

THE SOLDIERS' LANGUAGE

The men in the army are making a new language which will be, for at least a few years after the war, understood in every country that has soldiers at the front. It is drawn from the men's experience and from the many tongues that are in the great army being used against the Germans:

A
 Ace—Term adopted by Americans from European allies, signifying an aviator who has brought down five enemy airplanes within his own line.
 Actif—On the French active list; with the colors.
 Acrobatics—Aerial stunts.
 A E F—American expeditionary forces.
 Airmeter—An instrument showing height of airplane above the ground.
 Ammo Depot—Ammunition storehouse.
 Anzac—Australian and New Zealand army corps.
 Army Caterpillar—A great tractor used for hauling heavy guns over rough, hilly ground.
 Arrive—A shell coming your way from an enemy's gun.
 Art—Artillery.
 Ash Can—A depth bomb.
 Aspirant—A new French officer or an officer on trial.
 Assis—A man slightly wounded, able to sit up.

B
 Baby Gun—The smallest piece of artillery supplied to the American forces; one of the most deadly, tho.
 Ballast—Sailor's slang for hash.
 Barnbook—English soldier's nickname for his rifle.
 Battalion—Administrative unit of infantry, consisting of headquarters, four companies and machine gun sections.
 Battle Wagon—Sailor's nickname for a battleship.
 Black Gang—Stokers.
 Blessé—Wounded; a wounded man.
 Blimp—Aviator's slang for small dirigible.
 Boyau—A communicating trench.
 Brancardier—A stretcher bearer.
 Bridehead—Point commanding a river, but not necessarily a bridge. It may be miles back of stream controlled.
 Brig—Ship's prison.
 Browning Machine Gun—Authorized machine gun of the United States army.
 Browning Machine Rifle—A horizontal lightweight machine rifle of the United States army.
 Buddy—Bunkie, chum, companion.
 Buzzard—Rating mark worn on the sleeve in the navy.

C
 Cachabls—A dugout.
 Caduceus (French, caducee)—The winged staff and serpents, emblems of the medical department of the army.
 Camionette—(Diminutive of camion)—A small motor truck.
 Cantoche—French slang for a canteen.
 Carnegie Bowler—Tommy's slang for a trench helmet.
 Cartwheel—A kind of aerial maneuver.
 Charley Noble—A galley stovepipe.
 Chins—In navy, carpenter; in the army, regimental pioneer sergeants; usually a carpenter.
 Chit—A signed order at a canteen.
 Chord of trajectory—A straight line from the muzzle of the gun to the point where the shell strikes.
 Chew—Food.
 Choking a dummy—Fainting at parade.
 Circus—Aviator's term for an aerial squadron; originally a German squadron.
 Clicking in—Up against it, wounded, killed.
 Cockpit—Air pilot's seat.
 Colonelle (French)—The colonel's wife.
 Conk—Failure of airplane engine to work.
 Corps—In the United States army, a unit of service formed by a combination of two or more divisions.
 Couches—Men so badly wounded that they must be carried lying down.
 Crash helmet—Helmet to protect air man's head in case of accident.
 C T—Communicating trench.

D
 Dead angle or dead space—Ground over which defenders' fire may pass, but so high over the heads of the attacking forces that it cannot injure them.
 Dead pay—Pay drawn for dead soldiers whose names are kept on the rolls.
 Denloy—To change from close to extended order; to open out the line.
 Didonk—American soldier's nickname for a French private; from "dis done."
 Digging in—Intrenching, especially under fire.
 Division—The smallest unit of the army organization, including all branches of the service.
 Dixie—Two handed iron pot in which soldiers' meals are cooked.
 Dizzies—Slang for mounds where communicating trenches widen.
 Dog's leg—First stripe received on promotion.
 Dog robber—An officer's servant.
 Dope—Any chemical preparation used on airplane wing fabric to secure a smooth, waterproof surface.
 Dora—The British defence of the realm act.
 Drachen—A German observation balloon.
 Dud—A shell that has failed on landing to explode.

E
 Belat—Shell splinter.
 Emergency ration—Carried by soldier and used only on order from an officer. Weighs about a pound; consists of concentrated food in a metal box.

