

Richard I and THE THIRD CRUSADE 1189-1192

Why did the Third Crusade happen

- 1) In 1187, Jerusalem had again been captured by the Muslim leader Saladin (Sahal-al-Din).
- 2) This was followed by the defeat of Guy of Lusignan and Raymond of Tripoli at the Battle of Hattin.
- 3) The crusade was preached by Pope Gregory VIII. However, nobody in Europe was in a position to do anything immediately.
- 4) By the end of the 12th century most people looked on crusading as the finest, most noble venture a Christian could go on.
- 5) Knights who took the cross were the great heroes of the day and Richard I was among their number.

Why Did Richard III become involved?

- 1) Richard was tall, handsome and a great leader. He was a superb soldier who loved fighting and earned himself the nickname "Lionheart" through his many courageous acts in battle.
- 2) In 1189, he became King of England. He immediately began to raise the money needed to go on a crusade.
- 3) Richard felt some remorse for the way he had treated his father Henry II and to make up he wanted to go on a crusade.
- 4) Remember also that Henry II had promised to fund a crusade on the death of Becket.

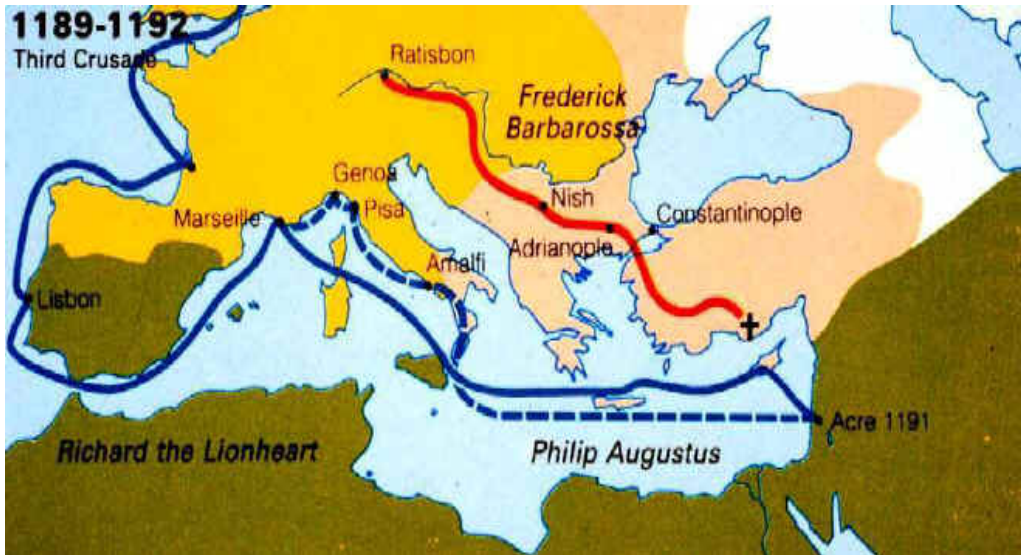
Paying for the Crusade

- Richard sold government posts to anyone who could pay for them.
- Landowners had to pay a 'carucage' a tax levied on every 100 acres of land owned.
- He demanded that every man who was unable or unwilling to go on the crusade should pay a tax called a 'sentege'.
- The King of Scotland also had to pay 10,000 marks to be free from feudal obligation to Richard.
- Towns were sold charters of freedom.

Third Crusade Begins

With the newly raised money and the considerable wealth that his father had left him, Richard got together a powerful fleet and a considerable army of men. It was said at the time that Richard would have sold London if he could have found a buyer! In July 1190, he sailed for Palestine. At the same time **King Philip II Augustus** set out from France.

Although Richard and Philip were allies for this crusade, they were never the best of friends. They constantly disputed who owned what land in France and distrusted each other greatly. Further problems hit the crusade, when King **Frederick Barbarossa** of Germany, another ally, was drowned in a river whilst marching overland. His army then returned to Germany.



In the autumn of 1190 Richard and Philip reached Sicily. After spending the winter there, they sailed for Palestine. Philip reached Acre on 20th April 1191 and was joined by Richard on June 8th.

The Siege of Acre 1191

Philip ordered the building of some siege towers, and otherwise took general control of the effort, but nothing else was done. It was agreed that they should wait for the English before attempting to storm the city. Richard arrived on June 8th, so Philip did not have to wait very long. Almost from the moment of his arrival, Richard took command of the siege. Although technically both kings merely commanded their own troops, it was Richard who was clearly the more energetic. For example, when both kings fell ill, even though Richard was much sicker, he was back in action quicker than Philip, and was visiting the lines almost as soon as he could stand. This was the sort of dynamic leadership that the besiegers needed.

