

**ARIZONA
SUPPLEMENT**

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Renaud de Vichiers, Grand Master 1250-1256

Renaud (Reginald) de Vichiers (? – 20 January 1256) was the 19th Grand Master of the Knights Templar. He was appointed Preceptor of Saint-Jean-d'Acre in 1240 and Master of France from 1242 to 1249. He was a supporter and comrade-in-arms of Louis IX of France, who helped him be elected Grand Master in 1250 after Guillaume de Sonnac's death in Egypt at the Battle of Al Mansurah. He shortly quarreled with Louis, though, over a diplomatic mission to Damascus of Hugues de Jouy, the Templar Marshal. In 1252 Hugues was banished from the Kingdom of Jerusalem, and Renaud de Vichiers retired to a monastery, where he stayed until his death on 20 January 1256.

Thomas Berard, Grand Master 1256-1273

Thomas Bérard (also Béraud or Bérault), (? – 25 March 1273) was the 20th Grand Master of the Knights Templar. He initiated cooperation with other military orders, agreed upon by their Grand Masters: Hugo de Revel of Hospitallers and Anno von Sangershausen of Teutonic Knights.

In 1266, the Templar fortress of Safed was besieged by Egyptian Mameluks under Baibars, the Sultan of Cairo, after a failed attempt to conquer Pilgrim's Castle. All Templars (and Hospitallers) were beheaded after refusing to convert to Islam. Other fortresses fell next, among them Beaufort, and the city of Antioch, which was never again held by Christian forces. The fall of Antioch left Templar fortresses in the Amanus Mountains easily accessible to attackers. Gaston, a fortification on the road to Syria, was defended only by a small Templar garrison. They decided to hold the fortress, but were betrayed by one of the brothers. Meanwhile, Grand Master Thomas Bérard sent an order to retreat to La Roche Guillaume. In February 1271, he ordered the surrender of Chastel Blanc with permission to retreat to Tortosa. In June, Montfort, the last inland fortification of Christians in the Holy Land, was yielded. Bérard sent messages to the pope asking for help, which never arrived. After the loss of Crac des Chevaliers by the Hospitallers in 1271, a ten-year truce was agreed between the Christians and Muslims. According to "The Chronicle of the Templar of Tyre", Bérard died on 25 March 1273.

Guillaume de Beaujeu, Grand Master 1273-1291

Guillaume de Beaujeu, aka William of Beaujeu (? – 1291) was the 21st Grand Master. He was the last Grand Master to preside in Palestine.

During his tenure, the new Mamluk Sultan, Qalawun, conquered the County of Tripoli in 1289. In 1290, Qalawun marched on Acre, the capital of the remnant of the Kingdom of Jerusalem, but died in November before launching the attack. His son Al-Ashraf Khalil, however, decided to continue the campaign. Beaujeu led the defense of the city. During the siege, he dropped his sword and walked away from the walls. His knights remonstrated. Beaujeu replied: "I'm not running away; I am dead. Here is the blow." He raised his arm to show the mortal wound he had received - an arrow had penetrated his mail under his armpit so deep only the fletches were visible. The city fell to the Mamluks, signalling the end of Crusader occupation of the Holy Land.

Thibaud Gaudin, Grand Master 1291-1292

Thibaud Gaudin (1229? – April 16, 1292) was the 22nd Grand Master of the Knights. Born to a noble family in Chartres or Blois, France, he entered the Knights Templar before 1260 when he was taken prisoner in Tiberias. His great piety was deemed worthy of the nickname of "Gaudin Monk".

In 1279, Sir Thibaud became "Commander of the Land of Jerusalem", the fourth highest function in Templar hierarchy. In 1291, he rode with de Beaujeu to Acre, besieged by the army of Mamluk Sultan Al-Ashraf Khalil. After the death of de Beaujeu, Gaudin remained in Acre, along with remaining knights of the order, men, women and children, all taking shelter in the great fort of the Templars. Pierre de Sevry, Marshal of the Order, Thibaud Gaudin, treasurer of the order, and their knights were the last to defend Acre. After a week-long siege, Al-Ashraf Khalil offered the marshal of the order to embark for Cyprus with their possessions and de Sevry agreed. An emir and 100 Mameluks were permitted to enter the fort, but began to molest some women and boys, and furious knights slaughtered the Mameluks and barricaded themselves again. That night de Sevry sent the treasure, its commander, Thibaud Gaudin, and some non-combatants, to Sidon. Acre fell the following day.

Arriving at Sidon, Gaudin was elected Grand Master. The Templars were determined to stand, but lacking a proper defense, moved to the Castle of the Sea. Gaudin went to Cyprus to gather reinforcements. The Templars fought bravely, but when the enemy began building a causeway, they sailed to Tortosa. On July 14, 1291, Muslim forces entered the castle, ordering its destruction. Beirut and the castle of Ibelins was taken on July 21, then Haifa on July 30, Tortosa was evacuated on August 3 and Athlit on August 14. Templars then occupied the sea fort of Ruad, in Tortosa, which would remain in their hands until 1303.

In October 1291, a general chapter of the order met in Cyprus, confirming Thibaud Gaudin as Grand Master and naming Jacques de Molay as Marshal. Gaudin tried to reorganize the Templars after the devastation of recent battles but died in 1292, leaving the task for his successor.

Russell Sayre, Grand Commander