAKE PALESTINE

PAPAL PRIVILEGES MADE THEM THE ENEMY OF THE CHURCH

KINGS AND BARONS HOSTILE TOWARDS THE TEMPLARS, MONIES THAT COULD OF BEEN THEIRS NOW NOT NEEDED BY THE ORDER

**1304** PAPAL POWER MOVES FROM ROME TO LYON  
CLEMENT V PUPPET OF PHILLIP IV (THE FAIR)

EDWARD I STEALS MONEY FROM THE TEMPLE IN LONDON TO PAY HIS VICTORIOUS ARMY

**1307** MASTER SUMMONED TO FRANCE BY POPE BRINGS ALL THE TREASURE FROM CYPRUS AND DEPOSITS IN THE TEMPLE AT PARIS

**1307** 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER MASTER AND KNIGHTS ARRESTED, TORTURED AND CONFESSED TO HIDEOUS CRIMES

**1313** BURNT AS RELAPSED HERETICS , A SLOW DEATH BURNT USING CHARCOAL

