

## **Otto de Grandson: The Man Who Saved The Templars**

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**(Emphasis added)**

One very satisfying finding as a result of my research for *The Templars Two Kings and a Pope*, my novel about the Knights Templar was the discovery of Lord Otto de Grandson and the enormity of his accomplishments. He worked in secret to establish the first democracy in Europe in 2,000 years, Switzerland. As it turns out, I wasn't the first to discover him; the Bundesbrief Society, a group dedicated to Swiss heritage contacted me after I published the novel to tell me that they had been researching Otto as well, and agreed with my findings. Be that as it may, I'm still very gratified to have found him on my own and to publicize what he did.

I became intrigued with Lord Otto de Grandson early on during my research. Once I confirmed what the Templars' Gnostic secret society, The Brotherhood, had accomplished in their covert war against the French king Philip IV, to keep him from taking over the Holy Roman Empire, mostly through the English, I knew that someone near England's Edward I had to be a member of The Brotherhood. It was just a matter of identifying key suspects and tracking their movements to see whether they were in the right place at the right time; and of course, any hints as to their motivation and character. Lord Otto de Grandson quickly stood out: a seemingly loyal subject, the king's key diplomat in his dealings with the French crown. When I discovered that he had made a special trip to Acre as it fell to the Turks, he became my key candidate, for I knew that this was probably the time when The Brotherhood secured their cherished "Holy Grail," the only plausible reason why a 53-year old key English official, who also

happened to be a high-ranking Brotherhood member, was doing battle in the Holy Land while his precious talents were sorely needed back home. He had already “Taken up the Cross”(gone on Crusade) with Edward years before, so his duty to the Church had been satisfied. **When I found out that he was a Swiss (that is the cantons that would soon form the republic), I knew I had found my man. When I graphed key events that had to do with the formation of Switzerland with Otto’s life, there was no doubt. He alone was responsible for everything that led to that notorious emancipation, a radical new paradigm in governance that did away with monarchy.**

**One key indicator that Otto had a secret master plan was the timing of a critical event. Not long after the Templars were arrested on orders from the pope and they ceased their invaluable financial operations, Switzerland was open for business, providing the same services. Centuries later historians found that a key number of Templars had moved to Switzerland with their financial know-how at the right moment. I discovered evidence that the Templars had also helped by training and possibly leading the local peasants to fight against the Austrians. It's no coincidence that Switzerland's flag consists of a Templar cross (all four legs the same size) against a red background.**

When I put together the other pieces, how Flanders was used to distract and weaken the French, the tug of war in Scotland, the evident assassination of key French officials and ultimately very likely Philip IV; it all pointed to the workings of The Brotherhood, and specifically Lord Otto de Grandson, whose ultimate target was the Holy Roman Empire, which at the time was relatively weak and disorganized. It was very important for Otto and his cohorts to keep it that way. If the French king became Emperor, all of Otto’s plans would forever dissipate as the Empire became unified with the most powerful and highly organized

monarchy in Europe. All of this is the subject of my novel, and how everything came to a head in 1315 after a long and secret war against the French king in which Otto successfully maneuvered the Templars, the English, the Scots, the Flemish and ultimately the French, for his own ends. In the process he saved the Templar Order from being destroyed by the French king. The events that he had set in motion eventually led the Brotherhood's leadership no other option but to escape en masse to Scotland and Switzerland.

Otto was a very astute, energetic, highly intelligent man who used every skill and talent at his disposal to free his homeland. But how did he manage to end up in England in such a position of power?

Otto was a small child when his father went to work for the English crown. This seems very unusual for someone to come from so far away, an obscure forest canton (a district) within the Holy Roman Empire's territory and under the jurisdiction of the Duchy of Austria. Otto's family was very well off; they were land barons in the area of Lake Neuchatel and the town of Grandson (Great Sound).

What would motivate a wealthy land baron in Switzerland to go to work for the English crown, a long and perilous journey to a foreign and remote land, and why would he take his infant son? Why not his entire family?

**The answer can be found in the deceptively sudden and successful emancipation of the forest cantons from the Holy Roman Empire one generation later.** It would seem that Otto's father was already connected to The Brotherhood, and that he was perhaps one of several "plants" in key European courts, plausibly even the papacy. A father would pass on his mission to his son, waiting for the right opportunity to act. **This Swiss master plan evidently took much planning and very**

**elaborate, patient, and methodical implementation, an almost impossible undertaking that succeeded thanks to Otto.**

Otto was the same age as the future Edward I, and they became fast childhood friends (a plausible reason for his being brought along by his father). They studied, played, and were knighted together; when they grew up Otto became Edward's confidant and faithful aide. He was right beside his king when he went on Crusade and on the various campaigns, including Wales. He saved his king's life, at least once, when Edward was struck with a poisoned arrow during the Crusade and Otto sucked the poison out. In due time, Edward bestowed lands to his loyal friend, but Otto never moved away from the court. When hostilities started against France, Otto made himself indispensable as the king's chief diplomat.

All the while Otto was working in secret within The Brotherhood, maneuvering the Templars to contain the French king in Aquitaine, developing a rebel uprising in Flanders against Philip and **training the peasant army in the forest cantons.**

Following the successful conclusion of his efforts, Otto retired to his castle in Switzerland where he lived peacefully until his death at the ripe old age of 90.

The Swiss example led to the French revolution and the formation of the United States. It is doubtful that either would have taken place without the Swiss model.