



SCHOOL OF CHIVALRY

FOLIO V:

**THE CHIVALRY
OF THE ENEMY**



KNIGHTS OF RHODES

THE EVENTS OF THAT
OCTOBER NIGHT IN 1307 -
THE POPE'S AMBUSH OF THE
TEMPLARS - HAD SHAKEN THE
HOSPITALERS TO THE CORE.

OBVIOUSLY, THEY
SPECULATED ON THE CHANCES
OF THEIR ORDER SUFFERING
THE SAME FATE AS THEIR
TEMPLAR COMRADES.

**SO, AS A PROTECTION
AGAINST THIS EVER
HAPPENING TO THE HOSPITAL,
THE ORDER IMMEDIATELY SET
ABOUT ORGANISING ITSELF
INTO AN INDEPENDENT
SOVEREIGN STATE.**

**IN 1309, THE HOSPITAL
ACQUIRED THE ISLAND OF
RHODES AND BEGAN ISSUING
COINAGE AND ESTABLISHING
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH
OTHER STATES.**

**RULED BY ITS PRINCE GRAND
MASTER WHO WAS ELECTED
FOR LIFE (AND WHOSE PALACE
IS STILL TODAY THE BIGGEST
TOURIST ATTRACTION IN
RHODES), THE ORDER
EVOLVED FROM A MILITARY
ORDER INTO A GREAT NAVAL
POWER.**

**FOR MORE THAN TWO
CENTURIES THE KNIGHTS OF
RHODES WERE TO BECOME
THE SCOURGE OF THE MUSLIM**

FLEETS AND THE BARBARY
CORSAIRS WHOSE PIRATE
GALLEYS PREYED ON THE
SHIPPING OF THE EASTERN
MEDITERRANEAN.

EVENTUALLY THE ORDER
BECAME A NAVAL POWER AS
GREAT AS VENICE WHICH
RULED THE MEDITERRANEAN
AT THAT TIME.

FOR EXAMPLE, IN 1334 TEN
HOSPITALER WAR GALLEYS

**DESTROYED THE TURKISH
FLEET IN THE AEGEAN.**

**IN 1344 THE ORDER
CAPTURED SMYRNA (IZMIR) ON
THE CENTRAL WEST COAST OF
TURKEY AND HELD IT UNTIL
1402. THEN IN 1440 THE
HOSPITAL'S NAVY TOTALLY
CRUSHED THE EGYPTIAN FLEET
SENT TO DESTROY THEM.**

**BY THE 15TH CENTURY THE
TURKISH OTTOMAN EMPIRE
WAS ON THE RISE AND HAD**

SUPPLANTED THE ARABS AS
THE PROTAGONISTS OF
MILITANT ISLAM.

SO, DURING THE ORDER'S TWO
HUNDRED YEARS ON RHODES
THERE WERE PLENTY OF
OPPORTUNITIES FOR MILITARY
GLORY THE MOST
CHALLENGING OF WHICH WERE
TWO GREAT SIEGES BY THE
OTTOMAN TURKS.

THE FIRST SIEGE WAS BY NO
LESS THAN MOHAMMED II,

CONQUEROR OF
CONSTANTINOPLE AND THE
BYZANTINE EMPIRE.

IT BEGAN IN 1480, LASTING
FOR THREE MONTHS, AND WAS
WITHSTOOD BY THE ORDER.

MOHAMMED'S GRANDSON,
SULIEMAN THE MAGNIFICENT,
MOUNTED THE SECOND SIEGE
WHICH WAS TO END THE
HOSPITALERS' SOVEREIGNTY
OVER RHODES AND SEND
THEM, ONCE MORE AS

**FUGITIVES, TO WANDER THE
MEDITERRANEAN IN SEARCH
OF A NEW HOME.**

**PETER D'AUBUSSON, A
FRENCH KNIGHT AND 40TH
GRAND MASTER THE
HOSPITAL, LED THE ORDER
DURING THE SIEGE OF
MOHAMMED.**

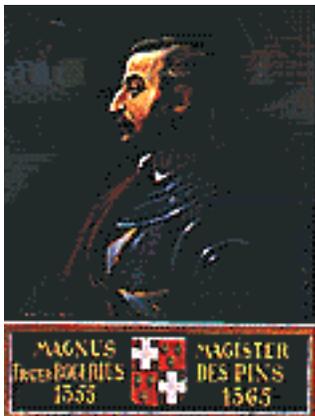
**SULTAN MOHAMMED
CONSIDERED HIMSELF TO
CONTROL THE LEVANTINE**

DOMINIONS OF THE BYZANTINE
EMPIRE WHICH HE HAD
CONQUERED.

THE ORDER, ALWAYS
INDEPENDENT, WOULD BOW TO
NO MUSLIM OVERLORD AND
D'AUBUSSON SIMPLY IGNORED
HIM.

ON 23 MAY, 1480,
MOHAMMED'S FLEET OF 160
SHIPS LANDED A 70,000-
STRONG ARMY ON RHODES.

