

Robert Capet Count of Artois

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Born: 12 Sep 1216 in Isle, Aube, Champagne-Ardenne, France

Married: Mahaut de Brabant

Died: 8 Feb 1250 in Egypt

Parents: King Louis XIII of France & Blanca Alphonso

Robert I "the Good" (1216 – February 8, 1250) was Count of Artois. He was the fifth (and second surviving) son of King Louis VIII of France and Blanche of Castile.

On June 14, 1237, Robert married Matilda of Brabant, daughter of Henry II, Duke of Brabant and Marie of Hohenstaufen. They had two children:

1. Blanche of Artois (1248–1302)
2. Robert II of Artois (1250–1302), Count of Artois

He was killed in Egypt during the Seventh Crusade of his brother Louis IX of France, while leading a reckless attack on Al Mansurah. He and the Templars accompanying the expedition charged into the town and became trapped in the narrow streets. According to Jean de Joinville, he defended himself for some time in a house there, but was at last overpowered and killed.



At the end of the first half of the 13th century, the Crusaders became convinced that Egypt, which became Islam's citadel and arsenal^[13] was an obstacle to their ambition to capture Jerusalem which they had lost for the second time in 1244. In 1245, during the First Council of Lyon, Pope Innocent IV gave his full support to the Seventh Crusade that was being prepared by Louis IX, king of France.

The goals of the Seventh Crusade were to defeat Egypt, destroy the Ayyobid dynasty in Egypt and Syria and capture Jerusalem. To achieve their goals, the crusaders tried to convince the Mongols to be their allies against the Muslims^[4] so that they would be able to encircle and attack the Islamic world from west and east at the same time. The answer of Güyük the great Khan of the Mongols to the pope's envoys was that the pope himself and the kings of Europe should submit to the Mongols.^[5]

The ships of the Seventh Crusade sailed from the French ports of Aigues-Mortes and Marseille to Cyprus during the autumn of 1248 then in 1249 sailed toward Egypt led by King Louis's brothers Charles d'Anjou and Robert d'Artois. The ships entered the Egyptian waters and the troops of the Seventh Crusade disembarked at Damietta in June 1249.

By arriving to the canal of Ashmum (known today by the name Albahr Alsaghir) the Crusaders became separated from the Muslims camp by the water of the canal. With the help of a local who showed them canal shoals, the Crusaders, led by Robert d'Artois, crossed the canal along with the Knights Templers and an English contingent led by William of Salisbury and launched a surprise assault against the Egyptian camp in Gideila, two miles (3 km) from Al Mansurah,^[12] and advanced toward the royal palace in Al Mansurah. The leadership of the Egyptian forces passed to the Mamluks Faris Ad-Din Aktai and Baibars al-Buduqdari who succeeded in containing the situation and reorganizing the Muslim forces. This was the first appearance of the Mamluks as supreme commanders inside Egypt.^[13] Shajar al-Durr, who had full control of Egypt, agreed with Baibars' plan to defend Al Mansurah.^[14] Baibars ordered the opening of a gate to let the knights of the crusaders enter the town. The crusaders rushed into the town that they thought was deserted to find themselves trapped inside. The crusaders were besieged from all directions by the Egyptian forces and the town population and heavy losses were inflicted upon them. Robert of Artois (brother of Louis IX) who took refuge in a house^{[15][16]} and William of Salisbury, were both killed along with most of the Knights Templar. Only five Knights Templers escaped alive.^[17] The crusaders were forced to retreat to their camp in disorder and surrounded it with a ditch and wall. Early in the morning of February 11, The Muslim forces launched a devastating offensive against the Frankish camp. On February 27, the new sultan Turanshah arrived at Al Mansurah to lead the Egyptian army and the death of as-Salih Ayyub was formally announced in Egypt.^[18] Ships were transported overland and dropped in the Nile behind the crusaders ships blocking the reinforcement line from Damietta. The Egyptians who used Greek fire destroyed and seized many supply vessels and soon the besieged crusaders were suffering from famine and disease. Some crusaders deserted to the Muslim side.^{[19][20]} Despite the ultimate defeat of his forces and the fact that he was totally besieged, King Louis IX tried to negotiate a deal with the Egyptians offering the surrender of the Egyptian port of Damietta in exchange for Jerusalem and some towns on the Syrian coast. The offer was rejected by the Egyptians and nothing was left for the crusaders except to flee back to Damietta under cover of darkness on April 5, followed by the Muslim forces until they were not able to flee further than Farskur, where they were annihilated and King Louis IX was captured on 6th of April. Meanwhile, the Crusaders were circulating false information in Europe claiming that king Louis IX defeated the Sultan of Egypt in a great battle and Cairo had been betrayed into his hands.^{[21][22]} Later, when the news of the French defeat and the capturing of Louis IX reached France, a rather hysterical movement known by the name Shepherds' Crusade occurred in France.^[23]

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Al_Mansurah

Letter of Robert I of Artois Written 1249 and sent to his mother Blanche of Castile, Queen of France

A Translation

To his most excellent and dearest mother, Blanche, by the grace of God illustrious queen of France, count Robert of Artois her devoted son, greetings and the desire ready with filial love to do her will. Since we know that you rejoice much in the prosperity of us and ours and the successes that occur to the Christian people, when you receive certain knowledge of them, your excellence should know that the dearest lord our brother king and the queen, [our] sister and we enjoy full health of body by the grace of God. Which we hope with fervent desire [is true] of you. Our dearest brother, the count of Anjou still has malaria, but less severe than usual.

