

**ARIZONA
SUPPLEMENT**

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Templar History submitted by Russell Sayre, GC

Odo de St Armand, Grand Master 1171-1179

Eudes de St. Amand (or Odo or Odon; 1110 – 9 October 1179) was the 8th Grand Master of the Knights Templar, between 1171 and 1179. St Amand was born to a family from Limousin, France. He was Marshal of Jerusalem and later Viscount. He was a headstrong leader of the order, which earned him praise and resentment in equal measure.

St. Amand took part in several expeditions during his time as Grand Master. He spearheaded military action in Naplouse, Jericho and Djerach, scoring considerable victories with the Templars. Perhaps his finest hour was at the battle of Montgisard, where his knights convincingly defeated a superior detachment of Saladin's army.

In March 1179, St Amand oversaw the construction of the Chastellet fortress. Its position and impregnability made it a thorn in Saladin's side and he offered considerable amounts of money to have it destroyed. It was so effective that Saladin's assault on Jerusalem in May 1179 was defeated. His forces broke on the fortress's thick walls, and the fierce fighting of the Templars stationed there scored heavy losses on the Muslims. Trying to capitalize on the victory, an assault on the Islamic forces was organized at the Battle of Marj Ayun in 1179. It was spearheaded by King Baldwin IV, Raymond III of Tripoli, Odo de St Amand and Roger de Moulins. However, Saladin had regrouped and decimated the Christian forces. Baldwin IV escaped the carnage, taking with him the True Cross, but St. Amand was captured and taken hostage.

In August 1179, the new Templar fortress was captured and the knights stationed there were beheaded by the Muslim forces. St Amand died in one of Saladin's jails sometime during 1180, although no exact date survives. His release was proposed, in exchange for one Saladin's captive nephews, but negotiations came too late.

Not only were St. Amand's victories important from a military standpoint, but they were vital in gaining fresh pledges of money and resources from homeland countries in Europe. Inspired by the Templars' sensational victory at Montgisard, Renaud, Lord of Margat, donated half of the income from several of his cities to the order's cause.

Arnold of Torroja, Grand Master 1179-1184

Arnold of Torroja (Catalan: Arnau de Torroja; ? – 30 September 1184) was a knight of Crown of Aragon and the 9th Grand Master of the Knights Templar from 1181 until his death in 1184. While no date of birth survives for Torroja; he was very old at his death, being in excess of 70 years when he was elected as Grand Master. He had served in the order for many years and was the Templar Master in both Crown of Aragon and Provence.

Arnau de Torroja, brother of the Archbishop of Tarragona Guillem de Torroja, was Grand Master of the crown of Aragon and Provence when he was elected head of the Order in late 1180, succeeding de Saint-Amand. At that time Arnau de Torroja was over 58 years old, therefore he a seasoned man in the discipline and operation of the Order. Essentially dedicated to the Reconquest of Spain, Arnaldo de Torroja did not know, or did not know it well, the political situation of the Latin States of the East.

Arnau de Torroja accepted the mediation of Pope Lucio III and Balduino IV to end fratricidal struggles between the Templars and Hospitallers. In 1184, the political situation degenerated further, when Reinaldo de Châtillon aided by the Templars and Hospitallers, devastated the Muslim territories of Transjordan on his own. Arnaldo de Torroja demonstrated great political sagacity when negotiating a truce with Saladin, who was determined to avenge the incursions of Renaud de Châtillon.

Torroja's military career had mainly been focused on the Reconquista, fighting Muslims for the Crown of Aragon and for Portugal. His appointment as Grand Master was likely due to his image as an outsider, i.e. an experienced Templar whose power base was outside the Holy Land. This appealed to the Order, as the previous Grand Master had become embroiled in Jerusalem's politics but it did mean that Torroja was inexperienced in the "political situation of the Latin States." He became the order's new leader in 1181.

During the Grand Master's reign the Knights Hospitaller reached a new peak in their influence. There had been rivalry between orders previously but factionalism in the face of renewed Muslim pressure was unacceptable. The two Grand Masters met for mediation with Pope Lucius III and King Baldwin IV and the problems were resolved. In fact, Torroja is recorded as a skilled diplomat himself, acting as a mediator between several political groups in the East. He also conducted successful peace negotiations with Saladin after raids by Raynald of Châtillon in Transjordan.

In 1184, Torroja set out with Patriarch Heraclius and Grand Master Roger de Moulins of the Knights Hospitaller to gather European support for the Kingdom of Jerusalem. They planned to visit Italy, England and France, but he fell ill and died at Verona on September 30, 1184. He was succeeded as Grand Master by Gérard de Ridefort.

In February 2018 was announced the discovery of a tomb in the San Fermo Maggiore church in Verona, which almost certainly is Arnold's final resting place; it would be the first known tomb of a Templar Grand Master. ***