**GRAND MASTER D'AUBUSSON
HAD ONLY 450 HOSPITALERS,
4000 MERCENARIES AND
ABOUT 1000 LOCAL RHODIAN
MILITIA.**



**IN THEIR FIRST TWO ATTACKS
AGAINST THE KNIGHT'S
OUTLYING FORTRESS OF ST**

**NICHOLAS, THE TURKS LOST
MORE THAN 3000 KILLED.**

**THESE ATTACKS WERE
DEFENDED BY THE GRAND
MASTER HIMSELF.**

**THEN THE TURKS
RELENTLESSLY BOMBARDED
THE CAPITAL AND FINALLY
BREACHED THE WALLS.**

**BUT GRAND MASTER
D'AUBUSSON, AGAIN LEADING
THE DEFENCE, DROVE THE**

**TURKS FROM THE BREACH. HE
WAS KNOCKED FROM THE
RAMPARTS FIVE TIMES WITH
SERIOUS WOUNDS YET
DOGGEDLY RETURNED TO THE
FIGHTING EACH TIME.**

**REPELLING THE TURKS AND
CHASING THEM INTO THE
COUNTRYSIDE, D'AUBUSSON'S
HOSPITALLER KNIGHTS KILLED
A FURTHER 9000 AND
WOUNDED 30,000.**

**THIS WAS AT GREAT COST
ALSO TO THE HOSPITAL
WHOSE TOTAL LOSSES ARE
UNKNOWN BUT AT LEAST 231
KNIGHTS HOLDING PORTFOLIOS
IN THE ORDER'S GOVERNMENT
WERE KILLED.**

**HISTORIAN KING CALLED
D'AUBUSSON "*THE GREATEST
HERO THE ORDER HAD
PRODUCED SINCE RAYMOND
DU PUY*".**

MOHAMMED DIED THE
FOLLOWING YEAR AND THE
OTTOMANS LEFT THE
HOSPITAL ALONE FOR FORTY
YEARS. BUT IN 1522,
SULIEMAN THE MAGNIFICENT,
BECAME THE SECOND SULTAN
OF TURKEY TO BESIEGE THE
ORDER ON RHODES.
THE GRAND PRIOR OF
FRANCE, VILLIERS DE L'ISLE
ADAM, HAD ONLY BEEN
ELECTED THE YEAR BEFORE TO

RULE THE HOSPITAL AS ITS
44TH GRAND MASTER.

SULIEMAN'S HOST, TWICE THE
SIZE OF HIS GRANDFATHER'S
DROPPED ANCHOR AT RHODES
ON 16 JUNE. IT TOOK TWO
WEEKS FOR THE ARMY OF
140,000 TO DISEMBARK
FROM THE 400 VESSELS OF
THE TURKISH FLEET.

GRAND MASTER DE L'ISLE
ADAM HAD LITTLE MORE THAN
D'AUBUSSON TO REPEL THIS

**FORCE--600 KNIGHTS, 4500
MERCENARIES AND PERHAPS A
COUPLE OF THOUSAND OF THE
LOCAL MILITIA.**

**SULIEMAN'S GENERAL WAS HIS
EAGER YOUNG BROTHER-IN-
LAW, MUSTAPHA PASHA, AND
MADE LITTLE HEADWAY FOR
THE FIRST MONTH OF THE
SIEGE.**

**SO, AT THE END OF JULY,
SULIEMAN HIMSELF ARRIVED**

ON THE SCENE WITH A
FURTHER 15,000 TO
ACCELERATE THE TAKING OF
THE CITY. HIS ARTILLERY
POUNDED THE WALLS OF THE
CITY THROUGHOUT AUGUST.

BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER
SULIEMAN WAS PACKING
MUSTAPHA PASHA OFF TO BE
VICEROY OF EGYPT AFTER HIS
GENERAL HAD LOST 3000 IN
ONE ATTACK, THEN ANOTHER
3000 IN A SECOND ATTACK,

THEN 15,000 IN A THIRD ALL-
OUT ASSAULT ON 24
SEPTEMBER AND STILL
WITHOUT SUCCESS.

ON CHRISTMAS EVE 1522
AND AFTER A FEROCIOUS WAR,
FOUGHT VALIANTLY ON BOTH
SIDES FOR SIX MONTHS, THE
ORDER CAPITULATED.

WITH CHARACTERISTIC
CHIVALRY, THE GREAT SULTAN
SPARED THE KNIGHTS WHO

**SURVIVED THE SIEGE. ON NEW
YEAR'S DAY IN 1523 WITH
THEIR GRAND MASTER,
PHILLIPE VILLERS DE L'ISLE-
ADAM, AND THOSE OF THEIR
CITIZENS WHO CHOSE TO
FOLLOW, THE KNIGHTS SAILED
OUT OF RHODES FOR THE
LAST TIME.**



BEFORE THEY LEFT SULIEMAN
CALLED FOR AN INTERVIEW
WITH DE L'ISLE-ADAM. ONE
ACCOUNT OF THEIR MEETING
TELLS THAT THE SULTAN HAD
BEEN SO STRUCK WITH HIS
ADVERSARY'S VALOUR THAT HE
OFFERED HIM GREAT REWARDS
IF HE WOULD CHANGE FROM
THE CROSS TO THE
CRESCENT.

WHEN THE GRAND MASTER
LEFT THE ROOM THE SULTAN
TURNED TO HIS VIZIER AND
SAID, *"I CANNOT HELP BEING
CONCERNED THAT I FORCE
THIS CHRISTIAN, AT HIS AGE,
TO GO OUT OF HIS HOME"*.



**SULIEMAN ALSO
PROVED HIMSELF TO BE AS
CHIVALROUS AS ANY KNIGHT
AND A MERCIFUL VICTOR.**



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