And let your love know that our dearest lord, our brother, and the barons and pilgrims who spent the winter on Cyprus, reached the harbor of Limassol in their ships on the evening of the Ascension, so that they might make their way against the enemies of the Christian faith. Leaving the port, after many hardships of the sea and contrarities of winds, with the Lord guiding them, they came at about noon on the Friday after the Trinity and anchored, gathering on that day in the ship of the lord king to consult about what they should do from then on, since they saw Damietta before them and the harbor fortified by a great multitude of Turks, horsemen and footsoldiers, and the mouth of the near river by a multitude of armed galleys.

In which council it was determined that on the next morning whoever could would come to land with the lord king. And your lordship should know that it was determined that on Saturday morning the Christian army, having left the great ships, would descend virilely armed into galleys and small ships. And trusting in the mercy of God and the help of the triumphal cross which the lord legate bore in the boat beside the lord king, happy and comforted by God, they removed towards the land against the enemy who were making many assaults with arrows and other things. But truly when those boats could not get to dry land for the excessive smoothness of the sea, the Christian army left them in the name of God and leaping into the sea reached dry land, the footsoldiers with their arms. And though a multitude of Turks defended the shore against the Christians, yet, with our Lord Jesus Christ favoring us, the Christian people won the shore with health and happiness and with great destruction of the Turks' horses and of certain people who were said to be of great name.

And when the Sarracens returned to the city which was very strong because of the river as well as walls and strong towers around it, our almighty Lord "Who gives richly to all and not disproportionately" [cf. Ep. James 1:5], without the labor of men, on the next day, that is the octave of the Trinity, gave the city to the Christian people, with the infidel Sarracens fleeing and leaving it. And this was done only by the gift of God and the generosity of the almighty Lord God. And you should know that those Saracens left that city fortified with great abundance of food and meat and machines and other goods of which a great part of the provisioning of said city remained. And from that part the army was quite satisfied.

Our Lord king, indeed, delayed there with his army, having his things taken from his ships. And we believed that the army should not leave until the river went down, because then it was said, he should occupy the land, since the Christian people incurred harm otherwise in other places. The countess of Anjou gave birth to a very elegant and wellformed son in Cyprus, whom she gave over to be nursed there.

Dated at Jamas castle, in the year of the Lord 1249, in the month of June, on the eve of St. John the Baptist.

This is the wording of the letter sent to the queen of France, word for word.

Information from online research at: Ancestry.com

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From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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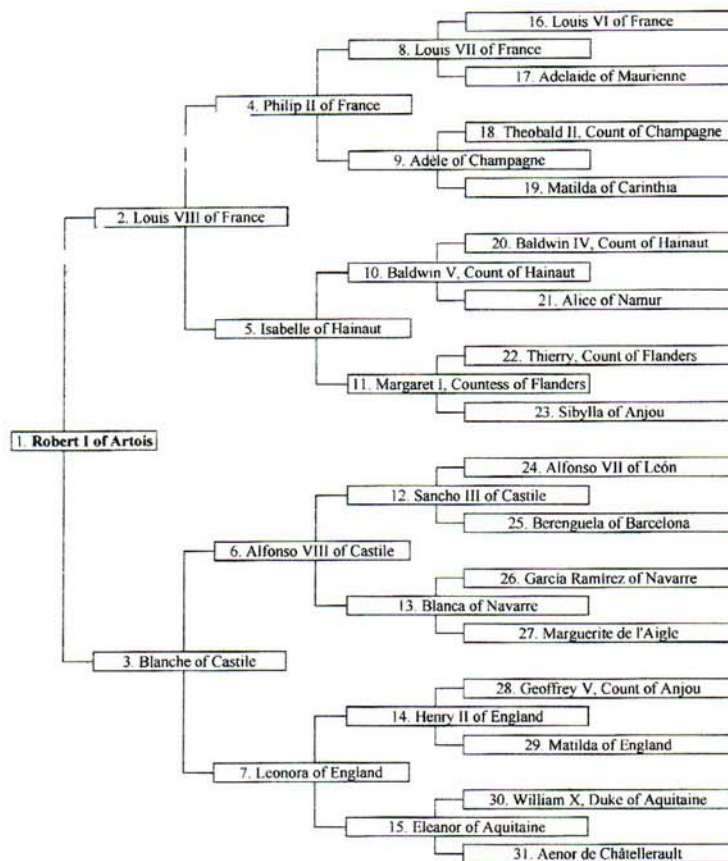
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Coat of arms of the county of Artois (azure semé-de-lis or, a label gules, each point charged with three castles or).

Ancestry



- French Monarchy
Direct Capetians
 Hugh Capet
 Robert II
 Robert II
 Henry I
 Robert I, Duke of Burgundy
 Henry I
 Philip I
 Hugh, Count of Vermandois
 Philip I
 Louis VI
 Louis VI
 Louis VII
 Robert I of Dreux
 Louis VII
 Mary, Countess of Champagne
 Alix, Countess of Blois
 Marguerite, Queen of Hungary
 Alys, Countess of the Vexin
 Philip II
 Agnes, Empress of Constantinople
 Philip II
 Louis VIII
 Louis VIII
 Louis IX
 Robert I, Count of Artois
 Alphonse, Count of Poitou and Toulouse
 Saint Isabel of France
 Charles I of Anjou and Sicily
 Louis IX
 Philip III
 Robert, Count of Clermont
 Agnes, Duchess of Burgundy
 Philip III
 Philip IV
 Charles III, Count of Valois
 Louis d'Evreux
 Margaret, Queen of England
 Philip IV
 Louis X
 Philip V
 Isabella, Queen of England
 Charles IV