# Knights of the White Cross: Defenders of the Holy Land in the Middle Ages

The Knights of the White Cross were a military order founded in the 12th century to protect pilgrims traveling to the Holy Land. They were known for their bravery and piety, and they played a key role in the defense of the Crusader states.

### History

The Knights of the White Cross were founded in 1120 by a group of French knights who had taken part in the First Crusade. The order's original purpose was to protect pilgrims traveling to the Holy Land from attacks by Muslim bandits and raiders. However, the order soon became involved in the military campaigns of the Crusader states, and they played a key role in the defense of Jerusalem and other Christian strongholds in the Levant.



#### A Knight of the White Cross: A Tale of the Siege of

Rhodes by G. A. Henty				
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The Knights of the White Cross were a highly disciplined and well-trained force. They were divided into three classes: knights, sergeants, and chaplains. The knights were the order's elite warriors, and they were responsible for leading the order's military campaigns. The sergeants were the order's foot soldiers, and they provided support for the knights in battle. The chaplains were the order's spiritual leaders, and they provided religious guidance and support to the knights and sergeants.

The Knights of the White Cross were a major force in the defense of the Crusader states. They fought in numerous battles against the Muslims, and they played a key role in the victory at the Battle of Hattin in 1187. However, the order was unable to prevent the fall of Jerusalem to the Muslims in 1189, and they were eventually forced to retreat to Cyprus.

#### Organization

The Knights of the White Cross were a highly organized and structured order. The order was led by a Grand Master, who was elected by the order's knights. The Grand Master was responsible for the overall leadership of the order, and he commanded the order's military forces. The order was also divided into a number of provinces, each of which was led by a provincial commander.

The Knights of the White Cross were a wealthy and powerful order. They owned a number of castles and estates in the Holy Land and in Europe. The order also received a substantial income from donations from wealthy patrons. The order's wealth allowed it to maintain a large and well-equipped army, and it played a key role in the defense of the Crusader states.

#### Legacy

The Knights of the White Cross were a significant force in the history of the Crusades. They played a key role in the defense of the Crusader states, and they fought bravely against the Muslims. The order's legacy is one of bravery and piety, and it continues to inspire people today.

The Knights of the White Cross were a remarkable military order that played a key role in the history of the Crusades. They were known for their bravery and piety, and they fought valiantly in defense of the Holy Land. The order's legacy is one of courage and sacrifice, and it continues to inspire people today.

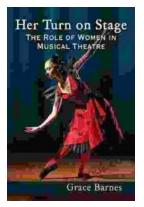


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