To the Graduate Council:

I am submitting herewith a thesis written by Jonathan Evan Lighter entitled "A Glossary of U.S. Army and Marine Corps Slang of the First World War." I recommend that it be accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts, with a major in English.

John H. Fisher, Major Professor

We have read this thesis
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A GLOSSARY OF U.S. ARMY AND MARINE CORPS SLANG OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

A Thesis

Presented for the

Master of Arts

Degree

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Jonathan Evan Lighter

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ABSTRACT

This study defines and discusses about five hundred slang expressions which were current in the United States Army and Marine Corps in France, Italy, and Northern Russia during the years 1917-1919. The lexicon was obtained by a careful examination of more than four hundred works of writers who were either veterans of the First World War or who were otherwise closely involved in various civilian capacities with United States forces. In order to give the material a wider linguistic significance, each entry includes a reference to the earliest discovered appearance of the expression in writing. Since only a small fraction of this slang has appeared in standard historical dictionaries, a great deal of ad hoc reading was required to unearth prewar citations. The list of references beginning on page 98 includes only those works actually cited in the glossary.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The following pages attempt to show at least one of the ways in which the First World War affected the American vocabulary. The lexicon to be discussed is the military slang which was current between 1917 and 1919 among the members of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF).

The AEF was America's first modern army and World War I the first time that great numbers of Americans were sent overseas. On November 11, 1918, nearly two million American soldiers and marines were on the continent of Europe--a figure which is probably greater than the population of the entire English-speaking world in 1066.[1] Of forty-two divisions sent to France in 1917 and 1918, twenty-nine saw actual combat. Had the war lasted another winter the number would have been much higher.[2] It has been claimed that two out of every three American soldiers in the AEF actually engaged in battle.[3] The AEF represented every one of the now fifty states, and drew its

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[1]Leonard P. Ayres, The War with Germany: A Statistical Summary (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1919), p. 13; Frederic William Maitland, Domesday Book and Beyond (New York: Norton, 1966), p. 437. Maitland estimated that the total English population in 1085 was 1,375,000.

[2]Ayres, p. 15. By November 1, 1918, the U.S. had roughly 4,800,000 men under arms; four million of these served in the Army.

[3]Ayres, p. 101.

manpower from every stratum of American society, every ethnic group, and virtually every occupation and profession that Americans engaged in.[4] It was not exactly a microcosm of the United States: except for nurses and civilian canteen workers, there were few American women overseas. The army was racially segregated: Negroes and Whites served in separate units. Though eleven Black regiments saw front-line combat, most Negro troops served in supply units.[5] To a much lesser extent, the AEF was divided regionally: divisions tended to be formed from individual states or clusters of states. The 26th Division, for example, consisted exclusively of the New England National Guard; the 82nd Division, to which Sgt. Alvin C. York belonged, was raised entirely from Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee. The 77th Division was recruited entirely from New York City and its environs. Since replacements were assigned wherever needed, the regional unity of all of these organizations inevitably lessened as the months passed.

Except for the eight regular army divisions, the AEF was manned in the greatest part by draftees and volunteers who had responded, not to the lure of military life, but to the clear call of patriotism. In an age when

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[4]Laurence Stallings, The Doughboys (New York: Popular Library, 1964), p. 223.

[5]Arthur E. Barbeau and Florence Henri, The Unknown Soldiers: Black American Troops in World War I (Philadelphia: Tempie Univ. Press, 1974), passim; Stallings, pp. 442-43.

there was no military-industrial complex, when all the major powers of the world still maintained mounted cavalry units, and when America's armed forces still retained all of their nineteenth-century glamour, the soldier, sailor, and marine were still conceived of in the heroic mold. The addition of the airplane to the inventory of man's lethal weapons provided civilians with a new kind of daredevil to idolize: the military aviator. Today we have come to be skeptical of the concept of "military glory," but in 1917 it was still a fixed star for many young men.[6] Unsullied by scandal, the services enjoyed a prestige which they will probably never have again. Less than twenty years had passed since story-book victories at San Juan Hill and Manila Bay, and when war was finally declared on April 2, 1917, hundreds of thousands of young Americans leaped at the chance to cast themselves in the role of hero and defender of democracy. Once enlisted, they began to copy the swagger and attitudes of the regular troopers who were their drillmasters. Proficiency with soldiers' language was as necessary to a recruit's sense of self-esteem as was proficiency on the rifle range. It was also more easily acquired.

Elsewhere I have merely catalogued the slang of

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[6]Charles V. Genthe, American War Narratives 1917-1918 (New York: David Lewis, 1969), pp. 1-22.

the AEF.[7] In the following pages I expand on the bare bones of dictionary entries and try to show what was behind the slang of the AEF and how that slang reflected the wit, persistence, growing cynicism, and ultimate triumph of the American soldier. The youngsters of 1918 are today old men. What were they saying in that long-ago war to end wars?

Discussion of individual glossary entries is followed by referral to the list of references which begins on page 98. Generally speaking, only a single source is given for each item. This source represents the earliest discovered appearance of the term in print. For example, "1918 Guttersen 19" indicates that the earliest known appearance of the item is to be found on page 19 of Guttersen's 1918 volume. For further information, including complete ad literam citations, the reader is referred to "The Slang of the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe, 1917-19," American Speech 47 (1972): 5-146.

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[7]Jonathan Lighter, "The Slang of the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe, 1917-19," AS 47 (1972): 5-146.

II. GLOSSARY

ace, n. Ironically used in the Air Service to mean a pilot or, more usually, a flying cadet who had accidentally crashed five or more U.S. or Allied aircraft. In its usual sense, ace was the colloquial term for an airman--pilot or observer--who had shot down at least five enemy aircraft. This sarcastic nuance is a comment on the frequency of such mishaps, especially in training. A crash was not usually a laughing matter. Lieut. John McGavock Grider noted that three U.S. Navy pilots were killed in one week while training in Sopwith Camels. All three had flown the steadier French Hanriot fighters in combat.[1] (1918 Guttersen 19).

Aches-and-Pains, n. Aix-Les-Bains (Savoie), a leave area in the French Alps for U.S. ground troops. Folk etymology in AEF seems to have run heavily to the satiric. Cf. Blooey, Cornhole, and St. Agony, below. These are just samples. Most such creations, of interest only to certain units, remained local. Aches-and-Pains, besides being better known than most, was an especially apt creation; Aix is noted for its thermal spas. (1919 R. W. Kauffman 351).

ack-ack, n. Antiaircraft artillery or its fire.

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[1]John McGavock Grider, Warbirds (New York: Doran, 1926), p. 87.

The British signallers' alphabet used the sound ack to distinguish the letter "A" in telephone communications, and ack-ack represented the abbreviation for "antiaircraft artillery." The U.S. Signal Corps arrived in France with its own communications alphabet, but for some reason ack-ack became the conversational term among Americans, who seem to have used the equivalent "Able Able" only on the telephone.[2] The existence of a variant, ackety-ack, sug gests the influence of onomotopeia: the voiceless velar stop appears from such inspiration in a word like clackety-clack. Aviators favored the name Archie for ack-ack. (1926 Boughton 211).

ack-emma, n. In the same way that ack stood for "A," emma stood for "M."[3] To airmen, especially those who had trained on British airfields, an ack-emma was an air mechanic or ground crewman. It also meant the A.M. or morning. (1918 Grider 164).

acting jack, n. Acting corporal, a private temporarily put in charge of other privates. The term is evidently modelled upon lance-jack, a lance-corporal, but

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[2]Albert F. Moe, "Phonetic Alphabet: Names of the Letters," Names 18 (1970): 270. The U.S. alphabet, standardized in 1916, ran Able, Boy, Cast, Dock, Easy, Fox, George, Have, Item, Jig, King, Love, Mike, Nan, Opal, Pup, Quack, Rush, Sail, Tare, Unit, Vice, Watch, X-ray, Yoke, Zed.

[3]Ibid.

the "jack" element in both expressions has not yet been explained. (1918 Catlin 279).

AEF, n. Besides its official interpretation, the abbreviation AEF also stood for "After England Failed" in some circles. In other circles it stood for "Ass End First"--the word snafu had not yet been invented. (1919 Piesbergen 21; 1964 Mason 66).

alley or allez, v. Go or hurry. One of relatively few borrowings from French that entered the everyday English vocabulary. Others include bokoo, Boche, finis or fineesh, camion, bon, compree, partee ("When did he partee?"), zig-zag, zig-zig, repos, and couchez-avec ("Wonder if she'll couchez-avec?"). Three beans, san fairy ann, and the tooter the sweeter took the Americanization process a little further. All of these terms, in fact, probably started out with the British and Dominion forces in 1914 and 1915. (1918 Swan 55).

ammo, n. Ammunition. For most doughboys this meant .30-caliber rifle shells, but in principle it could refer to anything up to and including the 1,400-pound projectiles fired by the German railroad artillery. (1911, in Tuchman 39).

ammunition, n. An occasional name for army beans, the hot dish of AEF field kitchens when they

weren't serving slum. Cf. bullets. Reason dictates that the shorter *ammo was used in this sense as well, but no confirmatory citations are available. (1928 McCartney s.v.).

Archie, humorously, Archibald, n. Antiaircraft artillery, antiaircraft fire, an antiaircraft gun, or even a member of an antiaircraft unit. Archie was nigh universally current throughout the English-speaking air forces, but the reason for this particular name is unclear. Fraser and Gibbons think it was inspired by a British music-hall song whose refrain ran, "Archibald, certainly not."[4] Possibly so, but the Americans picked up the word as well. It was also used as a transitive verb meaning to direct antiaircraft fire against (someone or something). (1915 OEDS s.v.; 1925 Fraser & Gibbons 8).

arithmetic bug, n. A facetious and occasional name for the cootie or body louse because, as one marine wrote, "They added to our troubles, subtracted from our pleasures, divided our attention and multiplied like hell." (1920 W. A. Carter 34).

army game, the old, n. In addition to several civilian senses, this referred specifically to the game of passing the buck to others, especially if the others

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[4]Edward Fraser and John Gibbons, Soldier and Sailor Words and Phrases (London: Routledge, 1925), p. 8.

were of lesser rank. The rules were simple: "First, pass the buck; second, never give a sucker an even break."[5] (1919 Small 96).

artillery, n. Another name for beans which may be connected with their "explosive" effect on digestion (1917 Jan. 13 Editor 33).

artillery bull, n. A regular-army expression for failure to hit any part of the target on a rifle range; in other words, "an artillery bullseye." It also designated the red flag that was waved to indicate such a failure. (1921 May 13 Sentinel 14).

ashcan, n. Heavy artillery shell or a bomb dropped from an airplane. (1918 Sep. 6 Minder; 1919 Law unp.).

Aussie, n. & adj. Australian. The 107th U.S. Infantry, New York National Guard, without orders virtually merged itself with Australian troops during the attack on the Saint-Quentin Tunnel, September 28-29, 1918.[6] (1918 OEDS s.v.).

A.W.O. Loose, adj. Absent without leave, A.W.O.L. The letters "A.W.O.L." were generally pronounced individually,

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[5]Theodore Fredenburgh, Soldiers March! (New York: Harcourt, 1930), p. 60.

[6]Stallings, The Doughboys, p. 309.

rather than as an acronym. Yet as early as 1918 some speakers were already saying /eyw 1/: "'Awol," replied the stable sergeant darkly."[7] One official acronym that was well-known in France was ANZAC, which could refer colloquially to any Australian or New Zealander. (1919 Sep. 5 Am. Leg. Wkly. 27).

axle grease, n. Butter or margarine. (1883 Peck 222).

back-door furlough, n. One taken figuratively by the back door, an absence without leave. (1927 May Am. Leg. Mo. 62).

balloonatic, n. Usually, a member of a balloon company, especially the observer dangled in the gondola of a kite balloon. Observation balloons were important but dangerous targets for fighter pilots, for they were difficult to ignite and were invariably protected by ack-ack. Hence the Air Service sense, a pilot given to strafing balloons. There were 35 balloon companies in the AEF by the end of the war. At full strength, each had 170 officers and men plus two hydrogen balloons.[8] Lieut.

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[7]Saturday Evening Post, Aug. 24, 1918, p. 33. Numerous examples of this solid, lower-case spelling appear in AEF writing, but this is one of the few that is specifically in dialogue.

[8]James J. Hudson, Hostile Skies: A Combat History of the American Air Service in World War I (Syracuse Univ. Press, 1968), pp. 43, 45.

