



Battle Inn

H&G Simonds Ltd.

- Battle Inn was initially owned by H&G Simonds Ltd., which was founded in Reading in 1785 by William Blackall Simmonds
- By 1805, Simonds had acquired 10 public houses (pubs) in Reading, but expansion was halted by new legislation which prevented the setting up of new public houses
- The beer house Act of 1830 repealed this, and 80 Simonds Pubs were eventually opened in Reading
- W. B. Simonds grandson, George, became the director of the brewery and is also known for creating the Maiwand Lion in the Forbury Gardens

Battle Inn

A photo of the pub sign from the Reading Chronicle in May 1954.

The image appears to be a depiction of the Battle of Hastings, which is what Battle Inn is named for.



The History of Battle Inn

- In the early 2000s, the pub had an Irish theme and a sausage dog that wandered around trying to get attention and food from patrons
- In 2008, Battle Inn became a Polish Bar and was renamed Gospoda
- Provided a hub of Polish culture and cuisine for the large Polish community in West Reading
- Around 2012/13 it reopened as The Royal
- The Royal shut down in 2015
- In August 2019 permission was granted for the derelict Battle Inn to be demolished and replaced with flats
- This plan had initially been rejected by Reading Borough Council, but was allowed on appeal

Irish pub

In the early 2000s, The Battle Inn was known as the best Irish pub in town.

(It might well have been the only one!)



Gospoda

In 2008 the Battle Inn, changed their country based theme to another country based theme and became a Polish pub, Gospoda.



Gospoda

Gospoda was a hub of polish culture and cuisine.



The Royal

In 2013 it re-opened as the Royal but closed again 2 years later in 2015.



2019

The derelict
Battle Inn in 2019.
Image taken by
James Aldridge,
Get Reading



Last days

In 2019, plans for demolishing the pub were approved.



Sources

- Slide 2:
 - David Nash Ford's Royal Berkshire History: William Blackall Simonds. Available at: <http://www.berkshirehistory.com/bios/wbsimonds.html>
 - David Nash Ford's Royal Berkshire History: George Blackall Simonds. Available at: <http://www.berkshirehistory.com/bios/gbsimonds.html>
- Slide 3: Museum object number REDMG : 1980.36.B871.2
<http://collections.readingmuseum.org.uk/index.asp?page=record&mwsquery=%7Btotopic%7D=%7BFour%20Bs%7D&file name=REDMG&hitsStart=25>
- Slide 4:
 - <https://www.readingpubs.co.uk/pubs/showpub.asp?pub=Battle+Inn&postcode=RG1+7HS>
 - <http://www.beerintheevening.com/pubs/s/32/32369/Gospoda/Reading>
 - Get Reading, 22nd January 2008: Reading's first Polish pub to open. Available at: <https://www.getreading.co.uk/news/local-news/readings-first-polish-pub-open-4255719>
 - <https://whatpub.com/pubs/REA/READIN0284/royal-reading>
 - Tevye Markson, 11th September 2019: Reading's derelict Battle Inn can be demolished - with one 'unusual' condition. Available at: <https://www.getreading.co.uk/news/property/readings-derelict-battle-inn-can-16895619>

Sources

- Slide 5: http://www.beerintheevening.com/pubs/s/56/5667/Battle_Inn/Reading (No author credit given for photo)
- Slide 6+7: <http://www.beerintheevening.com/pubs/s/32/32369/Gospoda/Reading> (No author credit given for photo)
- Slide 8: <https://whatpub.com/pubs/REA/READIN0284/royal-reading> (No author credit given for photo)
- Slide 9: Tevye Markson, 11th September 2019: Reading's derelict Battle Inn can be demolished - with one 'unusual' condition. Available at: <https://www.getreading.co.uk/news/property/readings-derelict-battle-inn-can-16895619> (Image taken by James Aldridge, Get Reading)
- Slide 10: Tevye Markson, 28th August 2019: Battle Inn Pub to be demolished after decision overturned. Available at: <https://www.readingchronicle.co.uk/news/17865349.battle-inn-pub-demolished-decision-overturned/> (No author credit given for photo)