



#### 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- The beer house Act of 1830 repealed this, and 80 Simonds Pubs were eventually opened in Reading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

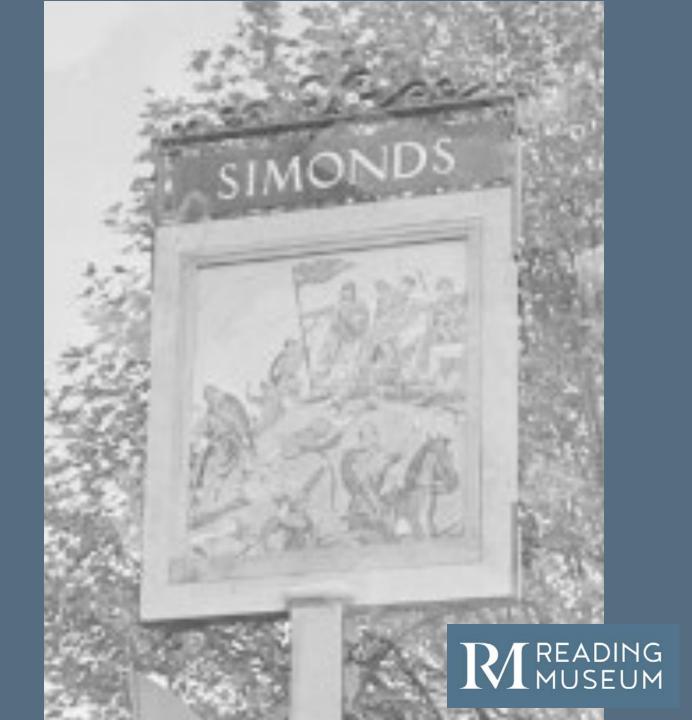


### Battle Inn

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

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  - 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



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- Slide 10: Tevye Markson, 28<sup>th</sup> August 2019: Battle Inn Pub to be demolished after decision overturned. Available at: <a href="https://www.readingchronicle.co.uk/news/17865349.battle-inn-pub-demolished-decision-overturned/">https://www.readingchronicle.co.uk/news/17865349.battle-inn-pub-demolished-decision-overturned/</a> (No author credit given for photo)

