Odo I, Count of Blois

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Odo I (also spelled **Eudes**) (c. 950 – 12 March 996), Count of Blois, Chartres, Reims, Provins, Châteaudun, and Omois, was the son of Theobald I of Blois and Luitgard, daughter of Herbert II of Vermandois.^[1] He received the title of count palatine, which was traditional in his family, from King Lothair of West Francia.

Like his relations, the counts of Vermandois, he remained faithful to the Carolingians against the Capetians. Following the war between his father and Odalric, Archbishop of Reims, over the castle of Coucy, he received the castle to hold it from the archbishop.

Odo I, Count of Blois		
Spouse(s)	Bertha of Burgundy	
Noble family	House of Blois	
Father	Theobald I of Blois	
Mother	Luitgard	
Born	c. 950	
Died	12 March 996	
	Marmoutier monastery in Tours	

In the 970s, in the wars for control of Brittany, he subjugated the county of Rennes and Count Conan I affirmed the rights of his family in the region. Around 977, his father died and he succeeded in his counties.

In 988, he assisted Charles of Lorraine in taking Laon. In 991, he abandoned the Lorrainers at Dreux and besieged Melun, belonging to Bouchard the Venerable, a vassal of Hugh Capet. Hugh, with Richard I of Normandy and Fulk Nerra, assembled against him and he had to lift his siege.

Near 995, he entered into a war against Fulk, who was already at war with Geoffrey I of Brittany. Odo allied with his brother-in-law William IV of Aquitaine and Baldwin IV of Flanders. Even his old enemy, Richard of Normandy joined in the war on Fulk. In the winter of 995 – 996, they besieged Langeais, however Odo became ill and was taken to the monastery of Marmoutier at Tours where he died 12 March 996. [2][3]

Family

He married (c. 983) Bertha of Burgundy, daughter of King Conrad of Burgundy and Matilda of France.^[4] Their children were:

- Robert (died between 980 and 996)
- Theobald II (c. 985–1004)
- Odo II (c. 990–1037)
- Thierry (died 996)
- Agnes, married Viscount Guy of Thouars
- Roger

References

- 1. Jim Bradbury, The Capetians: The History of a Dynasty, (Hambledon Continuum, 2007), 56.
- 2. Bernard S. Bachrach, Fulk Nerra, the Neo-Roman Consul, 987-1040: A Political Biography of the Angevin Count, (University of California Press, 1993), 58-59.
- 3. Matthew Bennett, Jim Bradbury, Kelly DeVries, Iain Dickie and Phyllis Jestice, *Fighting Techniques of the Medieval World: Equipment, Combat Skills and Tactics*, (Amber Books Ltd, 2005), 184.
- 4. *Burgundy and Provence 879-1032*, Constance Brittain Bourchard, **The New Cambridge Medieval History**, Vol. III, Ed. Timothy Reuter, (Cambridge University Press, 1999), 342.

Odo I, Count of Blois House of Blois			
Born: c. 950 Died: 12 Ma		Aarch 996	
Preceded by Theobald I	Count of Blois 975–995	Succeeded by Theobald II	

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