Frank Luke, 27th Aero Squadron, the war's ace balloon-strafer, shot down in three weeks of combat a confirmed eighteen German balloons before he was finally killed on September 29, 1918.[9] (1874 Rudge & Raven 6; 1918 Jun. Atlantic 825).

balloon hound, n. A balloonatic. As a suffix, hound merely meant fellow or person, though it often carried the connotation of "enthusiast." One could generate any number of compounds employing this term. Cf., for example, chowhound and gas hound. (1918 Beston 194).

barracks bag, n. A heavy artillery shell or an aerial bomb. A well-packed barracks bag, tied at the end, bore a rough shape-resemblance to a big shell. (1919 Kelly 80; 1919 Hubbell 132).

barracks flyer or barracks pilot, n. A flyer's sarcastic term for one who spent much of his spare time recounting exploits in the air, or, even more sarcastically, an officer who never flew at all. (1918 Blodgett 140).

barracks flying, n. Exaggerated talk about aviation. (1918 Crowe 85).

basket case, n. A widespread rumor arose during the war that Allied hospitals housed an unknown number of

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[9]Ibid., p. 282.

quadruple amputees--men so badly wounded that all of their limbs had to be surgically removed. Supposedly these patients had to be transported in baskets, hence basket case. In 1919 the Surgeon General of the U.S. Army had to issue an official denial that such men actually existed. Whether or not they did is somewhat beside the point: in the popular mind they were quite real. On the eve of World War II, Dalton Trumbo employed this image in his novelistic tour-de-force, Johnny Got His Gun.[10]

battle of Paris; battle of Tours, etc. The supposedly non-stop debauchery that went on among American servicemen and French mademoiselles behind the lines in Paris and a hundred other French cities. At least one anonymous song was written about it: "Oh, that battle of Paree, / It's making a bum out of me. / Toujours la femme, et combien, / You never knew a place that so short of men. / Bokoo rum, bokoo fun, / Mother'd never know her lovin' son. / Oh, if you want to see that Statue of Libertee, / Keep away from that battle of Paree!"[11] (1918 May 11 Lit. Digest 70).

belly-puncher, n. Medical corpsman. (1926 Nason Top Kick 144).

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[10]Dalton Trumbo, Johnny Got His Gun (Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1939).

[11]Frank Shay, Drawn from the Wood (New York: Macauley, 1929), p. 62.

belly-robber or belly-burglar, n. Literally, one who does not dispense enough food; hence, the mess sergeant or the cook. Belly-robber was a term current in all branches of the armed forces. (1914 DN 150; 1919 Warren 34).

benzine, vt. To remove (an officer) from command, or dismiss (a cadet) from training. See next. (1920 Jan. 30 Am. Leg. Wkly. 6).

benzine board, n. An efficiency board appointed to rule on the competence of officers to retain command. The benzine board of the AEF sat at Blois (Loire-et-Cher), which soon became known as Blooey. Lesser boards in the U.S. ruled on the proficiency of officer cadets. Benzine, of course, is noted for its spot-removing properties. The expression seems to have arisen about 1870 to refer to the Army boards appointed in 1869 to reduce the number of officers commissioned or promoted during the Civil War. (1882 King Colonel's Daughter 81; 1920 Jan. 30 Am. Leg. Wkly. 6).

Bevo boy, Bevo officer, etc. A newly appointed and incompetent officer, regardless of rank. Washington was said to be filled with these characters. The term also applied to new second lieutenants. Bevo was a soft drink which made its appearance during the war. (1918 Guttersen 23).

Big Bertha, n. A name which the British translated from German and which Americans picked up from the British. Frau Bertha Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach was the propriettress of the Krupp Works in Essen, which manufactured the biggest German guns. Any big German gun or its projectile was referred to as a Bertha, and on occasion similar Allied weapons as well. Two types of German ordnance especially were called Big Bertha: the 420-mm. railroad artillery with its 1,400-lb. shell, and the special long-range weapons which bombarded Paris in 1918; these were 210-mm. guns that could throw a 2,750-lb. high explosive shell nearly 75 miles.[12] Busy Bertha was an occasional variant. (1914 OEDS s.v.; 1917 Bernheim 71).

big boy, n. Heavy weapon of any kind, or a big bomb or she-1. (1917 Bryan 64).

big ones, make little ones out of, v. phr. Crush rock, dig ditches, etc., especially as a prisoner under guard. Originally a convict's expression. (1915 Howard 189).

Bill, canned Bill, canned Billy, corned Bill, tinned Bill, n. Corned beef hash, usually canned, a standard armed forces' ration in World War I. It's strange enough that it should have been called Bill, but it was

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[12]William Dooly, Jr., Great Weapons of World War I (New York: Bonanza, 1970), pp. 46, 63.

called Willy as well. One of the most widespread AEF terms. (1909 Feb. Man-O'-Warsman 221).

bird, n. An airplane or an aviator. (1918 Clark 155; 1918 Janis 64).

birdman, n. Aviator, airman. The usual AEF slang for a flyer and widely used in the civilian press. Curiously, civilians seem to have regarded this as a rather poetic word, while in the service it had distinctly ironic overtones. (1909 OEDS s.v.).

bivvy, n. A bivouac, hence a dugout or shelter used for temporary protection against shellfire. (1916 OEDS s.v.).

black maria, n. A heavy German artillery shell exploding with black smoke. The British used this term more than did the Americans, though most doughboys were probably familiar with the civilian sense, "police patrol wagon." Like the paddy-wagon, the German shell came to whisk one away. (1914 OEDS s.v.; 1931 Dos Passos 307).

Blighty, n. England, hence a lucky wound that would get a man sent there or, for that matter, to any safe hospital. (1916 OEDS s.v.).

Blimey, n. An Englishman. Taken from the well-known Cockney oath, "Bli' me!" and influenced by the much

more common Limey, an Englishman. (1918 Jul. 6 Lit. Digest 62).

blimp, n. A small, non-rigid or semi-rigid dirigible balloon; loosely, a kite balloon also. Blimps were used primarily by the Navy for offshore patrols. The word started as slang, but became, in its restricted sense, virtually standard English by war's end. (1916 OEDS s.v.).

blind, n. Old army slang for a fine or forfeiture of pay imposed by court-martial. Why this should have been called a blind is uncertain, but the word dates back to at least 1870. (1888 McConnell 197).

blind gaskets, n. Hotcakes. (1919 Warren 34).

Blooey, n. Blois (Loire-et-Cher), seat of the army's benzine board and reclassification camp. To go blooey was a common expression meaning to fall apart, blow up, etc. Hence this bit of folk etymology. (1920 Jan. 30 Am. Leg. Wkly. 6).

Blooey or Blue, vt. Order to Blooey for reassignment or retirement; transfer (an enlisted man) as an undesirable. (1920 Jan. 30 Am. Leg. Wkly. 6; 1930 AS 383).

boat, n. Airplane. Cf. standard ship in same sense. (1918 Feb. 8 Stars & Stripes 8).

bobtail, n. A dishonorable discharge or a discharge without honor. In the nineteenth century the only difference between an honorable and a dishonorable discharge was that the latter had the lines cut off which were to be filled in with the commander's estimate of the soldier's character. This practice had ended by 1917 but the word continued in use for many years. As a verb, bobtail meant "to discharge with a bobtail." (1878 Mulford 38; 1906 M'Govern Larry 34).

Boche, n. & adj. German. Taken from the French and British. (1914 OEDS s.v.).

body-snatcher, n. Stretcher-bearer, hence ambulance corpsman. Later on the term was applied to the members of the Graves Registration section of the Quartermaster Corps. (1918 Feb. 8 Stars & Stripes 6).

boiler, n. Heavy artillery shell. (1918 Sep. 7 Lit. Digest 55).

bokoo, bookoo, buckoo, etc. Plenty of; big or important; very; very much. French beaucoup, put to English use. (1918 Nov. 9 Saturday Evening Post 90).

Bolo, n. Bolshevik partisan or partisans. In 1918 the Allies sent a small force to Northern Russia to try to keep the port of Archangel from falling into Bolshevik hands. (1919 Jul. 11 Am. Leg. Wkly. 6).

boot, n. Raw recruit, especially in the naval services. Loosely, an oafish serviceman. No satisfactory explanation for this term has appeared. (1911 Jul. Fleet Review 32).

boot camp, n. Basic training camp. Since the Navy trained its sailors on shipboard and since the Army preferred the word rookie to boot, boot camp probably originated as a Marine Corps expression. Quantico and Paris (later Parris) Island were the sites of the two major U.S.M.C. boot camps which sent recruits to Europe (1916 Marines Mag. 30).

bounce off, v. To kill or to die. Not a common term. (1916 Hall & Niles 149).

bowleg or bowlegs, n. Cavalryman or other mounted trooper. (1907 Moss 243).

Boy Scout, n. Soft, untrained, or unprofessional soldier. This epithet was partially inspired by the broad-brimmed campaign hat worn by the Army and Marines before the introduction of the brimless overseas cap. A Boy Scout outfit was a unit which seemed to spend most of its time engaged in petty details rather than completing its primary combat or support role. (1918 Cobb xiii; 1918 Straub 164).

brain squad, n. Intelligence and liaison section. (1926 Nason Chevrons 119).

brain trust, n. The General Staff or senior officers. Like the preceding, a sarcastic term. The first American general staff was established by Elihu Root in 1901. (1918 Aug. 3 Saturday Evening Post 7).

brass, n. Commissioned officers, especially of high rank. Although use of this word can be cited from as far back as the Civil War, it was evidently not common in the AEF; in fact, no citations contemporary with the First World War are available, though an AEF veteran told me in 1971 that colonels and generals were indeed referred to as "the top brass" more than fifty years ago. (1864, in Allan 59).

brass hat, n. A commissioned officer, especially of high rank. Originally a British term, used especially of staff officers, whose hats were liberally trimmed with gold lace. In the U.S. army it could refer to even a second lieutenant, as long as he had a commission. (1893 OEDS s.v.).

brassneck, n. A commissioned officer of high rank, brass hat. (1926 Aug. Am. Leg. Mo. 16).

brig, n. Guardhouse or post prison. Occasionally, a brigade commander or brigadier general. Brigadiers

customarily commanded divisions; colonels commanded regiments and brigades. (1899 Bowe 173; 1899 King Philippines 12).

brig, v. Brigging was an old term for loafing or feigning work, though exactly why is unclear. As a transitive verb, to brig meant to lock up in the brig, and it was said that all M.P.'s were Mormons, since their motto was allegedly, "Brig 'em young!"[13] (1901 Sep. Our Naval Apprentice 14; 1920 Aug. 20 Am. Leg. Wkly. 13).

broomstick, n. The control stick of an airplane. (1917 Hall & Nordhoff 2: 21).

buck, n. Common private soldier or buck private, a term common to both the Army and Marine Corps. (1900 Remington 32).

buck private, n. Ordinary private soldier. The grade of First-Class Private (later Private First-Class) occurred in the artillery and some other branches of the Army but not in the infantry or Marine Corps. The next step above private in the doughboys was corporal; in the leathernecks, lance-corporal.

buck sergeant, n. An occasional name, modelled on buck private, for the ordinary sergeant with three

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[13] American Legion Weekly, Aug. 20, 1920, p. 13.

stripes. Higher-ranking N.C.O.'s could look down on the three-striper as being little better than a buck private. (1917 Hunt 142).

buckshee, adj. Ultimately from Hindi, but some Americans picked this term up from the British, among whom it meant extra or free of charge. (1919 Sep. 5 Am. Leg. Wkly. 11).

bug, n. Small (two-man) Renault tank. (1918 Baldridge unp.).

bughouse, n. Delousing station. Everybody was thoroughly deloused before being allowed to sail back to the U.S.A. (1920 McKenna 380).

bull or bull meat, n. Corned beef, also known as horse or mule. (1895 Remington 157).

bullets or Boston bullets, n. Beans. (1914 DN 150; 1917 Jan. 13 Editor 33).

bullpen, n. Prison stockade. (1809 Mathews s.v.).

bull ring, n. In mounted units--in France, primarily field artillery--a drill corral. Elsewhere in the AEF and among the British, an advanced combat training ground. (1862 in Rowell 38; 1917 Eddy 45).

bump or bump off, v. Civilian slang, possibly of criminal origin, meaning to kill or, somewhat less

frequently, to die. To bump somebody off was the Americans' favorite way of saying to kill someone. (1907 Oct. Lippincott's Mag. 501; 1914 Jackson & Hellyer 21).

bumps, n. A bugle call consisting of two short notes sounded five minutes before the actual mess call. (1927 Thomason Red Pants 186).

bunk-crusher or bunk lizard, n. Someone spending too much time sleeping or lying on his bunk. Lizard was a common suffix of the period used in combination to denote a loafer of one sort or another. Lounge lizard was probably the best known of these combinations, though not of military origin. (1919 Law unp.; 1918 Ruggles 27).

bunker plate, n. In the Navy and Marines, any large foreign copper coin. (1917 Morse 9).

bunk fatigue or bunk police, n. Sleep or lying around on one's bunk. Fatigue or police duty were the two kinds that any soldier experienced the most. (1907 Oct. Army & Navy Life 419; 1928 Nason Eadie 130).

bunkie, n. Strange as it may seem, Army regulations until the 1870's required two private soldiers to each bunk in garrison. Hence bunkie, which by the turn of the century had generalized in meaning from "bunkmate" to "tentmate" and "chum." Though by no means extinct during World War I, the civilian buddy had generally supplanted

it. (1858 Mathews s.v.; 1919 Kelly 3).

bus, n. The flyer's name for an airplane, even if it carried only one man. (1910 OEDS s.v.).

buscar, vt. To forage or search, or to find by hunting around. Anglicized from Spanish buscar, "seek or look for." (1906 Oct. Army & Navy Life 98).

bust, vt. To reduce in grade or rank, break. As a noun, a reduction in grade or rank. (1878 Flipper 51; 1918 Griffin 46).

buster, n. Big artillery shell. (1930 Strickland 137).

butcher cart, n. Ambulance. (1926 Nov. Saturday Evening Post 13).

butcher shop, n. A hospital or surgical operating room. (1928 McCartney 283).

butt, n. A fractional amount of time left to be served on a man's enlistment, i.e. a few months, weeks, or days. "He's still got a year and a butt," or "I still got two months and a butt." A regular's term, dating from the Civil War.[14] (1888 McConnell 120).