Even so, little progress was made at first, for Saladin was still near by with his army and would attack the Christian camps. He was not strong enough to risk a pitched battle against so large a Crusader army, but he was strong enough to keep them from being able to concentrate solely on Acre. The Muslims were very impressed and frightened by the Crusaders' ability to kill a rider and his horse with one thrust of a lance, and they were frustrated by the way the Christians' armour and thick felt jerkins protected them from arrows and swords. One Muslim writer said "*up to twenty one arrows stuck into their bodies, marching no less easily for that.*" To the Muslims the knights appeared like human tanks. And so the city held out for a little longer, but as June wore on, it became plain that Saladin was not going to be able to rescue the city. The walls were breached early in July, and on the 11th the garrison offered terms.

They agreed to surrender the city, to give over two thousand prisoners, to pay two hundred thousand gold pieces, and to hand over a fragment of the True Cross. The city itself could not fulfill the terms. It did not have the prisoners,

Saladin did. It did not have the True Cross. And it did not have the money. Unfortunately, neither did Saladin. Saladin could not possibly agree to the terms, but the garrison had made the agreement in his name and he was bound by honour to accept it. Richard and Philip marched into the city and destroyed everything to do with the Muslim religion.

As they occupied the city, quarrels broke out, including one that would have consequences later. **Duke Leopold of Austria** was now the commander of the German contingent. He set up his banners on an equal footing with the two kings, for he was representing the German king (now Henry VI). The English took offence at this and threw the German banner into a ditch. Rumour has it, that some English soldiers urinated on it! Duke Leopold would have occasion to remember this insult. King Philip now decided to go home. He said that he was ill. He sailed for France on August 2nd, though he did leave a large portion of his army behind. Richard was now in sole command of the Third Crusade. One of his first acts was something that has earned him condemnation from modern historians. He was still holding a large number of Muslim prisoners as hostage against Saladin's fulfillment of the terms of surrender. Tragically, Saladin was late with paying the 20,000 gold pieces and Richard fearing that Saladin has broken the truce, ordered 3,000 Muslim prisoners men, women and children to be executed. They were executed outside the city walls; Saladin's soldiers could see the butchery, which took three days, and tried to rescue them, but the Muslims were driven back and all the prisoners died. He killed the prisoners mainly because he could not possible take nearly three thousand prisoners with him, and they no longer were useful in negotiating with Saladin. He could have freed them, but Richard was rarely generous in that way. It is significant that the Christian chroniclers all relate this story with great satisfaction, viewing it as vengeance for the losses suffered at Acre. Moreover, Saladin himself continued to treat Richard with respect. The next day, August 22nd, Richard led his army out of Acre. Leopold also returned home, leaving Richard with a vastly reduced army. Richard marched towards Jerusalem, defeating Saladin's army in a series of battles at Haifa, Caesarea, Jaffa and **Arsuf**. In the autumn of 1191 he approached within kilometres of Jerusalem. His army was exhausted by sickness, hunger and by the long months of battle. Winter soon set in and although he waited until summer, his army was too weak to attempt the capture of Jerusalem. News had reached him from France that Philip was attacking his lands. Richard had to return home, despite the fact that he could see the spires and towers of Jerusalem.

On 2nd September 1192, Richard and Saladin, who admired each other greatly, agreed to the **Treaty of Haifa**, in which it was agreed that;

- a) the coast of Tyre to Jaffa should remain in Christian hands.
- b) Christians could visit holy places in Jerusalem
- c) there would be a halt to all fighting for three years.

A very disappointed and frustrated Richard sailed towards home. On route, in December 1192, he was shipwrecked in the Bay of Venice. Trying to disguise himself as a traveller, he attempted to make his way to friendly territory. Shortly before Christmas 1192, Richard fell into the hands of Leopold, Duke of Austria.

Richard was thrown in a dungeon. A few months after, Leopold sent Richard to the castle of Durnstein, in the estates of the Emperor Henry VI. The whole of Europe knew about it. The Pope was appalled that Christians should imprison a Crusader. But nothing happened and the European monarchs as a whole made no secret of their delight. Richard was neutralized at last. Alone, Eleanor negotiated her son's ransom and brought it to the Emperor in Cologne. On 2nd February 1194, Richard was freed when an enormous ransom of 150,000 marks was paid. Saladin died of fever in March 1193 and the peace which Richard and Saladin had negotiated fell apart.

Richard spent the rest of his life waging war in France, and in 1199 was fatally wounded by a crossbow bolt whilst besieging Châlus castle. Richard rode back to his quarters, making light of his wound. But it proved difficult to remove the iron arrow-head. Gangrene set in after a few days and Richard knew that he was dying. He forgave the defenders and Pierre Basile, the crossbowman who had shot him. Richard wrote to his mother, asking her to come to him. She came running to hear his last wishes : "*my corpse will be buried in Fontevrault, my heart in my cathedral of Rouen, and my bowels will stay in Châlus*".

