



Introducing the Camden Classic English IPA

The Beer: We are pleased to introduce our latest brew, the Camden Classic English IPA. The Camden IPA is a classic English style IPA using plenty of hops, but these are English style hops which produce an “earthy” flavor rather than a west coast style “bitter” flavor. We hope you enjoy this unique IPA.

The Battle of Camden: Normally, we don’t “honor” the British as we name our beers, but in naming this IPA we are tipping our hat to the British for a stunning defeat of our Continental army in the Southern theater of the American Revolution at the Battle of Camden in South Carolina.

On August 16, 1780, British forces under Lieutenant General Lord Charles Cornwallis routed the American forces of Major General Horatio Gates about 10 km (six miles) north of Camden, South Carolina, strengthening the British hold on the Carolinas.

Following the British defeat at Saratoga in 1777 and French entry into the American Revolutionary War in early 1778, the British decided to renew a “southern strategy” to win back their rebellious North American colonies. This campaign began in December 1778 with the capture of Savannah, Georgia, and gained further ground in January 1780, when General Sir Henry Clinton led an army and captured Charleston, South Carolina. Clinton returned to New York, leaving Earl Charles Cornwallis the task of fortifying the South.

Because of its crossroads location, Camden was considered a key to controlling the back country of the Carolinas. On July 27, Gates advanced into South Carolina, heading towards Camden,

then garrisoned by about 1,000 men under Lord Rawdon. Gates established a camp at Rugeley’s Mill, north of Camden, where he was joined by militia companies from North Carolina and Virginia. The weather was extremely hot, and a significant number of troops were put out of action by the heat and diseases like dysentery.

While Gates had over 4,000 men in camp, only about 3,700 of them were effective for combat. General Cornwallis marched from Charleston with reinforcements, arriving at Camden on August 13, bringing British troop strength to 2,000 men.

Both armies advanced at each other just after dawn. The British troops opened the battle, when the right flank fired a volley into the militia regiments, causing a significant number of casualties and then launched a bayonet charge. The militia, lacking bayonets, fled before the British regiments even reached them. Only one company of militia managed to fire a volley before fleeing. Seeing his left flank collapse, Gates fled with the first of the militia to run from the field.

Johann de Kalb, in charge of the 2nd Maryland and Delaware Regiments, in attempting to rally his men was shot eleven times by musket fire. After just one hour of combat, the American troops had been utterly defeated, suffering over 2,000 casualties. Tarleton’s cavalry pursued and harried the retreating Continental troops for some twenty miles. By that evening, Gates, mounted on a swift horse, had taken refuge 60 miles away in Charlotte, North Carolina.

It was a dark day for the Continental Army and the cause of liberty - August 16th, 1780.