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[14]See 1888 quote given by Mitford M. Mathews, A Dictionary of Americanisms (Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 1951), s.v.

butterfly, n. A flying shell fragment. (1919 McKenna Btty. A 35).

buy it or buy one, v. Be wounded, especially fatally; be killed. Though common since World War II, some Americans picked this expression up from the British in the earlier conflict. (1920 OEDS s.v.).

buzzard, n. An attacking aircraft, especially to ground troops. In the Air Service, an occasional name for a flyer. The American eagle insignia, hence a regular-army name for an honorable discharge paper which, in the nineteenth century, was engraved with the eagle. (1925 Thomason Fix Bayonets! 124; 1918 Hart 119; 1894 U.S. Naval Academy 66; 1888 McConnell 120).

calling card, n. A shell or, especially, an aerial bomb. (1919 Whittemore 62).

camel-driver, n. In the Air Service, a pilot who flew or enjoyed flying the Sopwith Camel. The Camel was a British airplane, so named by the Sopwith company because of its distinctive humped fairing over the nose guns. It was tricky for an inexperienced pilot to fly since the whole engine spun around, rather than just the propeller, and the gyroscopic forces produced made certain maneuvers extremely dangerous.[15] (1927 Niles 75).

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[15]Hudson, Hostile Skies, p. 202.

canary, n. Mule, often specified as an Indiana or Missouri canary. Thousands of mules were used by the AEF to pull rolling kitchens and water carts and to pack machine guns and some light artillery pieces across country. (1918 Feb. 8 Stars & Stripes 7).

canteen lizard, n. Frequenter or employee of a rear-area canteen. There was no U.S.O. during World War I, but civilian organizations such as the Y.M.C.A., Salvation Army, and Knights of Columbus operated huts where off-duty servicemen could relax, drink hot coffee, and meet American girls. Since they had to be located in areas of real or relative safety, the canteens' most frequent customers were rear-echelon personnel whom most combat troops regarded as goldbricks and slackers. (1918 Amerine 79).

Carnegie derby, n. The steel trench helmet, first issued to U.S. forces in 1916, just before America's entry into the war. The allusion was to the steel industrialist, Andrew Carnegie. (1919 Amerine 79).

carpet, n. The ground, low altitude near ground level. An airman's expression taken from the British. (1918 Grider 258).

Charlie, n. An occasional nickname for the chaplain, a pun on the name of the famous comedian. (1917 Lord 24).

chase prisoners, v. phr. To guard prisoners, especially while at labor. The sentry who did the guarding was called a chaser. (1917 Morse 13; 1927 Stevens 62).

chauffeur, n. The pilot of a two-place airplane. (1920 Haslett 124).

chemise lizard, n. Louse, cootie. Not a common term. (1936 Aug. Our Army 31).

cherch, vt. Find, obtain for oneself, scrounge. French chercher. (1918 Swan 23).

chew one's ass out or off; chew one's balls off, v. phr. Scold vociferously, rebuke angrily, bawl out. This is what sergeants usually did to enlisted men, but a chewing-out could come from anybody of higher position. (1922 Lawrence 130; 1929 Longstreet 280).

chicken, n. The American eagle insignia, especially as the mark of a full colonel. Also, a very young recruit. (1925 Fraser & Gibbons s.v.; 1918 Ruggles 33).

chicken colonel, n. Full colonel. Apparently not as common a term in the AEF as it has become since. (1922 Mar. 24 Am. Leg. Wkly. 7).

chicken guts or chicken gizzards, n. Narrow gold lace, gold braid. A literal translation of aiguillettes. (1882 Watkins 216; 1918 Griffin 38).

Chinese ace, n. Humorously, a pilot noted for his Chinese landings. (1928 Pop. Sci. Mo. 72).

Chinese landing, n. An airplane landing made with "one wing low," a phrase which to some ears sounded like a Chinese name ("Wun Wing Lo"). A clumsy or disastrous landing. (1918 Yank Talk 26).

chow, n. Food, rations; mess, mealtime. Hence chow-line, chow call, chow hall, etc. Before this word became common in the armed forces at the turn of the century, the slang equivalents were grub and chuck, both of which were also heard in the AEF. (1856 Mathews s.v.; 1898 Nov. 26 American Soldier 1).

chow, v. To eat. (1906 M'Govern Bolo 110).

chow gun, n. One of many slang nicknames for the rolling field kitchen that brought hot meals up to the front. The kitchen was likened to an artillery piece because it was a two-wheeled contraption attached to a caisson-like vehicle which in its turn was drawn by a pair of mules. (1926 Oct. 23 Saturday Evening Post 134).

chowhound, n. A big eater, especially one who made it a habit of being at the head of the mess-line. (1917 Oct. Marines Mag. 15).

chow-slinger, n. An occasional term for a cook. (1917 Bernheim 67).

Christ was a corporal, since, adv. phr. For as long as anybody can remember, for too long. This phrase is still current. One is tempted to compare it in inspiration to Shakespeare's "since Noah was a sailor." During World War II the R.A.F. used the phrase "since Pontius was a pilot and Nero was his navigator." (1921 Dos Passos 75).

cigar coupon, n. A paper franc or a piece of French municipal currency. (1919 Mabry 59).

circus, n. Basically, any military organization either engaged in hit-and-run attacks or moved from place to place in support. Short for travelling circus or flying circus. The latter was especially applied to combined fighter and bomber squadrons of the German air force which ranged over a wide area of the front. The most famous of these, of course, was that commanded by Baron Manfred von Richtofen, the top-scoring air ace of the war. After Richtofen's death, his unit, Jagdgeschwader I, fell to the command of Hermann Goering. The top American ace, Edward V. Rickenbacker, titled his 1919 memoirs Fighting the Flying Circus, using the phrase somewhat loosely to refer to the entire German air force. A secondary but contributing reason for the widespread use of flying circus among aviators was the especially dazzling profusion of colors that Germans employed in camouflaging their combat aircraft. (1917 OEDS s.v.; 1919 U.S. Arty. Btty. A 101st 93).

cit, n. A civilian. Less common than civvy. (1883 Oct. Mil. & Nav. Mag. 85).

cits, n. pl. Civilian clothing. Common military slang in the nineteenth century, but less frequent than the synonymous civvies during World War I. (1829 Mathews s.v.).

civvies, n. pl. Civilian clothing. (1889 OEDS s.v.).

civvy, n. Civilian. (1915 OEDS s.v.).

clacker, n. Large foreign copper coin of little value, such as Philippine centavo, British penny, or French copper centime. This is evidently an Anglicization of the Mexican Spanish claco, formerly a large copper coin worth three centavos. (1899 Gatewood 277).

click (for), vt. Get or be given unexpectedly. To click it meant to suffer in general or to be killed in particular. These were primarily British terms and were not terribly common in the AEF. (1917 OEDS s.v.; 1917 Empey 151).

climb, vt. Scold vociferously, crawl. Like several synonyms for "bawl out," this one equates a scolding with physical violence. Cf. chew out, jump on, bite one's head off, etc., in current speech. (1918 Griffin 34).

cloud-creasing, n. The firing of artillery. Rare. (1919 Murrin 193).

Clown Prince; Clown Quince; Crown Quince, n. Ridiculous nicknames for William, Crown Prince of Germany, the eldest son of Kaiser Wilhelm. The Crown Prince commanded an army group on the Western front and was at least nominally in charge of operations against Verdun. (1918 Jan. 26 Wadsworth Gas Attack 11; 1918 Jul. 6 Lit. Digest 62; 1918 Oct. 1 Sherwood 52; 1920 Sep. 24 Am. Leg. Wkly. 10).

club, n. An occasional name for the twin-bladed airplane propeller. (1918 Roberts 337).

coal, n. Bombs or shells exploding with black smoke. (1918 Adler 44).

coalbox or coal barge, n. A heavy artillery shell exploding with black smoke, especially the German 5.9-cm. projectile. (1917 Empey 23; 1919 Kelly 116).

cock and balls or horsecock, n. Derisive names for an observation kite balloon, more politely known as a sausage. The phallic appearance of these balloons is evident in many photographs. (1933 Chapman 180; 1971 AEF veteran, interview).

coffee cooler, n. Loafer, skulker, or shirker, hence someone who occupies a position of relative or

absolute safety. Coffee cooling or cooling coffee meant loafing. These were nineteenth-century expressions whose currency during World War I was limited largely to career officers and veteran noncoms. (1862, in Civil War Times Illus. Apr. 1969, 39; 1925 Nason Top Kick 74).

cognacked, adj. Drunk from cognac. American English commonly takes names for liquor and turns them into adjectives. Cf. boozed, ginned, liquored, juiced, Millered, etc. (1919 Lindner 121).

cold meat or cold turkey, n. A helpless or unprotected target, especially for aviators; easy pickings. (1918 Grider 206; 1937 Parsons 184).

commo, n. Especially used attributively, communications. A commo trench was the means by which troops entered at left the front lines: of necessity, they were often five miles long. A communications officer was also called the commo. (1925 Fraser & Gibbons s.v.; 1922 Thompson 161).

conchy or conshy, n. A conscientious objector, slangily called a C.O. Enthusiasm for the war was so great in the U.S. that objectors were regarded as either cowards or virtual traitors. (1917 OEDS s.v.).

confetti, n. An occasional name for ammunition. (1923 Platt 324).

conk (out), v. Of an engine, to stop suddenly, break down. Of a person, to collapse or die. Used transitively, it meant to hit (as with a bullet), hence to wound or kill. (1918 Grider 88; 1918 Roberts 334; 1929 Thomas 28).

cooler, n. Guardhouse or post prison. (1898 Kerlin 37).

coot or cootie, n. Louse; humorously, an upstart or parasitical person. Owing to the filth of the trenches, front-line outfits were usually swarming with cooties, which provided an object of exasperation and a subject for humor. There was at least one parody of the popular song, "They Go Wild Over Me," written about the bugs:

> They run wild, simply wild, over me,
> They go mad, just as mad as can be,
> One just ran right up my back,
> Right into my haversack,
> These cooties are beauties,
> On me they're getting fat.
> Every night how they fight over me,
> They climb all up and down my pedigree.
> On my shirt they all right dress,
> Form in line and march to mess,
> They go wild, simply wild, over me.[16]

cootie bill, n. A municipal paper franc or half-franc valid only in the city of issue. (1930 AS 383).

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[16]Robert Valverde, C Battery Book, 306th Field Artillery (New York: Brainworth & Co.), p. 105.

cootie drill, n. The searching of one's clothes for lice. (1920 Riggs & Platt 7).

cootie factory; cootie mill; cootie plant, n. Delousing station. (1919 D. York Co. A 145; 1919 W. Duffy 301; 1920 Mozley 40; 1918 Acker 141).

cootie hatcher or cootie incubator, n. An oven-like machine designed to delouse clothing by subjecting it to a thorough steaming. These were usually mounted on trucks. Rumor had it that the steaming merely hastened the hatching of the eggs and so contributed to the steady supply of vermin.

Cornhole, Le, n. Le Corneau (Gironde), the U.S. artillery replacement depot. To cornhole is slang for "to pedicate." (1928 Nason Eadie 345).

cosmoline, adj. Belonging to heavy or coast artillery. Cosmoline is a trademark for petrolatum, which was used in the greasing of heavy guns against rust. Perhaps a more familiar trademark for the same material is Vaseline. (1925 Nason Top Kick 15).

cot jockey, n. Bunk lizard. (1919 Harris 48).

crate; egg crate, orange crate, n. Affectionate or derisive terms for an airplane, especially if old or poorly constructed. (1918 Hall & Niles 290; 1972 USAAS veteran, letter).

crawl; crawl one's frame; crawl one's hump, vt. To scold angrily. (1878 Flipper 66; 1918 "Commander" 100; 1928 Nason Eadie 47).

creampuff, n. Burst of white smoke from an exploding shell, e.g. an antiaircraft shell. (1918 Feb. 8 Stars & Stripes 8).

crock, n. A dilapidated old vehicle, especially an airplane. (1903 OEDS s.v.; 1940 Hartney 257).

croix de Chair, n. A mythical decoration awarded to administrative personnel, especially officers, whose duties confined them to the desk rather than the cockpit or front-line dugout. One stanza of the most famous AEF song goes:

> Oh, the C.O. wants the Croix de Guerre
> For sitting around in an office chair,
> Hinky, dinky, parley-voo.[17]

(1920 Haslett 99).

Croix de Goof; Croix de Gink, n. The Croix de Guerre, especially as considered a mock decoration for stupidity. An even more famous stanza of the song quoted above:

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[17]Melbert B. Carey, Jr., "Mademoiselle from Armentieres," JAFL 47 (1934): 375.

The General got the Croix de Guerre,
The son of a bitch wasn't even there.
Hinky, dinky, parley-voo.[18]

(1920 Sep. 24 Am. Leg. Wkly. 27; 1931 Ottosen 64).

cruise, n. The usual Marine Corps slang for an enlistment or a spell of time generally, corresponding to the Army's hitch. (1918 Sep. 28 Lit. Digest 45).

cruit or cruity, n. Recruit. Not common during World War I. (1847 Downey 136).

crump, n. German heavy artillery shell, especially on impact. Primarily a British term. (1914 OEDS s.v.).

cuckoo, n. Cootie. (1818 Swan 81).

cunt cap, n. The overseas cap first issued to Americans in 1918. Overseas it replaced the well-known wide-brimmed campaign hat and was never very popular with its wearers. (1948 Partridge, Granville & Roberts 51; 1971 AEF veteran, interview).

cushy, adj. Easy, comfortable, soft, usually in reference to a job or detail. (1915 OEDS s.v.).