Emma Gee—(from M. G.)—Machine gun; Emma Gee outfit—a machine gun contingent.
 Enfants Perdus—Soldiers chosen to make first onslaught in an attack; a forlorn hope.
 En l'Air—Troops unsupported; too far from main body to give or receive assistance.
 En Repos—Resting behind lines.
 Essence—Gasoline.
 Evacuation Hospital—Unit of medical department on the line of communication. Ordinarily two are assigned to each division in zones of advance.
 Expeditionary force—Force raised for foreign service.

F
 Falot—Slang for military cap, also a kind of French lantern for guards or patrols.
 Fanny—Tommy's name for women of the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry.
 Fatigue—Duties of military men distinct from use of arms.
 Fiflot—French military slang for tationary also gives, "soldiers of punishment company, sent to it for self-mutilation."
 an infantry soldier.
 Fil de Fer—Barbed wire.
 F. L. (Signal)—Artillery fire is causing us loss.
 Flivver—In the United States navy a 750-ton destroyer; a small one.
 Fogey or Foggy—Extra pay for long service. Sometimes applied to an invalid soldier or sailor.
 Fried Egg—Insignia of a naval reserve officer.
 Fuyard—A coward; a runaway.

G
 G (Signal)—Move forward or prepare to move forward.
 Gat—An automatic revolver.
 G. H. Q.—General headquarters.
 Gen Tank—An oxygen tank.
 Glacis—Ground in front of a fortification, so sloped as to be covered by the guns of the fort.
 Glass Eye—A periscope.
 G. O.—General orders.
 Gold Lace Candidate—Soldier who has passed preliminary examination for a commission.
 Grands Blessés—Seriously wounded men.
 Grandpa—Biggest tealberg; Oq... Grandpa—Biggest caliber gun used by Germans.
 Grass Cutter—Airplane flying close to the ground.
 Greaser—Oil and water tender aboard ship.
 Gribble—A contribution to an allied war fund established by Mr. Gribble, an Englishman.
 Grousing—Tommy's term for grumbling or complaining.

H
 Hash Mark—Service mark in the navy.
 Hair Brush—Nickname for an early German grenade.
 H. H. H. (Signal)—Halt.
 Hikers—Heavy marching shoes.
 H. O. E.—Evacuation hospital.
 Holy Joe—Slang for an army chaplain.
 Huffed—Aviator killed or fatally injured.

I
 Infiltration—Filtering troops thru line to flank or rear of enemy's line, tactics by which the Germans made prisoners in recent offensive in Flanders.
 Irish Gale—A dead calm.
 Irish Penant—In navy, a hanging bit of rope out of place.
 Iron Rations—Slang for emergency rations, also for bursting shells.
J
 Jack of the Dust—Official lamp-lighter aboard ship.
 J G (United States navy)—Lieutenant, junior grade.
 Jam Pot—Tommy's name for the earliest British bomb.
 Jamming the Wireless—Sending storm or electric waves so that the enemy ship cannot get message to or from other enemy vessels of fleet.
 Jimmy Legs—Master at arms aboard ship.
 Joe Emma—A trench mortar.
 Jocks—Tommy's general name for all Scotch soldiers.
 Josephine—Slang for 75 mm. gun.
 Joy Stick—Control lever of airplane.
 Jumping Ship—Leaving ship without permission.

K
 K (Signal)—Negative.
 Kee Wee Birds—Men in nonflying section of the aviation corps.
 Kitchen art—Traveling kitchen.
 K P—Kitchen police.

L
 Lachrymatory Shell—Tear shell; so-called because of their effect on the eyes.
 Lance Corporal—Private performing duties of a corporal; assistant corporal.
 Leathernecks—Marines.
 Liaison—Connection or communication between officers or units, plans that rocks or that moves to and fro.
 Looie—Lieutenant.

M
 Maiden—A fortress never captured.
 Mammae (Godmother)—Girl who by regular arrangement sends letters or packages to a poilu at the front. The recipient of the letter or package is her filleul.
 Médis—Soldiers from the south of France.
 Mik (Mann im Krieg)—German for woman whose husband is at the front.
 M P—Military police.
 M P H—Aviator's speed, miles per hour.
 Mud Hook—An anchor.
 Mutilés—Men seriously wounded; those who have suffered loss of an arm or leg. Wilcox's military dic-

N
 N. A.—National army.
 Non Com—Non-commissioned officers.
 Nose Dive—Steep airplane descent with or without engine running.
 November 33—In the French army, an officer who sticks close to the regulations.

