

The Wars of Camden

In our apartment, Camden, we fought tons of wars. Not the kind where you drop bombs and fight with guns, but where you fight with sticks and plastic swords. In all my time at Camden, from grade three to grade five, we fought almost nine wars. The one that I think was the best and most thrilling was the Great Patriot War. Here's is its story.

The Great Patriot War happened while I was in grade four. One Saturday, me and my friend Ray were walking towards the park, with hopes of playing Gaga Ball in the Hut. Unfortunately, when we got there, we found that the Hut was occupied by the girls.

"Dang it!" Ray said. "Now we can't even play Gaga Ball!"

"We can," I pointed out. "We could kick them out."

Ray sighed. I knew why he didn't respond to what I said. Even if we tried to kick the girls out, we would still fail miserably. Three years ago, the boys were the dominant power in the apartment. But it had all come apart when Aria had come.

As soon as she'd come, she'd started bringing the girls back together. One day, she finally succeeded and brought the girls into one strong army under her rule. But there was a thorn in her side, stopping her from completely taking control.

Obviously, it was us, the Boyan army. So she's declared war on us, and completely annihilated us in the Battle of the Hut. The remaining boys had created the Boyan Resistance, and had almost brought her down, but one of our members had betrayed us and told Aria of our secret headquarters. She's led a raid on the headquarters, and that was the tragic end of the Boyan Resistance.

All of this flashed through me and Ray's mind as we stood there. Then Ray said, "You know what, Raghav? I'm done with this. I'm done being the losers and the laughingstock of this apartment. I'm done with it. Today, we strike the Hut, and win it back or perish in the fight."

"Uh, by perish you mean gravely injured, right?" I asked Ray.

Ray ignored me, and said, "Come on. Let's go call the rest of the boys. We'll strike with sticks and nerf guns. Today's the day we finally end Aria's reign."

Half an hour later, me and Ray had assembled a force of fifteen boys armed with nerf guns, sticks, and plastic swords.

"This is it?" I asked Ray. "The girls outnumber us by, like, two to one."

"We have the element of surprise," Ray responded. He turned to the boys who'd come and said, "This is it, guys! We have to take the Hut back. Once we take the Hut, the girls' army will collapse like cards! Now, charge!"

The rest the boys took their weapons and charged to the Hut, screaming bloody murder. Well, no use in waiting around. I took my plastic sword and charged with them, yelling along. As we got closer to the Hut, we noticed a blockade of bikes blocking the entrance.

The rest of the boys hesitated, and one small boy in front of me stopped. Not wanting to crash into him, I dodged him and turned around. "Hey! Come on! The fight isn't over!" I yelled to the boys. Well, turning back was a real mistake of mine. When I turned back I was suddenly right in front of the bike blockade.

I had too much momentum to stop, so I smashed into the bikes with full force. About 15 bikes crashed on top of me, while I sat there, frozen in shock. Then, I heard Ray's voice scream, "What are you waiting for? Go! Attack!"

I heard the other boys regain their senses and stomp on. Well, it might have been a great feat that we'd finally penetrated the Hut, but for me, it was plain terror and agony. When the boys charged into the Hut, another ten bikes came crashing on top of me.

"Defend the Hut!" I heard a girl scream. All around me, sounds of fighting broke out. I finally crawled out from under the bikes, and looked around, dazed. Ray was engaged in combat with another girl, their plastic swords flying around like wind. I looked around to see that the entire right section of the blockade had collapsed.

That's when I made my second mistake of the day. I was still very dazed and when I tried to advance deeper into the Hut, I stumbled right into the middle section of the blockade, which in turn fell into the right section, so I had more than 30 bikes come crashing on top of me.

The sounds of fighting finally stopped and I held my breath, hoping that the girls hadn't won. Then I heard Ray's voice say, "Where's Raghav?"

"I think he collapsed into the middle section," another boy answered. Finally, a few boys saw me and pulled me out.

"So, did we win?" I asked Ray.

He grinned. "Look around yourself."

I looked around to see no girls inside. We'd finally taken the Hut.

"You helped us win, Raghav! You're the man of the day!" said Andy, a fellow boy.

All the boys clapped me on the back and cheered. Then, the Erel Corps struck. The Erel Corps were the most elite girls in the entire apartment. This wasn't my first meeting with them. Last year, I'd offended Aria, and she's ordered them to attack me. The bruises took a week to heal.

Now, four of them came at me as revenge for breaking the bike blockade. They kicked and punched me until suddenly they were gone. Ray was standing over me, hand out.

"What happened?"

"The Erel Corps struck, but I fended them off. Come on, let's leave the Hut."

"What? Why?" I asked.

Ray looked at me, then said, " Because friends are more important than any stupid war. Plus, there's always next year."