

Victory at Yorktown
Bièr de Garde

Recipe Specs

Batch Size (G): 6.1
Total Grain (lb): 15.000
Total Hops (oz): 2.00
Original Gravity (OG): 1.066 (°P): 16.1
Final Gravity (FG): 1.009 (°P): 2.3
Alcohol by Volume (ABV): 7.44 %
Colour (SRM): 23.3 (EBC): 45.8
Bitterness (IBU): 19.8 (Tinseth)
Brewhouse Efficiency (%): 70
Boil Time (Minutes): 60

Grain Bill

9.000 lb Belgian - Pilsner (60%)
4.000 lb American - Caramel / Crystal 40L (26.67%)
2.000 lb Molasses (13.33%)

Hop Bill

1.00 oz First Gold Pellet (7.5% Alpha) @ 60 Minutes (Boil) (0.2 oz/Gal)
0.50 oz First Gold Pellet (7.5% Alpha) @ 15 Minutes (Aroma) (0.1 oz/Gal)
0.50 oz First Gold Pellet (7.5% Alpha) @ 0 Days (Dry Hop) (0.1 oz/Gal)

Misc Bill

1.00 oz Whirlfloc Tablet @ 0 Days (Primary)
1.00 oz Yeast Nutrient @ 0 Days (Primary)

Single step Infusion at 151°F for 120 Minutes.
Fermented at 68°F with Tennessee whiskey WLP050

Notes

October 17, 1778, General Charles Cornwallis raised a flag of truce over the fortifications at Yorktown after having suffered not only the combined French and American attack but also disease, lack of supplies, inclement weather, and a failed evacuation. With the British navy in the York River and siege lines advancing on his position, defeat was inevitable. The only issue that remained was how to surrender with honor and save his army and the loyalist who were trapped there with them.

Cornwallis had reason to be concerned. Throughout the south there had been "incidents" actions taken, primarily by loyalist militia but often enough by regular soldier, which considered war crimes. Unarmed civilians and surrendering soldiers were killed, homes burned, and a general terror descended from Charlestown to Richmond. If Cornwallis could not prevail upon the honor of Washington and Rochambeau, his garrison stood a good chance of being annihilated by the American soldiers who witnessed the aftermath of the actions. With no hope of relief or evacuation, Cornwallis began his correspondence with Clinton on October 17, 1781. He knew that Clinton's reinforcements were weeks from arriving, he did not end the hostilities soon, those in his camp that were not killed by Knox's bombardment would likely die of disease and starvation.

The final Articles of Capitulation reflect the concerns and compromises of the two sides. The British surrendered their troops and the treatment of loyalists. "The garrison of York will place to be appointed in front of the posts, at two o'clock precisely, with shouldered muskets cased, and drums beating a British or German march. They are then to ground their arms, return to their encampments, where they will remain until they are dispatched to the place of destination." Cornwallis hoped to maintain some dignity in surrender both for himself and for his men.

A demand of the British involved the treatment of loyalists. Washington tacitly acknowledged Cornwallis's right to facilitate the escape of loyalists and American deserters in Article

Cornwallis unregulated use of the sloop Bonetta for carrying dispatches to British headquarters in New York City: "The Bonetta sloop-of-war to be equipped, and navigated by its present crew, and . . . to be permitted to sail without examination."

And so it was done. On October 19, 1781, at two o'clock that afternoon, the surrender commenced. Cornwallis never actually surrendered his sword to General Washington but that is the way we like to remember it. Cornwallis chose not to participate in the surrender, citing General Charles O'Hara to lead the British troops. Washington, refusing to accept the sword, appointed General Benjamin Lincoln to accept O'Hara's sword. The war in North America is over, the British surrender.

It will take two more long years for the final peace treaty to be signed and approved. The British troops waiting in the hopes that the war is finally over and they will not need to return home but waiting nonetheless in case they must.

This beer, a Bière de Garde, is brewed for waiting. its high ABV means it keeps well in the bottle, yet, who wants it in the bottle, pour it in a glass, get on with the important work of living. To all the great men, American, French, German, and British who fought at Yorktown, thank you for your sacrifice and applaud your honor!

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This beer was designed and first brewed by Michael Carver in 2017 as part of development effort for a colonial brewery project in Philadelphia.

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