Daily News, n. The latest rumors. (1928 McCartney s.v.).

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[18]Stallings, p. 327.

dandruff, galloping or hopping or leaping, n. Lice, especially head lice. Cf. synonymous galloping freckles. (1920 Riggs & Platt 63; 1922 Oct. 27 Am. Leg. Wkly. 31; 1918 Rowse 53).

Dead Man's Corner or Curve or Gulch, n. Names given locally to areas under fairly constant bombardment. Cf. Death Valley, Hell's Half Acre, Suicide Point. (1863 De Forest 117; 1918 Janis 74; 1921 Burton 67).

death house, n. Chemical warfare training center, where troops were exposed to small amounts of poison gas. (1919 Haterius 30).

Death Valley, n. A name designating the site of particularly heavy local fighting. (1918 Straub 19).

deck, hit the, v. phr. To fall or be knocked to the ground, floor, etc.; to throw oneself to the ground or floor for protection; to spring to one's feet, as when jumping out of bed; to get right to work. Of naval origin, all of these senses were common to the U.S. Marines. (1918 Kauffman Navy 199; 1925 Thomason Fix Bayonets! 121; 1917 Oct. Marines Mag. 23; 1924 Anderson & Stallings 91).

deep-sea turkey, n. Ration-issue salmon, better known as goldfish. (1923 McKnight 55).

desk hooks, n. pl. Spurs. Ground officers in officers in the Air Service were supposed to wear spurs for

some obscure reason, but it was probably not just to keep their feet from sliding off the desk as this term suggests. (1928 McCartney s.v.).

detail, n. Responsibility. Suggested by the standard military sense. (1924 Anderson & Stallings 83).

detail, ball up or jazz up or mess up the, v. phr. To spoil things, ruin everything. (1919 Fox 45; 1932 Halyburton & Goll 206; 1919 Emmett 268).

didonk, n. An occasional synonym for Frog, Frenchman. French, dis donc, "say!" (1918 May 25 Lit. Digest 48).

dirt, n. Bombs. (1918 Jul. 21 N.Y. Times 3).

divvy, n. A Division. At full strength it consisted of 1,000 officers and 27,000 men.[19] (1918 Mar. Natl. Geographic 300).

dobe-wall, vt. To execute by firing squad. Since adobe walls are more common in the Southwest than in France, this must have been a regular's expression. Ten official executions for murder or rape, or both, took place in the AEF, but each criminal was hanged in these

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[19]Ayres, War With Germany, p. 25.

cases.[20] No executions by firing squad took place in the American army in France. (1928 Dobie 70; 1932 Halyburton & Goll 21).

dog biscuit, n. Hardtack. (1917 Imbrie 215).

doggie, n. Orderly, dog-robber. (1919 Wilkins 22).

doghouse, n. Shelter tent. (1899 Elmendorf 38).

dog-rob or rob dog, v. Act as dog-robber or perform menial tasks (for a superior). (1878 Mulford 45).

dog-robber, n. An often contemptuous term for an officer's orderly or "striker," as he was more formally called. According to an 1888 account,

> Every officer in the army has (or had twenty years ago) one or more of the enlisted men hanging around his quarters . . . who fall heir to his cast off clothing, drink his whiskey, run errands for his wife . . . attend his horses, and . . . gobble up all the "crumbs" of whatever kind that "fall from his table"; hence the very expressive term dog-robber.[21]

Loosely, anyone involved in rear-echelon duty. (1868 Feb. Harper's Mag. 300; 1862 Galwey 66).

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[20] Stallings, p. 413.

[21] H. H. McConnell, Five Years a Cavalryman (Jacksboro, Tex.: J. N. Rogers & Co., 1889), p. 107.

dog-tag, n. Metal identification tag worn on a chain about the neck. Dog-tags were first issued in the U.S. Army in 1908. (1918 Morse 68).

dog tent, n. Shelter tent, pup tent. (1862 Andrus 25).

dope off, n. To go to sleep as if doped, hence to be inattentive to one's duty. (1910 Aug. Our Navy 32).

dope sheet, n. Data sheet or informational notice. In horse-racing, a dope sheet lists entries of horses and their records so that bettors may choose at least a little more wisely. (1918 May 10 Stars & Stripes 3).

dough, n. Short for doughboy, infantryman. (1909 Brown 144).

doughboy, n. Infantry soldier, especially an enlisted man. The word apparently arose during the Mexican War (1846-48) but the exact reason for its application is somewhat obscure. One possible etymology, not previously suggested, is that is a metaphor from the nautical sense of doughboy, "baker."[22] Bakers at work are often covered with flour; dust-covered infantrymen might have presented a somewhat similar appearance, especially if the dust was white adobe--a word which is often said to have given rise

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[22]Herman Melville, Moby-Dick (New York: Harper, 1966), p. 112.

to doughboy entirely on its own. Within the Army itself, a doughboy was almost always an infantryman. In the press and elsewhere it was applied indiscriminately to any soldier, often including the marines in the AEF. (ca. 1859 Chamberlain 63; 1918 Apr. 19 Stars & Stripes 4).

doughboy drill, n. Close-order drill in non-infantry units, often abbreviated to plain doughboy. To doughboy a battery was to drill the troops as infantry. (1911 U.S. Military Academy 202; 1918 Jul. 3 Straub).

dovetail, n. A pun on shavetail, this meant a soldier who had completed officers' training but had not yet received his commission. This state of affairs became most pronounced immediately after the Armistice. (1919 Jan. 2 Ellington 45).

D.P., n. Humorously, a daisy-pusher, i.e. a dead man, one who had gone to push daisies. (1920 Skillman 165).

dud, n. An unexploded shell or bomb; a worthless person or thing; a failure; a dunce. (1897 OEDS s.v.).

Dude, n. A German. The only recorded appearance of this term quotes Pvt. Henry Johnson, 369th Infantry (Colored), the first American soldier to be awarded the Croix de Guerre. (1918 Sep. 7 Lit. Digest 50).

dugout hound; dugout ducker; dugout king, n. Individuals, especially officers, who clung to the relative safety of deep dugouts while others had to remain under fire, were known by these less-than-flattering appellations. (1920 U.S. Arty. Hicoxy's Army 47; 1922 Jan. 20 Am. Leg. Wkly. 23; 1928 Nason Eadie 295).

duty-dodger, n. Loafer, shirker. (1919 Small 64).

duty-struck, adj. Intent on the strict performance of one's duty, especially as a means of self-aggrandizement. (1923 Dec. 14 Am. Leg. Wkly. 11).

eagle screams or walks, when the, adv. phr. When pay is disbursed, on payday. One variant of the phrase was influenced by the civilian when the ghost walks, which meant the same thing. (1918 Ruggles 83; 1929 Thomas 25).

eat one's liver out, v. phr. Scold one mercilessly. This looks like a euphemism for the synonymous eat one's ass out, which has been widely current in the armed forces for at least thirty-five years. (1927 Stevens 116).

echelon hound or echelon king, n. Holder of a soft job in the rear echelon. (1922 Oct. Pirate Piece 3; 1922 Jordan 35).

egg, n. Aerial bomb; artillery shell; hand grenade. Bombing planes laid eggs. (1917 Imbrie 115; 1918 Sherwood 46; 1919 Hinman 141).

eggbasket, n. A type of bomb mount for airplanes. (1918 Roberts 335).

egg wagon, n. Bombing plane. (1919 Amerine 303).

elephant, n. A ten-ton tractor used for hauling heavy artillery. (1920 Cutler 121).

elephant gun or elephant rifle, n. A German antitank rifle introduced about June, 1918, which fired an armor-piercing bullet and resembled an elephant-hunter's rifle in size. (1818 Jul. 28 U.S. Tank Corps 141).

express, n. Heavy artillery shell in flight, shelling by heavy artillery. Big shells in passage produced a sound which was frequently likened to that of a freight train. (1919 Kuhn 33).

fan, n. Airplane propeller. (1918 Hall & Nordhoff 2:184).

fed (up), adj. Totally disgusted, bored, or impatient. Now virtually standard English and known to everyone, this term seems to have entered American speech from England only during World War I. The shortened form fed was somehow more emphatic, but this form is not usually

heard these days. British forces--and presumably American as well--often elaborated it into fed up, fucked up, and far away from home. (1917 Empey 154; 1900 OEDS s.v.).

fireworks, n. Gunfire, bombardment; ammunition. (1917 Empey 155; 1919 Emmett 219).

flag-wagger or flag-waver, n. Signalman. (1920 Bissell 54; 1928 McCartney s.v.).

Flaming Coffin or Flaming Hearse, n. Flyers' nicknames for the De Havilland D.H. 4 bomber. This British airplane, known as the "Liberty" in its American version, was notorious for its susceptibility to incendiary bullets. In addition, the fuel tank itself was loaded amidships with what turned out to be inadequate bulkhead supports. A pilot who might have walked away from the crash landing of another model was likely to be crushed when inertia propelled the tank into the forward cockpit. (1919 Rickenbacker 267; 1929 Niles, Moore & Wallgren 173).

flaming feathers or flying feathers, n. pl. Incendiary bullets. (1918 Hart 106, 145).

Flaming Four, n. The D.H. or Flaming Coffin. (1918, in Dolph 114).

flaming onion, n. A type of German incendiary antiaircraft shell. (1918 Hart 147).

flannel buzzard, n. An occasional synonym for cootie, at least in its literal sense. (1918 Mar. 22 Stars & Stripes 8).

flatfoot, n. An old term for "sailor," evidently in reference to the bluejacket's habit of going barefoot on deck in tropical climes. (1854 Swell Life at Sea 211 1918 Ruggles 60).

flat spin, in a, adj. phr. In trouble, especially mental; muddled or confused. In flight jargon, a flat spin is one in which an airplane's longitudinal axis is inclined less than 45°. (1919 Downing 25).

flipper, n. Elevating rudder of an airplane. (1918 Mayers unp.).

Flying Bathtub, n. The twin-engined Caudron G-4, a slow-moving observation plane of French manufacture. (1937 Parsons 96).

flying bedstead, n. In the Air Service, a training plane. Elsewhere, an ambulance. (1918 Crowe 76; 1918 McNutt 195).

flying boxcar, n. Any clumsy multi-engined aircraft. (1918 Hall & Niles 290).

flying chicken coop, n. An aircraft such as the Caudron G-2 with a large number of struts and a maze

of bracing wire. (1937 Parsons 95).

flying coffin, n. A dangerous or dilapidated airplane, especially the D.H. 4. (1918, in Paine First Yale 2:219).

flying devil, n. A type of German mortar projectile with short wings to stabilize its flight. (1928 Wharton 299).

flying fishhook, n. A kind of German incendiary antiaircraft projectile designed to hook onto the wings or wires of an attacking aircraft. (1918 Roberts 336).

flying pig, n. Any of various trench mortar projectiles, applied more or less indiscriminately to various items of ordnance on either side of the front line. (1917 Dec. Inf. Jrnl. 461).

Flying Razor, n. The Fokker D-VIII, a monoplane fighter introduced by the Germans in the summer of 1918. (1933 Stewart 65).

fogey, n. A 10 per cent increase in the pay of an officer or N.C.O. for each five years of service. (1891 Kirkland 348).

Fokker fodder, n. Combat replacement airmen. The Fokker series of fighter planes was considered the

finest of the war. (1929 Nordhoff & Hall 252).

footslogger, n. Foot soldier, infantryman. (1894 OEDS s.v.).

forty-and-eight, n. French boxcar used to transport troops. The cars were for the use of forty men or eight horses, not both simultaneously as one popular AEF gag had it. (1920 McKenna 315th Inf. 300).

foxhole, n. A hole dug or employed for the protection of one or several soldiers from enemy fire. (1918 Rendinell 123).

francine; franker; frankie, n. Humorous term for the French franc. (1918 Aug. 17 Lit. Digest 59; 1919 Hawke 110; 1919 Kelly 55).

freight, n. A heavy artillery shell in passage. Short for freight car or freight train. (1918 Sherwood 172).

Fritz or Fritzie, n. & adj. German; also German forces collectively. (1917 Depew 159).

Frog or Froggy, n. The universal term among English-speaking troops for a French person or the French language. (1771, in AS 23: 216; 1936 Reilly 159).

frog-eater, n. French person. (1812, in AS 23: 214.

Frogland, n. France. (1919 Ashton 75).

frog-sticker, n. A bayonet. From the civilian sense, "a large knike." (1918 Crowe 92).

front and center, vi. Come forward. A special application of the standard military sense. (1918 Rowse 25).

fruit salad, n. Cold meat. There seems to be no AEF evidence for the common World War II sense, "campaign ribbons." (1918 May Atlantic 691).

funkhole, n. A British term for a shelter dug for protection against shrapnel, especially in the wall of a trench; dugout; foxhole. Here, funk = "fear." (1900 OEDS; 1918 Jan. 19 Saturday Evening Post 62).

galloping freckles, n. An occasional humorous synonym for "lice." (1922 Jul. 7 Am. Leg. Wkly. 31).

galloping goose, n. An airplane with clumsy take-off and landing characteristics. (1918 Crowe 90).

galvanized derby, n. Trench helmet. (1928 McCartney s.v.).

gas bag, n. Balloon, blimp. (1874 Rudge & Raven title).

gas barrage, n. Loquacity, windy talk. (1919 Downing 10; 1928 Nason Top Kick 208).

gas hound, n. Gas sentry, a man detailed to sound the alarm when a gas shell struck nearby. (1919 Mozley 51).

gas house, n. Chemical warfare training center. (1918 Feb. 6 Bugler 2).

gat, n. Pistol, in military use usually the M1911 Colt .45 service pistol issued to officers and some N.C.O.'s. Less precisely, any firearm whatsoever, from a rifle to a howitzer. (1904 Life in Sing Sing 248).

get it or get one's, v. phr. Be wounded, especially fatally; be killed. Common terms in the AEF. (1844 Porter 131; 1910 OEDS s.v.).

