



# Introducing the *Brown Bess American Brown Ale* *Commemorating the Brown Bess Musket*

**We are exceedingly pleased to introduce a very special beer - The Brown Bess American Brown Ale. This beer is a high powered premium Brown Ale in the American Style, to include a 9.6% ABV and is hop treated to give it that special “West Coast” flair**

As you might expect, there is also a story behind Brown Bess. The Brown Bess musket was first introduced by the British Army in 1722 as the Land Pattern Musket. A flintlock, smoothbore musket, the weapon was produced in large quantities for over a century. In addition, the musket was fitted with a socket allowing a bayonet to be fitted to the muzzle so that the weapon could be used as a pike in close fighting or for defeating cavalry charges.

Within fifty years of the Land Pattern’s introduction, it had earned the nickname “Brown Bess.” The “Brown Bess” quickly became legendary and is rated by firearms historians as the fourth most significant firearm in history.

The Land Pattern muskets became the longest-used firearms in British history becoming essential during the Seven Years’ War, the American Revolution, and the Napoleonic Wars.

The most popular version of this weapon, the East India Pattern, stood 39 inches tall. Firing a .75 caliber musket ball, the Brown Bess’ barrel and lockwork were made of iron, while the butt plate, trigger guard, and ram-

rod pipe were constructed of brass. The weapon weighed approximately 10 pounds and was fitted for a 17-inch bayonet!

The effective range of the Land Pattern muskets was around 100 yards, though combat tended to occur with masses of troops firing at 50 yards. Due to its lack of sights and smoothbore design, the weapon was not particularly accurate. Therefore, the preferred tactic for this weapon was massed volleys followed by bayonet charges. British troops using the Land Pattern muskets were expected to be able to fire four rounds per minute.

The final flintlock design, the Pattern 1839, ended the Land Pattern’s 117-year run as the primary musket for British forces and it was ultimately replaced in 1856 by the British Enfield.

Sons of Liberty Aleworks is extremely pleased to present our Imperial Brown Ale, the “Brown Bess,” as a tribute to one of most significant firearms ever designed and whose influence shaped world history for more than one hundred years. ENJOY!!

