

Montfort is a Teutonic fortress, surrounded by mountains, in the vicinity of Acre. Its name in Arabic is Qalat el-Qurein; in German it is called Starkenburg (meaning strong castle). Early in the 13th century a large part of the district of Acre passed into the hands of the Teutonic Order, the German order of chivalry patterned after the Knights Templars, an order of military monks. With the support of Frederick II, emperor of Germany, the Teutonic Knights purchased land from Frankish feudal lords that included Montfort. The castle was surrendered to Baybars, sultan of Egypt, in 1271. The New York Metropolitan Museum of Art cleared Montfort in 1926.