G.I., adj. As a technical abbreviation, not slang, "government issue" or, frequently, "galvanized iron." The latter seems to be the original sense and probably dates from before the turn of the century.[23] During or before 1917 the "government issue came to

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[23]James A. Moss, Officers' Manual, 2d Ed. (West Point, N.Y.: The Post Exchange, 1907), p. 166, notes the inventory abbreviation, "6 buckets, G.I." The first edition of Moss's manual--a standard reference in its day--appeared in 1906.

mean "property of, belonging to, or characteristic of, the U.S. Army." One could then speak of a G.I. ambulance, a G.I. gun, a G.I. nurse, or a G.I. soldier. By simple ellipsis, the last expression generated the predominant modern sense, "soldier or enlisted man." Though no contemporary evidence is available to prove that the noun G.I. was so used in the AEF, there is little reason to doubt such an assertion. At the same time, it must have been quite rare and primarily a nonce-term. Moreover, it would not be obviously separate from similar nonce uses, e.g., "We gotta cut out the French horses from the G.I.'s." Cf. the following entry. (1918 U.S. Army Ambulance Co. 33 unp.; 1926 May 1 Saturday Evening Post 18).

G.I., n. Short for G.I. can, both literally and figuratively. (1919 Cober 38).

G.I. can, n. Technically, a galvanized iron can, used for carrying garbage, water, etc. As slang, a common term for a heavy artillery shell or aerial bomb. (1918 Rendinell 161).

gob, n. The nearly universal AEF word for "sailor." The reason for its application is uncertain, unless it is short for the synonymous gobshite, of equally uncertain origin. There is an obvious connection with the British gobbie, "coast-guardsman." (1910 Jan. Our Navy 19).

goldbars, n. Second lieutenant. The gold bar indicating the rank of second lieutenant was added to the uniform in 1916. Before that, shavetails wore no distinctive insignia. (1921 Jan. 28 Am. Leg. Wkly. 17).

goldbrick, n. In civilian slang, something worthless that has been palmed off as being of good quality, a lemon. Hence, an incompetent officer having only minimal experience. Much more commonly, a loafer or malingerer, also applied to someone with a soft job. Goldbricker was a synonym in the latter two senses. (1914 Mathews s.v.; 1918 Casey 168; 1919 Witt 161).

goldbrick, v. Malinger; loaf; shirk duty. Also used transitively, e.g., "He's goldbrickin' the detail," he's loafing on the job. Ultimately from the civilian sense, "swindle, con." (1918 Casey 123).

goldfish, n. The universal slang term for canned salmon, a common military ration since before the Spanish-American War. (1899 Mabey 92; 1918 O'Brien 13).

golf course, n. Metaphorically, ground that had been heavily cratered by bombs and shellfire. (1925 Dec. 25 Am. Leg. Wkly. 15).

googoo, n. Originally, a Filipino or other Pacific islander, later applied to any foreign native of dark complexion. The word seems to have originated in

1899 and conceivably refers to the then-popular "coon song," "Just Because She Made Dem Goo-Goo Eyes." Gook is short for this. (1899 Markey 120; 1921 U.S. Inf. In Italy 89).

goose or goosehouse, n. Occasional synonym for the guardhouse. Evidently by metathesis from hoosegow. (1974 AEF veteran, interview).

go-to-hell hat, n. Overseas cap. (1921 Benet 305).

grass-cutter, n. A wingless airplane fuselage used for ground training of flying cadets. In the infantry, an antipersonnel bomb, on occasion also called a daisy-clipper. (1918 Mar. Atlantic 555; 1925 Bullard 188).

grave, n. Galgenhumor for a foxhole. (1918 Murrin 191).

gravel agitator, n. Infantryman, foot soldier. (1898 Tisdale 277; 1919 Witt 159).

gravel crusher, n. Infantryman, foot soldier. (1918 Jones 170).

grayback, n. A German soldier, so called because of his Feldgrau uniform. Grayback is also an old word for "louse," and Union troops applied it to the Confederates in the Civil War. (1918, in Mason 36).

greaseball, n. Cook or K.P. A common AEF term. (1918 Sep. 20 Marine [Paris I.] 4).

ground flying, n. Discussion of aviation. (1919 Piesbergen 108).

groundhog, n. In the airman's lexicon, a non-aviator, especially a non-flying officer. (1918 Grider 135).

Groundhog Day, n. Humorously, Armistice Day, the day when everybody came out of their holes. (1919 Feb. 22 Lit. Digest 58).

grouse, vi. Complain, grumble. Evidently adopted from the British. (1887 OEDS s.v.; 1917 Dec. 15 Wadsworth Gas Attack 16).

guardhouse lawyer, n. Old military slang for a contentious enlisted man who habitually questions orders and dispenses unwanted advice, especially on military regulations. The term is still widely current. (1888 McConnell 197; 1918 O'Brien 59).

guinny football, n. A hand grenade. This is undoubtedly New York City slang of the pre-war period, referring originally to a homemade bomb. Even before 1910 the Mafia in New York was notorious for its bombing of small businesses, and guinny football is recorded only

from the 77th Division, raised almost entirely from New York City. (1919 F. P. Duffy 93).

gut-robber, n. Belly-robber. (1919 Piesbergen 51).

gyrene, n. A marine. Col. Albert F. Moe, U.S. M.C., Ret., discusses this word in detail in AS 37 (1962): 176-88, but comes to no conclusion about its origin. The British used the term as well. (1894 U.S. Nav. Acad. 68).

handshake, v. To suavely curry favor (with). A back-formation from the following entry. (1917 Lord 24).

handshaker, n. One who suavely curries favor with his superiors. A common AEF and civilian term. (1898 Crane 193).

hardware, n. Medals and decorations. Civilian slang for weapons. (1927 Ligget 268).

hardware store, n. An exploding German heavy artillery shell, so called from the shower of metal it produced. (1918 Cowing 223).

hashmark or hash stripe, n. A service stripe. Universal AEF terms. (1914 DN 150; 1919 Small 118).

hate, n. A German bombardment. Primarily a British term, in reference to the German war-poem, "The Hymn of Hate." (1918 Mar. 23 Saturday Evening Post 102).

haul ass, v. phr. To hurry up or hurry on one's way. Probably of civilian origin, but common in the armed forces of the World War I era as well as of today. Less emphatically, merely "to leave." (1918 Noyes 2).

Heinie, n. & adj. German; the German armed forces. From the proper name Heinrich. This and Jerry were probably the two most common AEF synonyms for "a German." (1904 Life in Sing Sing 249; 1918 Feb. 9 Saturday Evening Post 45).

Hell's Corner, n. An area under constant bombardment. (1919 F. P. Duffy 158).

Hell's Half Acre, n. An area of particularly bloody fighting. This nickname seems first to have been applied by an American army to the Round Forest near Murfreesboro, Tennessee, during the battle of December 31, 1862.[24] (1919 Shryer 19).

highball, n. A smart salute. In railroad lingo

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[24]Victor Hicken, Illinois in the Civil War (Urbana: Univ. of Illinois Press, 1966), p. 117.

a highball is a signal given to an engineer that the track is clear ahead and he need not slow down. (1918 Feb. 2 Wadsworth Gas Attack 22).

hill, go over the, v. phr. To desert; loosely, to go A.W.O.L. (1917 Judy 46).

hitch, n. Period of time, tour of duty, enlistment. A universal term in the Army, but much less common in the naval services where cruise took its place. One couplet from a well-known army poem of uncertain authorship claimed,

> But there's still one consolation, gather, comrades, while I tell:
> When we die we're bound for Heaven, for we've done our hitch in Hell.[25]

(ca. 1905, in Dolph 64).

ho hob, n. Hobnail shoe. (1918 Straub 87).

hobnail express, n. The motive power of one's own feet, "shank's mare." (1919 Thompson 109).

Holy Joe, n. Chaplain. (1874 Hotten s.v.; 1892 King Soldier's Secret 111).

honey-dipper, n. One detailed to police a latrine. In civilian slang a honey wagon is a manure wagon. (1972 AEF veteran letter).

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[25]John A. Lomax and Alan Lomax, American Ballads and Folk Songs (New York: Macmillan, 1934), p. 552.

horizontal fatigue, n. Sleep. (1930 Fredenburgh 279).

horse, n. Corned beef. Salt horse was the usual nineteenth-century expression for salt beef or pork, then the standard military and naval ration. (1835 Marryat 275; 1898 Markey 125).

hot, adj. Of a place, under heavy fire. (1887 Hinman 696; 1918 Casey 65).

hot cat, n. Chauchat automatic rifle. A bilingual pun on Chauchat and chaud chat. (1920 Bach & Hall 59).

hot dog, n. Observation balloon, sausage. R. Kauffman 151).

Hotel de Barbwire, n. Prison stockade. (1928 Nason Eadie 207).

how, n. Howitzer. (1920 Crowell 64).

huff, v. To die or kill. Rare in AEF. (1917 Imbrie 115; 1923 McKnight 57).

Hump, n. The Sopwith Camel fighter plane. Cf. civilian slang hump, "a Camel cigarette." (1919 Law unp.).

hump, go over the, v. phr. An occasional variation of go over the hill, "desert," based on civilian slang hump,

"a hill or mountain." (1933 Jun. Leatherneck 43).

Hungry Liz or Hungry Lizzie, n. An airfield ambulance, a name suggested by tin lizzie, a Ford. (1918 Bruno 48; 1919 Mar. 30 N.Y. Times Mag. 4).

Hunland, n. German-held territory. The use of Hun as an equivalent of "German" was virtually Standard English between 1914 and 1918 but was particularly common among flyers. Hunland was almost exclusively an aviator's term. (1917 Lee 10; 1918 Biddle 137).

ink or red ink, n. Red wine. (1917 Imbrie 115; 1918, in E. Wilson Prelude 192).

iodine brigade or iodine squad, n. Medical detachment. (1919 Ashton 29; 1919 W. M. Allen 336).

iodine-spiller, n. Medical corpsman. (1926 Nason Top Kick 144).

iron cigar, n. Heavy artillery shell. (1920 U.S. Arty. 306th 30).

iron derby, n. Steel helmet. (1920 U.S. Signal Corps 304th 27).

iron foundry, n. Heavy artillery shell. (1919 U.S. Arty. 307th 148).

iron horse, n. Tank. (1918 U.S. Tank Corps 210).

jackass battery, n. Machine gun company. Mules carried machine guns and ammunition for the AEF. (1919 Roosevelt 46).

Jack Johnson, n. Heavy German artillery shell, a reference to the World's Heavyweight Champion, 1908-1915. Johnson's nickname at the time was "The Big Smoke." The Australians may have first applied Johnson's name to German shells: he won the heavyweight title from Tommy Burns in Sydney, Australia, December 26, 1908. (1914 OEDS s.v.; 1917 Nov. Inf. Jrnl. 320).

jam pot, n. A type of German grenade, presumably the potato masher. (1920 Cole 2: 143).

jawbone, n. Credit, an old frontier word but common among regulars of all the services. As an adjective it often meant "of temporary grade, acting," e.g., a jawbone corporal or a jawbone mess sergeant. (1862 OEDS s.v.; 1921 Jan. 21 Sentinel 10).

jawbone, v. Buy on credit from, extend credit to, or obtain on credit. (ca. 1905 Mil. Order of Carabao 144; 1918 Aug. 4 N.Y. Times Mag. 10; 1921 Feb. 4 Sentinel 16).

jawbreakers, n. pl. Hardtack. (1923 McKnight 55).

Jenny, n. In the Air Service, the Curtiss JN-4 trainer. (1924 Dec. 10 Adventure 23).

Jerry, n. & adj. German, German forces. Occasionally, a German shell. (1918 O'Brien 38).

Jewish cavalry, n. The Quartermaster Corps, in charge of supplying uniforms among other things; Jews were commonly stereotyped as tailors. (1930 AS 384).

jigadier brindle, n. Facetiously, brigadier general. (1887 Hinman 581; 1920 Dec. 17 Am. Leg. Wkly. 11).

Jock, n. Scottish soldier or member of a Highland regiment. A term taken from the British. (1917 Burton 256; 1918 May 3 Stars & Stripes 8).

Joe or Joe Latrine or Joe Latrinsky, n. A personification of rumor or the source of rumors. "Who told you that? Joe Latrinsky?" (1918 Swan 35).

John, n. Raw recruit, new replacement; oafish enlisted man regardless of length of service. Possibly short for the nineteenth-century Johnny Raw, but cf. criminal slang John, "a sucker." (1917 Jan. 13 Editor 33).