O
 Obof ("Old Duffers Over Forty")—Recruits under latest English military act.
 Obus—A species of small mortar; also a shell.
 O C—Officer commanding.
 O D—Olive drab; also ordnance datum; also officer of the day.
 O M—Order of merit, a military honor conferred for distinguished service.
 Old Man—Commanding officer on aboard ship; captain of a company in the army.
 O T C—Officers' training camp.
 Ox Cart—A heavy French shell that moves with moderate velocity.

P
 P (Signal)—Affirmative.
 Pattes—French term for shoulder knots.
 Pavillon—Large sirens in groups, for giving warning of approaching air raid on Paris.
 Pencil—Small flag or stretcher carried at top of lance.
 Pen Pusher—In navy, a yeoman ship writer; in army a field clerk.
 Permissionaire—A soldier on leave of absence.
 P G—Prisonnier de guerre, prisoner of war.
 Pierce—To pierce an enemy's line is to enter it. The word is synonymous with penetrate. The difference in the application is in regard to the military units employed; a company would penetrate it.
 Pigeon Light—A small gasoline torch.
 Pill Box—A German concrete and steel outpost shelter armed with machine or anti-tank guns.
 Pills—Slang for apothecary aboard ship.
 Plouplou—French slang for infantry soldier; formerly used instead of poilu.
 Pipe down—Keep quiet.
 P M—Provost marshal.
 Popotier (French)—One who looks after the popote or mess.
 Poste de Secours—Dressing station near the front.

Q
 Q M—Quartermaster.
 Q M G—Quartermaster general.
 Q M O R C—Quartermaster of officers' reserve corps.
 Quirk—Pupil learning to fly.
 Qui va la or Qui Vive—French challenge of sentry or patrol: "Who goes there?"

R
 Rail Head—Point on railroad behind line just out of ordinary range of cannon, for transferring ammunition, supplies and men to the front.
 Repos—Period of rest behind the front.
 Rosalie (slang)—Bayonet.
 R O T C—Reserve officers' training corps.
 Runner—A courier.
 Sausisse (sausage)—A French observation balloon, so called from its shape.
 Sapper—An engineer who tunnels or trenches toward the enemy's position.
 Sejour—French term signifying a halting day in a march.
 Slat Susie—A German high explosive shell "not heard till it bursts."
 Shave-tail (U S army)—A second lieutenant.
 Shock Troops—Troops specially selected for assaults.
 Show (United States and British army slang)—Any engagement, battle or skirmish.
 Slops—In the navy, coffee.
 Smoke box (navy)—A perforated box filled with chemicals which, thrown onboard, gives off a dense smoke intended to hide the ship.
 Spad—A French make of small, speedy airplane much used in scouting and patrol duty.
 Spars—Electrician or wireless man aboard ship.

T
 Tag—An identification disk worn by soldiers; der tag (German)—"The day"—on which the Kaiser started more than he can finish.
 Taking a hop—Slang for a trip in the air.
 Tin hat—Helmet.
 Tommy Wacs (sometimes waacs)—Members of the Woman's auxiliary army corps, an English organization of women working behind the lines.
 Top Sergeant—First sergeant of a company, troop or battery.
 Trajectory—The curve described by a projectile in flight.

V
 Volplaning—Gliding; the gradual descent of an airplane without engine running.
 Vrilie—In aviation, a spinning nose dive.

W
 Whippet—A light tank.
 Winjammer—In army, a bugler; in the navy, a sailing vessel.

Z
 Zoom—(aviation, especially British)—To climb speedily after level flight.
 His Sphere of Travel Limited.
 Roy's mother is teaching him to stay in front of his own doorstep, and it is evident, from the following incident, that she has succeeded. Roy has a policeman's suit, and one day while parading in front of his home, clad in this uniform, a woman came along, to whom he said: "Miss Lady, if you see any naughty children, send them down here. I didn't go so far."

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