The Battle of Arsuf 7th September 1191

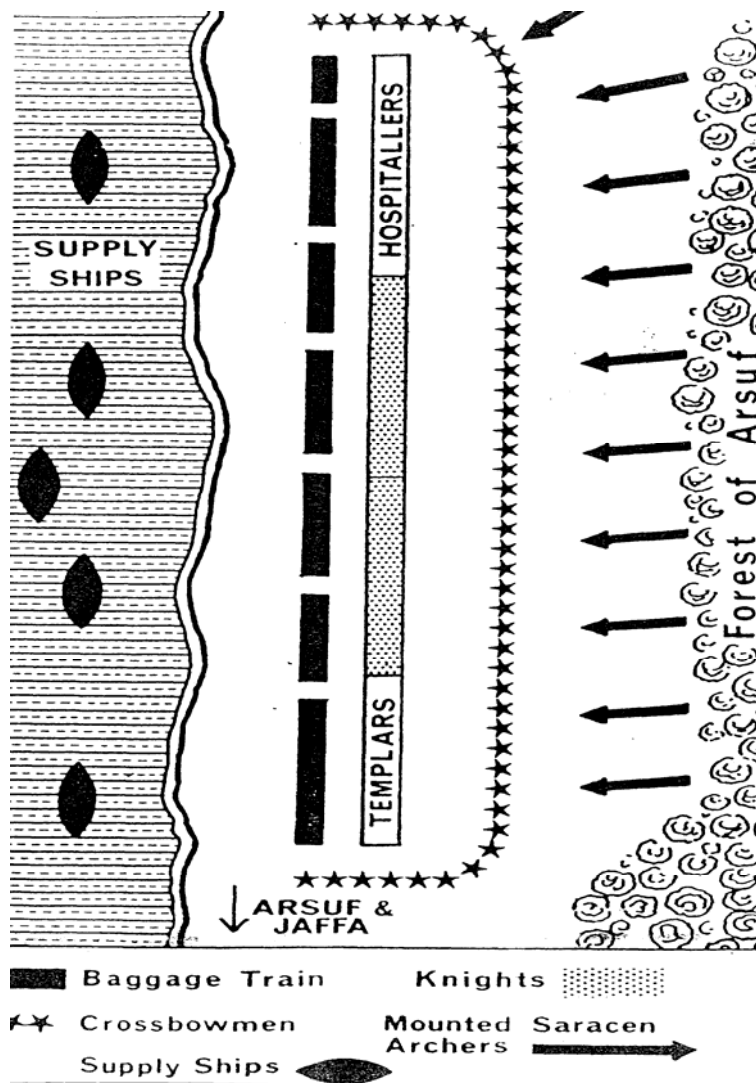
After the siege of Acre, Philip and Duke Leopold went home to Europe leaving Richard I as sole commander of the Third Crusade. His aim was to liberate Jerusalem. First, he had to march south to Jaffa. Taking Jaffa would give him a secure base, with access to the sea from where he could plan his campaign and conduct his attack against Jerusalem. However, Richard knew that the march to Jaffa would be dangerous and that on route Saladin's forces would ambush and harry him.

In order to protect his army, Richard marched his army out of Acre in tight formation. He ordered his forces to march close to the seashore so that the sea protected his right flank and Richard's ships could constantly re-supply his army. A wall of crossbowmen protected the left, rear and front flanks of his army.

Saladin's forces started attacking the moment Richard's army left Acre. Saladin's light cavalry attacked the left flank of Richard's army, harrying the Hospitallers. Day after day Saladin ordered his forces to attack but to little effect against the heavily armoured crusaders. Saladin realised that his only chance of success lay in forcing Richard into a pitched battle. Saladin chose his sight carefully - the plain north of Arsuf.

The real action began mid-morning on the 7th September 1191 with an all out attack by the Muslims on the rearguard of the Hospitallers. The Muslims almost 10,000 strong hurled themselves at the knights, throwing javelins and shooting arrows. The air was so thick with arrows that it blotted out the sun! The crossbowmen responded, calmly waiting for the Muslims, and then they let go a deadly volley of bolts. Death, wounds and confusion filled the Muslim ranks of horsemen. Very few of the Muslim arrows hit their intended targets.

The Grand Master of the Hospitallers twice asked permission to charge but Richard refused. But their patience wore out and one English Hospitaller called Baldwin Carew, rode his horse out in a single-handed attack. His brother knights immediately followed him with their Grand Master leading them. Richard decided to order a general attack. Days of pent-up frustration and anger were unleashed as the knights lowered their lances, turned towards their enemies and spurred the horses forward. The combined charge of the crusaders was so fierce that the Muslims were driven back. Saladin ordered a counter attack on Richard's standard, but this was brushed aside. Saladin's army was demoralised, turned about and retreated to the safety of the woods around Arsuf. The outcome of the battle was inconclusive, but to the Crusaders it was a moral victory. Several thousand Muslim had been killed including 32 Emirs. Only 700 Crusaders were killed including only one nobleman. More importantly it proved that Saladin was not invincible. The Crusaders, in high spirits continued their march towards Jaffa.



THE THIRD CRUSADE