John Doughboy or Johnny Doughboy, n. The enlisted American infantryman, equivalent to later G.I. Joe but not as widely used. (1918 Gibbons 245; 1921 Oct. 14 Am. Leg. Wkly. 7).

joystick, n. The control stick of an airplane. (1916 OEDS s.v.).

jug, n. Cooler. (1906 M'Govern Larry glossary s.v.).

kangaroo meat, n. An occasional term for canned beef. (1928 Scanlon 98).

kick, n. Dishonorable discharge. (1906 Beyer 85).

kiloflopper, n. Facetiously, a kilometer. The usual word for kilometer was kilo, less frequently kill. (1919 Kelly 57).

kite, n. Airplane. (1917 OEDS s.v.).

kiwi, n. A nonflying air officer. The New Zealanders can probably claim this term as their own, since the wingless, flightless kiwi bird lives only in New Zealand. Most aviators knew and used this word as the usual slang synonym for a ground officer. (1918 OEDS s.v.).

knock off, vt. Kill. To knock off something also meant to stop it or quit it, especially in the Navy and Marines. (1918 Bellamy 35; 1850 Melville White Jacket 316).

K.O., n. Commanding officer. (1889 King Marion's Faith 247; 1918 Jul. 13 Saturday Evening Post 90).

Kraut, n. & adj. German. Only slightly less common in the First World War than in the Second. (1841 Mercier 15; 1918 Griffin 34).

kraut-eater, n. German. (1919 U.S. Army Ambulance Co. 139 29).

Krauthead, n. German. (1928 Scanlon 4).

lance jack, n. Lance corporal. (1919 Downing 31).

latrine rumor, n. An unfounded rumor of the type usually circulated at an enlisted men's latrine; often shortened to merely latrine. (1918 W. O. Ross 3).

leatherneck, n. Marine. The usual military slang for a marine and probably of ultimately British origin. Col. Albert F. Moe discusses this term in Names 13 (1965): 225-257 and shows that assertions dating it in U.S. usage from before the turn of the century are not verifiable. (1890 OEDS s.v.; 1907 Dec. Army & Navy Life 744).

lieut, n. Lieutenant, a common spoken abbreviation. (1869 Custer 11).

lieut colonel, n. Lieutenant colonel. (1864 Armstrong 258; 1918 Dec. 27 Stars & Stripes 7).

lightning rod, n. Signal corpsman. (1917 Jan. 13 Editor 33).

Limey, n. British sailor or soldier, Englishman. The earlier Limejuicer was also heard. The British Merchant Shipping Act of 1844 officially required the use of lime juice as an anti-scorbutic on shipboard. (1917 Depew 18).

Limeyland, n. England, Great Britain. (1920 Norton 88).

long-haired buddy or long-haired bunkie, n. Girlfriend or mistress. (1928 Dec. Our Army 9; 1930 Fredenburgh 272).

long-timer, n. Serviceman with a relatively long period of time yet to serve before the expiration of his enlistment. Possibly more a technical term than slang. (1918 O'Reilly 168).

Long Tom, n. A 155-mm. rifle, the Saint-Chamond GPF. One of the most advanced artillery pieces of the war, the Long Tom was only slightly modified for service in World War II more than twenty years later. During the nineteenth century, the name Long Tom was often given to swivel-mounted naval deck guns. (1919 W. Duffy GPF 60).

louie, n. Lieutenant. (1916 Oct. 11 Rio Grande Rattler 5).

macaroni bar, n. The red, white and green campaign ribbon given for duty on the Italian front. The U.S. 332d Infantry served in Italy in 1918. (1921 Lettau 55).

mad minute, n. One minute of rapid fire designed to surprise an infiltrating enemy. (1917 Empey 84).

mail, n. Shellfire. (1919 Ellington 11).

mail-order, adj. Of officers, newly commissioned from an Officers' Training Camp, inexperienced and incompetent. (1924 T. Boyd Points 5).

Man, the, n. The commanding officer or officer in charge. (1918 Battey 302).

marching order, in heavy or light, adj. phr. Of a stew, covered with pie crust. (1918 Ruggles 127; 1918 Oct. 19 Lit. Digest 55).

Mark I, adj. First-class. From the practice of designating succeeding models of rifles and other weapons as Mark I, Mark II, etc. (1926 Nason Chevrons 120).

Mary Ann, all to the, adj. phr. Satisfactory, in order. Apparently altered from san fairy ann. (1929 Niles, Moore & Wallgren 40).

M.D.U.S.A., n. The official abbreviation for "Medical Department, United States Army," this was stenciled on all Medical Department blankets and grimly interpreted as "Many die, you shall also." (1920 Dec. Inf. Jrnl. 614).

meat, fresh, n. New recruits or replacements, new victims. (1925 Aug. 28 Am. Leg. Wkly. 15).

meat-grinder, the, n. The battlefront. (1967 Clarke 26).

meat wagon, n. Ambulance. (1925 Taber 189).

medic or medico, n. Medical corpsman or doctor. (1863, in Nov. 1965 Civil War Times Illus. 47; 1894 King Initial Experience 110).

merchant, n. In combination only, pilot or flyer, e.g., a "Camel merchant" or a "Spad merchant." Used especially by the British. (1917 Lee 7; 1919 Law unp.).

mermaid, iron, n. An occasional name for a Minenwerfer mortar projectile, more often called a Minnie. One thinks immediately of the popular song, "Minnie the Mermaid," as a possible origin, but, unfortunately for this theory, the song wasn't written until the 1920's. (1918 Adler 44).

mess hound, n. Chowhound. (1919 Harris 23).

messkit! I hope to spit in your or my, interj. phr. Absolutely, indeed; an asseveratory oath. This is still occasionally heard. (1926 Upson 11).

Mex, n. A regular's term for native currency, regardless of country of origin. (1898 Dec. 11 Am. Soldier 4).

mill, n. An old term for the guardhouse. Apparently unrelated are the senses, "airplane motor" and "delousing station." (ca. 1880, in Dolph 9; 1918 Sep. Atlantic 414; 1919 Feb. 15 Lit. Digest 106).

Minnie, n. A German Minenwerfer mortar or its projectile. The World War II descendant of the Minnie was the multibarreled Nebelwerfer, which U.S. troops called the Screaming Mimi. (1917 Empey 25).

Missouri hummingbird or Missouri nightingale, n. A mule. Cf. canary. (1918 Aug. 10 Stars & Stripes 3; 1928 McCartney s.v.).

mittglommer or mittwobbler, n. Punning synonyms for handshaker. Lily-presser was also occasionally heard. One who curried favor with those in authority was said to be mittglomming. (1917 Lord 24; 1919 Wilkins 47).

moccasin detail, n. Scouting detail. (1919 Ashton 93).

monkey or monkey meat, n. Canned Argentine beef purchased in lots from the French Army and supplied as a standard field ration for American troops. (1918 Aug. 31 Saturday Evening Post 34; 1918 Rendinell 86).

monkey cap or monkey hat, n. Overseas cap. (1919 Lovejoy 42).

monkey drill, n. Mounted drill in the cavalry and field artillery; calisthenics elsewhere. (1901 Oliver 18; 1895 Tisdale 19).

mop-up, n. Occasionally, a hand grenade. (1919 Emmett 106).

Mother Carey's Chickens, n. pl. U.S. Army Engineers under the command of Brig. Gen. Sandeman Carey. (1918 Apr. 19 Stars & Stripes 3).

Mournful Mary, n. A nickname often applied to an air raid siren. (1918 Grider 185).

mud-crusher or mud-cruncher, n. Infantryman. (1865, in Jrnl. of U.S. Cav. Assoc. Nov. 1888 10; 1928 McCartney s.v.).

mud-slogger, n. Footslogger. (1936 Reddan ix).

mud-splasher, n. Artilleryman. (1936 Mencken 573).

muffler, n. Gas mask. (1917 Imbrie 115).

mule, n. Canned corned beef, horse. (1899 Elderkin 168; 1919 Kelly 13).

mustang, n. An officer who received his commission directly from enlisted grade. (1910 May Everybody's Mag. 591).

nailkeg, n. Shrapnel shell. (1918 Mills 343).

napoo, adj. Done for, dead. This was primarily a British term, from the French Il n'y en a plus. (1915 OEDS s.v.; 1920 Jacobson 368).

native son, n. A prune. California is noted for its prune crop and Californians were often nicknamed "native sons." (1918 Gibbons 229).

newsboy, n. Airplane engaged in dropping propaganda leaflets. (1964 Aug. Esquire 111).

news office, n. The kitchen, a frequent source of rumors. (1917 Lord 24).

night bombing, n. In the Air Service, a humorous term for after-dark seduction. A seducer was a

night bomber. (1928 May Pop. Sci. Mo. 72; 1937 Codman 69).

ninety-day wonder, n. Sarcastically, a graduate of a ninety-day officers' training school, especially if newly commissioned. (1917 Lord 23).

Nobody's Land, n. No Man's Land. (1918 Lardner 69).

non-com, n. Noncommissioned officer. (1834 Apr. Mil. & Naval Mag. 122).

Northern Horrors, n. Loneliness or other forms of emotional strain brought on by service in Northern Russia. (1923 D. York Co. A 29).

numbers, by the, adv. phr. In precise military fashion, especially when precision is needless or absurd. (1918 Peat 93).

O.D., adj. The standard Army abbreviation for "olive drab," hence, of Army issue, typically or rigidly military. (1916 Jun. 9 Rio Grande Rattler 4; 1919 Kelly 11).

O.D., n. Army rations; also short for O.D. pill, a laxative pill routinely doled out to those reporting sick.

O.D. coffee or O.D. water, n. Unappetizing coffee. (1919 Piesbergen 72; 1919 Whittemore 33).

O.D. gravy, n. Brown gravy. (1919 Fletcher 148).

office, n. Airplane cockpit. (1918 Roberts 337).

old man, the, n. The commanding officer. (1830 Martin 263).

One-Eyed Riley, n. Humorously, an observation balloon. "One-Eyed Riley" is the villain of a still current bawdy song. (1919 Sirois 78).

one-pound wonder, n. 37-mm. gun. (1925 Dec. 25 Am. Leg. Wkly. 8).

onion, n. Flaming onion. (1918 Jan. 26 Wadsworth Gas Attack 26).

orders from the head, general, n. A latrine rumor. (1923 Boyd Wheat 58).

outside, the, n. Civilian life. (1898 Doubleday 243).

overseas chicken, n. Corned beef hash. (1920 Loomis 106).

padre, n. Chaplain. (1835 Marryat 308; 1917 Eddy 49).

P. and P. or piss and punk, n. Bread and water as a punishment diet. Punk was common prison and military slang for "bread." (1932 Halyburton & Goll 103; 1951 J. Wilson 204).

pants leg, n. In aviation, a wind indicator. (1918 Atlantic 692).

pants rabbit, n. Body louse. (1918 Jun. Natl. Geo. 499).

parade, n. Military operation or undertaking; concern or affair. King Vidor's 1925 motion picture about the AEF, The Big Parade, seems to be the earliest use of the term in regard to the whole war. (1918 Casey 180; 1924 Stallings & Anderson 116).

Parleyvoo, n. Frenchman, French woman. (1815 OED s.v.; 1925 Ranck 20).

parleyvoo, vi. Speak French. "We need somebody who can parleyvoo, otherwise the Frogs won't know what we're talkin' about." The expression appears mainly as a set of nonsense syllables in the refrain of the most famous AEF marching song, "Hinky Dinky Parley Voo," also known as "Mademoiselle from Armentieres." (1930 AS 385).

penguin, n. A nonflying airframe used for primary training of air cadets; occasionally, a nonflying officer or kiwi. Both senses allude to the penguin's inability to fly. (1916 McConnell 143; 1918 Jan. 26 Wadsworth Gas Attack 26).

pepperbox, n. An occasional term for a machine gun. (1918 Proctor 180).

permanent emplacement or permanent rest-camp, n. Cemetery. (1918 Casey 4; 1918, in Merrill 330; 1930 AS 385).

Pershing's Pets, n. The First Division, a sarcastic nickname applied by other AEF divisions. (1918 Sherwood 171).

physical jerks, n. Calisthenics. (1919 Barth 14).

physical torture, n. Calisthenics. Partly suggested by the initials P.T., the technical abbreviation for what was officially called "physical training." (1900 DN 48; 1918 Jan. 26 Wadsworth Gas Attack 17).

pick 'em up and put 'em down, v. phr. March, especially over a long distance. (1922 Colonna 20).

pig, n. Trench mortar projectile, flying pig. (1919 Mabry 76).

pigsticker, n. Bayonet. (1918 Swan 129).

pill, n. Artillery shell, aerial bomb, or hand grenade. (1626 OED s.v.; 1918 Paine First Yale 2: 159; 1919 Hamilton & Corbin 203).

pill battery or pill brigade, n. Medical detachment. (1919 Ashton 29; 1918 D. York 115).

pill-roller; pill-pusher; pill-shooter, n. Member of the medical corps. Pill-roller was probably the most frequently heard of these terms. (1917 Jan. 13 Editor 33; 1919 Warren 34; 1928 Nason Eadie 337).

pin, n. Lieutenant's bar. (1925 Nason Top Kick 116).

pinch, vt. Capture, take prisoner. A development of the civilian sense, "to arrest." (1917 Empey 158).

pineapple, n. A German mortar bomb or rifle grenade equipped with a "stem" which gave it a pineapple-like appearance. Also, a Mills or similar fragmentation grenade with a serrated body, shaped somewhat like the body of a small pineapple. Among aviators, a pom-pom shell. (1919 Sanborn 213; 1919 Ellington 113; 1918 Hall & Niles 332).

pipsqueak, n. A small German shell of less than 75 mm.; a small German trench gun. (1917 Empey 165; 1918 O'Brien 46).

plank-owner, n. A sailor or marine who had served aboard a vessel since her commissioning or who was a veteran of long service with a particular unit.

