



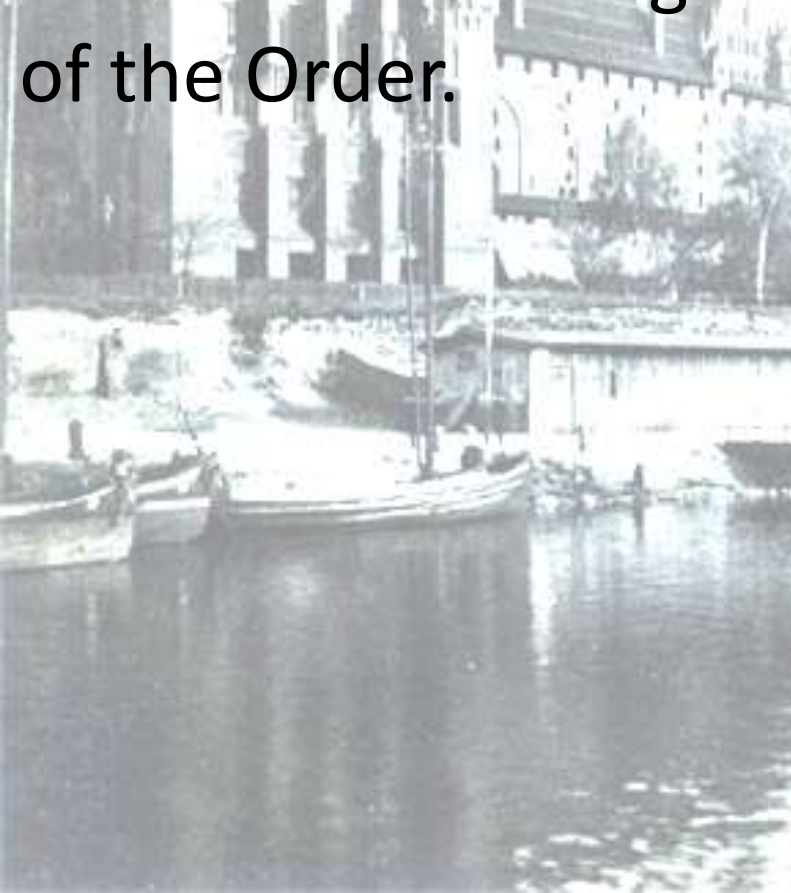
Marienburg, Wpr. „Die Marienburg“

The Castle in Malbork (Polish: Zamek w Malborku) was built in Prussia by the Teutonic Order, a German Roman Catholic religious order, as an Ordensburg. The Order named it Marienburg, literally "Mary's Castle". The town which grew around it was also named Marienburg, and since 1945 it is known as Malbork.





The castle was founded in 1274 by the Teutonic Order during their government of Prussia and is located on the Southeastern bank of the river Nogat. It was named Marienburg after the Virgin Mary, patron saint of the Order.



The castle was expanded several times to host the growing number of Knights, and eventually became the largest fortified Gothic building in Europe, featuring several subdivisions and numerous walls. It consists of three separate castles - the High, Middle and Lower Castles,





After the First Partition of Poland in 1772 the town became part of the Kingdom of Prussia province of West Prussia. At that time the rather neglected castle was used as poorhouse and barracks for the Prussian Army. In 1794 David Gilly, a Prussian architect and head of the Oberbaudepartement, was ordered to make a structural survey of the castle, to decide about its future use or even its complete demolition.





World War II combat in 1945 destroyed more than half of the castle. At the conclusion of World War II, the castle, together with the surrounding city, became part of Poland. A fire in 1959 caused further damage. It has since been mostly rebuilt, with restoration ongoing since 1962. However, the main cathedral in the castle, fully restored just before the war, remains in ruins.

