

Order of Saint Lazarus: Primary sources

John of Joinville. Memoirs of John of Joinville. Supplement 20 | 6. ms. in Bibliothèque Royale dated c.1305.

- English translation of the Memoirs prepared by E. Wedgwood: The Memoirs of the Lord of Joinville. A New English Version. p.277-279 [see: www.ordotempli.org/memoirs_of_the_lord_of_joinville.htm]

Circa 1305 France	John of Joinville	Memoirs
----------------------	-------------------	---------

English Translation: “Whilst the King was encamped by Jaffa, the Master of Saint Lazar had got wind at Ramah, three good leagues from the camp, of some cattle and other things, where he thought he might make a fine haul. He kept no discipline in the camp, but did just as he liked, so he went off to the place without telling the King. When he had collected his booty, the Saracens fell upon him, and routed him so utterly, that of all the men whom he had in his troop with him, only four escaped. Directly he entered the camp, he began to call to arms. I went to arm myself, and begged the King to allow me to go to the place, and he gave me leave, and ordered me to take with me the Temple and the Hospital. When we reached the place, we found that some other fresh Saracens had come down into the valley where the Master of Saint Lazar had suffered his disaster. While these new Saracens were examining the dead bodies, the Master of the King's cross-bowmen attacked them, and before we could come up, our people had routed them, and slain several. A serjeant of the King's, and a serjeant of the Saracens bore one another to earth with their lances. One of the King's serjeants, seeing this, took the two horses, and led them off, meaning to steal them; and, to avoid being seen, he went in between the walls of the town of Ramah. As he was leading them along, an old cistern over which he passed gave way beneath him, and the three horses and he himself went to the bottom. I was told of it, and went to see, and found the cistern still crumbling in beneath them, so that in a very little while they would have been completely covered over. So we came back without any losses, except what the Master of Saint Lazar had lost there”.