Occasionally, one with an easy assignment, one who had "nailed down a soft plank," i.e., a soft job. (1901 Aug. Our Naval Apprentice 14; 1920 Apr. Our Navy 11).

plaster, vt. Bombard, shell heavily, flatten. (1918 Aug. 9 Stars & Stripes 3).

pogey bait, n. Especially in the naval services, candy, sweets. The origin of this term is not clear. (1918 Ruggles 113).

poison gas, n. Humorously, the latest latrine rumor. (1919 Emmett 113).

Polar Bear, n. A member of the American North Russian Expeditionary Force, dispatched to Archangel in 1918. (1931 D. York 183).

potato masher or spud masher, n. The most commonly encountered German hand grenade, having a cylindrical head and a long throwing handle which made it resemble a kitchen-style potato masher. (1918 O'Brien 185; 1930 Barkley 237).

propho, n. Prophylaxis for venereal disease. Propho kits were supplied to the AEF on the insistence of Pershing's chief Medical Officer, Maj. Hugh Hampton Young. (1919 Lincoln 37; 1925 Dos Passos Manhattan 281).

pull rank, v. phr. To take advantage of one's superior rank in order to exact cooperation or obedience. (1923 Feb. 23 Am. Leg. Wkly. 18).

pull-through, n. Fourragere. (1919 F. P. Duffy 123).

pump handle, n. Snappy salute, highball. (1892 Cox 82; 1928 McCartney s.v.).

pup tent, n. Shelter tent. (1863 Mathews s.v.).

push-and-pull, n. Sighting and aiming drill. (1918 Nov. 10 Miller unp.; 1920 Jan. Inf. Jrnl. 527).

putt, n. Puttee. (1918 Feb. 15 Stars & Stripes 6).

Q Company or Q Battery, n. The guardhouse or prisoners therein. Q Battery applied to artillery units, Q Company applied to others. The forms Company Q and Battery Q were also used. (ca. 1859 Chamberlain 64; 1918 Feb. 2 Wadsworth Gas Attack 26).

Quick Dick, n. A rapidfire artillery piece or its projectile. (1918 Aug. 31 Saturday Evening Post 34).

rabbit, n. Pants rabbit, louse. (1926 Upson 13).

raggedy-ass, adj. Youthful, inexperienced, green. (1918, in Niles, Moore & Wallgren 182).

rain-in-the-face (cap), n. The brimless overseas cap. (1918 Baldridge unp.).

rank out, vt. To deprive (someone of lesser rank) by virtue of one's superior position. (1872 Mathews s.v.; 1933 Nason Trumpets 13).

rankest, adj. Highest in rank or seniority. (1926 Mar. 6 Saturday Evening Post 154).

ration spoiler, n. Cook. (1917 Jan. 13 Editor 33).

read one's shirt or read the news, v. phr. To examine one's clothing for the presence of cooties. (1917 Depew 264; 1918 Jun. Natl. Geo. 499).

recco or recon, n. Reconnaissance. Air Service words. (1917 Lee 19; 1918 Roberts 337).

red eye, n. Ketchup. The usual civilian sense, "whiskey," apparently provided the basis for the pun. (1923 McKnight 56).

red lead, n. Ketchup. (1918 R. Kauffman 6).

redleg, n. Artilleryman. During the later nineteenth century, artillery officers and N.C.O.'s wore a red stripe down the outer seams of their trousers. Cf. yellow-leg. (1900 Revere 164).

Red Mike, n. Canned salmon. (1906 M'Govern Larry glossary s.v.).

re-up, vi. Re-enlist, especially upon the expiration of a previous enlistment. (1906 M'Govern Larry glossary s.v.; 1927 Stevens 263).

rook or rookie, n. Recruit or replacement, John. (1893, in Farmer & Henley s.v.; 1905 Mar. Bluejacket 190).

rooster, n. Eagle insignia. (1919 Jan. 11 Lit. Digest 50).

roughneck, n. Mule packer. (1916 Sep. 13 Rio Grande Rattler 1).

route-steppy, adj. Slack, slipshod. Route step is the technical term for an out-of-step manner of performing a route march. (1930 AS 384).

rowl, vt. Reprimand, crawl. (1928 Nason Eadie 280).

Rumpty, n. A nickname for the Farman primary trainer. (1917 Lee 103; 1918 Roberts 338).

ruptured duck, n. A damaged airplane. (1929 Longstreet 291).

Russki, n. & adj. Russian. (1919 Aug. 22 Am. Leg. Wkly. 22).

Russkiland, n. Russia. (1920 Mar. 12 Am. Leg. Wkly. 5).

Sal, n. A French Salmson aircraft. (1918, in Dolph 114).

salty, adj. In the naval services, tough, hardbitten, high-spirited, bold, or aggressive in the manner of a true sailor or marine. (1918, in D. York Mud & Stars 40).

salvage, vt. To obtain by dubious means, swipe, appropriate, scrounge. As a noun, that which has been obtained in this manner. Widely used AEF terms. (1918 Feb. 8 Stars & Stripes 2).

salve, n. Butter or margarine. (1919 Feb. 8 Lit. Digest 90).

Sam Browne, n. Commissioned officer. The Sam Browne belt, a British item of dress, was added to the U.S. Army and Marine Corps officer's uniform in 1917. (1919 Sep. 5 Am. Leg. Wkly. 27).

sand rat, n. A soldier detailed to operate or score targets in the rifle range pits. (1907 Moss 244; 1930 Waldron 122).

San fairy ann. It makes no difference. French, ca ne fait rien. (1921 Apr. 8 Am. Leg. Wkly. 14).

sauce, n. Gasoline, fuel. Air Service. (1919 Rickenbacker 1).

Sauerkraut, n. German. (1841 Mercier 250; 1940 Raine & Niblor motion picture).

sauerkraut-eater, n. German. (1918 Cowing 217).

sausage, n. An observation kite balloon, especially if German. Occasionally, a German soldier or civilian. (1916 OED s.v.; 1928 Dolph 186).

scoff, v. To eat. As a noun, "food." Old nautical and vagabond term, but common in the AEF. (1847 Downey 233; 1879 OED s.v.).

scrounge, vt. Obtain, appropriate, find by foraging. Common among the British but much less so among the Americans. (1917 Lee 172; 1923 McKnight 67).

scuttlebutt, n. Gossip, unfounded rumor of the type likely to be heard around a ship's scuttlebutt or drinking fountain. In the first war more often used attributively, e.g., scuttlebutt yarn or scuttlebutt rumor. Cf. identical development of the Army's latrine rumor into merely latrine. (1901 Jul. Smoking Lamp 55; 1918 R. Kauffman 198).

seabag, n. The Marines' equivalent of the Army's barracks bag, a heavy artillery shell. (1918 Cowing 250).

sea gull, n. Chicken. (1918 Ruggles 22; 1919 Wilkins 12).

sea lawyer, n. An argumentative sailor or marine, especially one claiming detailed knowledge of regulations. Cf. the soldier's guardhouse lawyer which is apparently based upon this term. (1835 Marryat 71).

seam rat or seam squirrel, n. Body louse, pants rabbit. (1919 W. M. Allen 265; 1899 Skinner 129).

Sears Roebuck, adj. Of an officer, newly appointed, especially as a graduate of a ninety-day officers' training school; incompetent. Cf. synonymous mail-order. (1917 Lord 23).

Send her down, Davy! Let it rain on! An exclamation which expressed the hope that a heavy rain would cancel a drill or formation. "Davy" conceivably refers to Davy Jones, the spirit of the sea and ocean storms. (1925 Fraser & Gibbons s.v.; 1928 Nason Eadie 321).

serenade, n. A concentrated artillery bombardment, especially if occurring regularly around dusk. (1919 Camp 302).

sewer carp, n. Goldfish. Not a very general term. (1919 Morse 244).

sergeant-major coffee, n. Hot coffee with cream and sugar. (1923 Boyd Wheat 131).

shanghai, vt. Transfer to another unit or assignment, especially if unwilling. (1919 Hawke 110).

shavetail, n. A mule not yet broken to the harness. This word arose from the practice of mule skinners to shave the tails of new unbroken mules for easy identification. Hence, a newly commissioned officer, a second lieutenant. The phrase shavetail general was occasionally used to designate a newly commissioned brigadier general. (1846 Mathews s.v.; 1891 Bourke 153; 1930 AS 385).

shavey, n. Second lieutenant, shavetail. (1898 Parker 23; 1919 W. C. Duffy 98).

shell-shock, n. One who acts as if shell-shocked, blockhead. (1920 Weaver 73).

shell-shocked, adj. Crazy, silly, foolish. (1926 Nason Chevrons 214).

ship over, vi. In the naval services, to re-enlist. As a noun, a re-enlisted man. (1898 Tisdale 259, 278).

shirt hound; shirt rabbit; shirt rat; shirt squirrel, n. More synonyms for body louse or cootie. (1918 Mar. 22 Stars & Stripes 8; U.S. Arty. 307th 31;

1918 Rowse 53; 1918 R. Kauffman 5).

shirt hunt, n. The picking of lice from one's clothing. (1917 Empey 19).

shoot, up for a; shot, up for a, adj. phr. In the naval services, on report and facing captain's mast. Shoot or shot, as used here, means nothing more than a "chance" or a "try" at escaping punishment. Down for a shoot or down for a chance were variants. (1918 Ruggles 52; 1924 Boyd Points 228).

short-arm or short-arm inspection, n. Medical examination of the genitals for symptoms of venereal disease. (1919 O'Brien 307; 1919 Downing 44).

short-timer, n. A serviceman nearing the end of his enlistment. Like long-timer, this is on the borderline between slang and jargon. (1897 Dec. 30 Bounding Billow 49; 1918 O'Reilly 88).

sho-sho or shoo-shoo, n. Common AEF slang for the French Chauchat automatic rifle. (1918 Oct. 26 Casey 256; 1927 Liggett 25).

Shovel, Order of the, n. Death and burial as a mock reward for service in combat. (1930 Nason Corporal 240).

show, n. Military operation, battle, attack. (1916 Burton 213; 1918 Janis 57).

showdown or showdown inspection, n. A surprise inspection of the soldier's entire pack and equipment. (1920 Crawford 4).

shrap, n. Shrapnel. (1918 Hamilton & Corbin 125).

shrapnel, n. Grape-Nuts cereal; also, and probably more often, beans. (1923 McKnight 55; 1919 Whittemore 70).

sick, lame and lazy, n. The men reporting for sick call. (1907 Kohr 27; 1918 Rendinell 54).

side-door Pullman, n. Freight car, forty-and-eight. Common AEF slang. (1907 London 17).

silver plate, interj. Humorously, s'il vous plait, please. (1918 Yank Talk 4).

skin one's arm or skin one's sleeve, v. phr. Break (a noncommissioned officer) to the grade of private, thus taking the chevrons from his sleeve. (1926 Oct. 23 Saturday Evening Post 129).

skip or skipper, n. Commanding officer, C.O., usually applied to a company or battery commander. (1921 Jan. 28 Am. Leg. Wkly. 7; 1906 M'Govern Larry glossary s.v.).

skirt duty, n. Socializing with young women. (1925 Stallings motion picture).

skunk gas, n. A type of foul-smelling but non-poisonous war gas, evidently used for its psychological effect. (1919 Langer 21).

sky-jazzer, n. Aviator. (1918 Jun. 8 Saturday Evening Post 3).

sky pilot, n. Chaplain. (1895 Tisdale 64).

sleeping dictionary, n. A local girl willing to share sexual intimacies, humorously regarded as the best teacher of a foreign language. This expression seems to have arisen in the Far West during the nineteenth century. (1928 Wharton 21).

slum, n. The universal military slang for meat and vegetable stew, short for slumgullion. (1847 Mathews s.v.; 1918 Apr. 5 Stars & Stripes 4).

slum-burner, n. Cook. (1930 Aug. Our Army 33).

slum gun or slum cannon, n. Rolling field kitchen. (1917 Batchelder 90; 1926 Nason Chevrons 116).

smear, n. Jam. (1918 Janis 39).

snail-eater, n. French person, Frog. (1933 Dec. Leatherneck 9).

snatch team, n. Salvage detail. (1929 Coles 2: 185).

snowbird, n. A regular army term for a tramp or similar character who would enlist before the onset of cold weather with the intention of getting food and shelter during the winter and then deserting in the springtime. (1905 Mathews s.v.; 1918 Nov. 23 Saturday Evening Post 11).

soap coupon or soap ticket or soap wrapper, n. A piece of ornate foreign paper currency. (1919 Dec. 3 Morse 9; 1919 Piesbergen 15; 1920 U.S. Arty. Hicoxy 22).

S.O.L., adj. "Shit out of luck," without a chance of success, done for. A universal AEF expression which often appeared in print in several euphemistic disguises, e.g., "surely out of luck" or "soldier out of luck." (1917 Lord 24; 1920 Skillman 167).

son of a bitch position, n. In combat aviation, the tail-end position in a formation and the one most likely to be attacked. (1933 Stewart 91).

