

# THE BATTLE OF CAMDEN

The Battle of Camden took place near Camden, South Carolina on August 16, 1780. The British, under the command of Lord Charles Cornwallis, had about 2,100 soldiers. The Americans were commanded by General Horatio Gates and had about 3,700 soldiers. Of the



*Lord Charles Cornwallis, commander of the British forces at the Battle of Camden*

American forces, only 1,500 were regular soldiers. The remaining troops were militia, which were citizens who had volunteered for the war. The militia were not as trained or as experienced as the regular soldiers.

Before the battle began, the British controlled most of South Carolina. Camden was an important location, as it would help the Americans control the rural areas of South Carolina.

The battle began at dawn and lasted about an hour. Most of the militia panicked with the first shots from the British and left the battleground. General Gates left the battleground at the same time. The remaining American forces were defeated by the British troops. At the end of the battle, over half of the American forces were either killed, wounded or taken prisoner.

The loss at Camden was a big blow to the American army. General Gates had made several serious errors that contributed to the loss. He was overconfident after winning his previous battle, the Battle of Saratoga. Camden was deep in enemy territory and his troops had trouble getting good supplies. His battle plan also had serious problems. After the battle, General George Washington replaced General Gates with General Nathanael Greene as commander of the southern American forces.



*General Horatio Gates, commander of the American forces at the Battle of Camden*

## QUICK QUIZ

Who was the commander of the American forces at the Battle of Camden?

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When was the Battle of Camden?

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What state is Camden in?

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Who won the Battle of Camden?

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*Engraving of the Battle of Camden*