



German Templars Travel to Tallin - (14th June 2025)



Researching where and how proved Estonia's capital, Tallin, it became obvious, it is not the most convenient place to get to. However, without a doubt once there it is absolutely charming and spell



Right: From left to right - RE Kt Ian Harper, FE Kt Shiny MacKinnon, Kt Tony Hunter, ME Kt Roddy MacKenzie, E Kt Scott Hunter, RE Kt Norbert Schoen and Kt Paul Baker.



biding in its beauty, elegance and history made even more delightful by the people being friendly, warm and engaging.

The German contingent, 7 in total came from both Germany and England flying in at different times. For the second time, the Grand Master's Bodyguard were very superbly represented supporting their "Boss". The Grand Master attended the Friday evening reception accompanied by RE Kt MacKinnon GCT GMA and the Grand Secretary, the rest being in transit.



Left: Visiting delegations preparing the process in to the Temple.

The Great Priory meeting (led by Finland) took place in the historic building the "Black

Heads", the equivalent of head office for all ancient livery companies that breathed life into commerce with the City. The building itself dating back to the medieval time of the Templars.

Right: ME Kt Roddy MacKenzie making presentation to new Grand Master of Estonia, looked by RE Kt Shiny MacKinnon.



Arriving in good time and finding our spots in the foreign dignitaries robing room, robes were pulled out to air and regalia quickly sorted for ease vesting. With absences short, long standing friendships were rekindled, discussions entered renewed and new acquaintances made. With the bewitching



hour fast approaching, E Kt Scott Hunter and RE Kt Ian Harper sought out the Finnish Grand Marshal in order to prepare the Grand Priory of Germany's entrance. With little time to rehearse due to this being a meeting of two Great Priories the GPvD team were set and briefed. With temperatures hovering around 28C, we all knew we were going to have a challenging time in our regalia.

In order of precedence, all visiting delegations entered with full pomp and ceremony, with Germany being notably the largest



Templar overseas body. Our Grand Master, ME Kt Roddy MacKenzie GCT was warmly welcomed for the Finnish Head of Order and shown to his seat. Following a well understood procedure, the Grand Priory of Finland was opened which then led on to a new Grand Master being solemnly enthroned and proclaimed.

Following the investiture of Finnish Great Officers, proceedings were called off. During the interlude a light lunch and cold drinks were enjoyed by all. All too soon we were back in the Temple to be part of history in the making for the wider Order, the consecration of new Great Priory ... Estonia.



Right: Long standing friends and illustrious Grand Masters of Germany and Greece sharing a very happy moment.



With representation from all the major Templar players, it was clear from the outset, Estonia was being honoured royally, fully recognise and made to feel part of a wonderful chivalric community.

Left: ME Kt Roddy MacKenzie relaxing between sessions with a cold drink with his Bodyguard Commander, E Kt Scott Hunter and Tony Hunter, the Bodyguard Registrar.

Following a long and well understood rite, the fledgling Great Priory was piece by piece brought to life in a memorable and moving ceremony that oozed symbolism and profound meaning. During the key parts of the ceremony all Knights were treated to one of the Brother Knights with a clear professional operatic ability skilfully singing extracts from Wagner's Parsifal which added profound resonance and gravitas to the occasion. The transition and handover from one Great Priory to another was gracefully conducted with the new Grand Master being enthroned, his Great Priory Banner being unfurled for the first time. With first appointments completed, the ceremony came a timely conclusion with a well drilled closing ceremony. All Great Officers and processed out under a well drilled Estonian Arch of Steel.



The final part of the weekend was the gala dinner, again held in the Black Heads building, at which wives and partners attended. The menu was excellent and company sublime at which new friendships were made and old rekindled.

Left (left to right): Members of the Grand Master's Bodyguard, Kt Tony Hunter, Paul Baker and E Kt Scott Hunter, enjoying the ambience of old part of the city of Tallin.

Saturday complete, Sunday was given over to site

seeing in Tallin's beautiful medieval city centre and basking in warmth of the summer sunshine, after which, plans to return home were put in place with incredibly happy and dramatic memories made.

Right: The new Charter of the Great Priory of Estonia