Sop, n. A Sopwith aircraft. (1918, in Dolph 114).

sore-ass, n. Cavalryman. This seems to be the "common name for cavalryman" that H. L. Mencken found it impossible to print in 1936.[26] Earlier writers contented

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[26]H. L. Mencken, The American Language, 4th Ed. (New York: Knopf, 1936), p. 573.

themselves with euphemisms such as sore-rump. (1906 M'Govern Larry 59; 1963 Rickey 51).

S.O.S., n. The same old slum, army stew. (1918 Apr. 27 Saturday Evening Post 62).

sound off, vi. Speak loudly or out of turn, complain. (1918 Griffin 39).

soup factory, n. An occasional name for the rolling field kitchen. More common terms were soup gun and soup cannon. (1919 W. Duffy 271; 1918 Swan 72; 1918 Casey 243).

soupy, n. Mess call. The verse that was fitted to the call began, "Soupy, soupy, soupy, without a single bean." (1899 Skinner 26; 1918 Jul. 5 Stars & Stripes 4).

speed buggy, n. Motorcycle. (1920 Bissell 131).

spick or spig or spiggity, n. Any dark-skinned native or foreigner, or the language he spoke. Like googoo, these were old armed forces terms that could be applied, at the discretion of the speaker, to any foreigner. Spiggity is apparently the original form. It might come from spaghetti, but some claim it is humorously derived from the well-stereotyped remark, "No spigga de English." (1914 DN 150; 1918 Ruggles 140; 1923 Apr. 27 Am. Leg. Wkly. 12).

spiggity itch, n. A regular's term for ringworm or any fungus disease of the skin. In France, probably more often called the French itch. (1920 Feb. Our Navy 34).

split-ass, v. Among aviators, to stunt-fly in a variety of showy or exotic ways. A split-ass turn--perhaps the original expression--was one accomplished with as little banking as possible. Used attributively, split-ass meant show or flashily eccentric, e.g., "a real split-ass get-up." (1917 Lee 24, 120; 1919 Law unp.).

split-ass merchant, n. Either a skilled or a conceited stunt-flyer. (1928 McCartney s.v.).

spud squad, n. Men peeling potatoes while assigned to kitchen police. (1928 McCartney s.v.).

squads east (and west); squads wrong, n. Close-order drill, less slangily called "squads right and left." (1918 Sherwood 90; 1918 Swan 250; 1919 Cober 81).

Squarehead, n. German. (1903 Farmer & Henley s.v.; 1918 Sep. 7 Lit. Digest 58).

squirrel, n. Louse, seam-squirrel. (1927 H. L. Baker 63).

stabber, n. Bayonet. (1917 Jan. 13 Editor 33).

stars and stripes, n. Beans, sometimes with

meat included. (1885 Whitman 848; 1919 Roth 109).

steel derby; steel Stetson, n. Occasional names for the steel helmet. (1919 U.S. Arty. 307th F.A. 78; 1923 Boyd Points 193).

stick, n. Twin-bladed propeller. (1917 Apr. 21 Editor 358; 1919 Law unp.).

sticker, n. Bayonet. (1926 Nason Chevrons 230).

stockade soup and barbwire hash, n. phr. Brutal enforcement of discipline, as within a prison stockade. (1927 Nason Three Lights 211).

stop one, v. phr. Be wounded or killed by a bullet or shell fragment. A common AEF expression. (1918 Apr. 20 Saturday Evening Post 134).

stove flying, n. Discussion of flying experiences while seated comfortably around a barracks stove. Cf. baseball's hot-stove league. (1935 Archibald 38).

stovepipe, n. A Stokes or similar trench mortar. Rarely, an artillery piece. (1920 Bissell 37; 1919 Kelly 86).

strafe or straff, v. To bombard, machine-gun, or shell heavily, originally an allusion to the German

"Hymn of Hate," composed in 1914, beginning, "Gott strafe England." Hence, to reprimand or scold harshly. (1917 Empey 22; 1920 Haswell & Stevenson 52).

strafe or straff, n. Gunfire, bombardment. Also official uproar of any sort. (1919 Hamilton & Corbin 87; 1918 Feb. 10 Grider 78).

strawberry, n. Often specified as an army strawberry, it was a prune. Prunes were the usual fruit served with the morning's oatmeal. (1919 May 13 Indian 6; 1923 McKnight 56).

street car, n. Heavy artillery shell in flight. (1920 Herr 22).

stripe-chaser, n. One intent upon promotion to a higher enlisted grade. (1919 Ellington 113).

submarine, n. Bedpan or urinal. (1918 Mar. 30 Wadsworth Gas Attack 34).

submarine chicken or submarine turkey, n. Canned salmon, goldfish. (1919 Witt 158; 1920 Jan. 9 Am. Leg. Wkly. 12).

suicide club or suicide squad, n. Any unit or organization assigned to extremely hazardous duty, specifically machine gunners, mortarmen, tankers, or flying cadets. (1917 Hunt 63; 1918 Bruno 11; 1928 Havlin 3).

Suicide Lane; Suicide Point, n. Nicknames given to areas under heavy enemy fire. (1918 Swan 163; 1927 Roosevelt 171).

Swill, Fort, n. Fort Sill, Oklahoma, site of the Army Artillery School. (1920 Oct. 29 Am. Leg. Wkly. 7).

Swiss-cheese air, n. Among airmen, bumpy zones of air turbulence caused by the rising of heat waves from the surface. (1928 Hall & Niles 169).

tack, n. Hardtack. (1873 Small 41; 1917 Batchelder 177).

tank jockey, n. Tank driver, tanker. (1919 Jan. 6 Day 104).

taxi, n. An airplane. This term seems to have been restricted in use to members of the Lafayette Escadrille, later the 103rd Pursuit Squadron. (1918 Aug. Atlantic 260).

T.B. or throwback, n. A combat officer reassigned to the Services of Supply for reasons of incompetence or, occasionally, disability. (1918 Jun. 23 O'Brien 127).

teddy-bear (suit), n. A fur-lined high-altitude flying suit. The usual slang term for this item of equipment. (1917 Dec. 24 Hall & Nordhoff 2: 58; 1920 Haslett 196).

third lieutenant, n. Dovetail. (1919 Jan. 2 Ellington 45).

this man's army; this man's war, n. This, the U.S. Army; this, the World War. Two very common expressions. (1898 Sep. 2 Blatchford 76; 1918, in Niles, Moore & Wallgren 219).

three beans, interj. Humorously, tres bien. (1918 Mayers unp.; 1919 Hawke 60).

ticket, n. An armed forces discharge. The big ticket was an honorable discharge. Conscientious objectors received a blue ticket, or ordinary discharge, which was neither honorable nor dishonorable; it was printed on blue paper. (1906 Beyer 83; 1924 Feb. 8 Am. Leg. Wkly. 16).

tick off, vt. Scold, tell off. Primarily a British term, as was the noun form, tick-off, a reprimand or scolding. (1920 Feb. Atlantic 354; 1917 Lee 16).

tin can, n. An artillery shell, G.I. can. (1923 LaBranche 85).

tin cow, n. Canned condensed or evaporated milk. (1920 K. Mayo 188; 1926 Allen 79).

tin hat; tin derby; tin dip; tin lid, n. Steel helmet. Tin hat was in universal usage; the other

terms were less common. (1919 Peixotto 48; 1917 Depew 51; 1918 Oct. 26 Lit. Digest 52; 1919 Hawke 68).

tin lizzie; steel lizzie, n. Steel helmet. The Ford Motor Company, manufacturers of the Model T "tin lizzie," produced many of the combat helmets issued to the AEF. (1919 B. Wilson 364th Inf. 72; 1918 Apr. 22 Stars & Stripes 4).

toot pronto, adv. At once, immediately. This is something of a bilingual portmanteau term telescoping French toute de suite with Spanish pronto. (1924 Anderson & Stallings 86).

tooter the sweeter, the. The sooner the better. (1918 Feb. 15 Stars & Stripes 7).

top, n. Short for top sergeant, especially in direct address. (1898 Jul. 30 Blatchford 53).

top cutter, n. Top sergeant. The semantics behind the "cutter" element are uncertain. (1917 Jan. 13 Editor 33).

top kick; top kicker, n. Top sergeant. Despite the nearly universal currency of these terms, which were popularized even further during the Second World War, no one has explained the reason for "kick" or "kicker." Presumably top kicker is the older expression, but since neither has been found in print before 1918 there is no

way to be certain. Drill sergeants in the "Old Army" had the right to kick and punch recruits, but top kicks did not engage in drill. Maybe the feeling was that their position as senior N.C.O.'s had been won by kicking rookies in the past. (1918 Jan. 6 K. Morse 39; 1919 Lincoln 8).

topper, n. Top sergeant. (1918 Aug. 22 Radiator 2).

top sergeant, n. First sergeant. (1898 Jun. 2 Bowe 12).

top soak, n. First sergeant. Since "soak" often means "punch, hit hard," this expression may be related to the synonymous top kick; or it may have been formed on "old soak," an old drunkard. (1919 Feb. 15 Lit. Digest 88).

top soldier, n. First sergeant. (1924 Anderson & Stallings 59).

toto, n. Louse, Taken directly from French, but not very widely used. (1917 Jun. 5 Clover 223).

trench derby, n. Steel helmet. (1917 Imbrie 115).

tripe, n. Triplane. (1920 Hall & Nordhoff 2: 216).

trolley car, n. Another railroad metaphor for a heavy artillery shell, especially in flight. (1930 Strickland 84).

troops! Don't shit the. "Don't try to fool me!" This phrase is still current. Here, as is common in American English, the verb shit means "lie to, deceive, kid." (1971 Sep. 20 E. Wilson letter).

truckdriver, n. A pursuit pilot's word for a bomber pilot. Not only were bombing planes larger than fighters, they carried an observer and an explosive cargo. (1937 Parsons 130).

typewriter, n. The most usual slang term for a machine gun, comparing its irregular bursts of fire to the sound of typewriter keys hammering against a platen. The British, Canadian, and Anzac forces began using this word early in the war. Of equal currency in the AEF was the official abbreviation M.G. (1917 Empey 24).

undercarriage, n. An airman's facetious term for the human legs. (1918 Roberts 339).

undershirt butterfly, n. Louse. (1923 LaBranche 172).

upstairs, adv. In the air, aloft. (1918 Bruno 77).

Vaseline landing, n. The exceptionally smooth landing of an aircraft under difficult conditions. Cf. grease it in, "to land an aircraft smoothly under difficult conditions," a World War II expression. (1934 Brewer 94).

ville, n. Village, town. From French. Like bokoo, this came back into American military slang during World War II and again during the Vietnamese War. (1919 Law unp.).

vinegar blink; vinegar-de-blink, n. Vin blanc; it supposedly tasted like vinegar and put you definitely on the blink. (1919 Palmer & Koons 19; U.S. Arty. 307th 139).

Vin sisters, the. Vin rouge and vin blanc. (1919 Hawke 59).

Vodka, n. A Russian or the Russian language. (1932 Halyburton & Goll 92; 1918 Wallgren unp.).

waffle seater; waffle tail, n. A staff officer, especially in the Air Service. "We used to call these staff officers 'Waffle Seaters' [because] they sat so long in cane bottomed chairs that the seats of their trousers were beginning to take on the impression of a waffle," observed one flying officer.[27] An adjectival

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[27]Elmer Haslett, Luck on the Wing (New York: Dutton, 1920), p. 99.

form was waffle-tailed. These terms are most likely euphemisms for the more expected *waffle ass and *waffle-assed, but I have not encountered such hypothetical forms. (1920 Haslett 99; 1967 Lockwood 249; 1918, in Tuckman 53).

wagon wheel, n. A clacker. In pre-war civilian slang, a silver dollar. (1919 Piesbergen 15).

wall, over the. Absent without leave, over the hill. Perhaps from prison slang or from the pre-war garrison army. (1919 Hawke 6).

war baby, n. A young or incompetent officer owing his appointment solely to the demands of wartime rather than to his own ability. The British used the term also. At least a few U.S. Marines applied the name to the ever-present trench rats. (1917 Nov. 30 Lord 23; 1919 Fox 116).

washout, n. From its prewar slang sense of "a disappointing failure" came at least two specialized military usages: one who has failed to qualify in training (usually flight training), and the crash or resultant wreck of an airplane. (1918 Jan. 14 Grider 65; 1928 May Pop. Sci. Mo. 72).

wash out, v. To cancel (an order or operation); to remove (an airplane) from service; to crash and wreck (an airplane). In the passive voice, to kill (in an airplane

crash). There seems to be no printed World War I evidence for the now common military sense, "to drop from officer's training," but the verb was so general in application (always with the underlying sense of failure or removal) that occasional usage by speakers who were familiar with the other senses of the verb as well as the noun seems possible. Both noun and verb were more generally used by the British than by the Americans. (1917 May 25 Lee 25; 1918 Mar. 30 Grider 98; 1928 Feb. Writer's Mo. 123; 1918 Mar. 12 Grider 87).

webfoot, n. An infantryman. An old expression which was rarely used by the AEF. (1867 Duke 400; 1928 McCartney s.v.).

west, go, v. phr. Die, be killed, hence (of a mechanism, state of affairs, etc.), break down, end, go dead. A British phrase, allegedly from the Boer War, and not a euphemism as it might seem. Anything could go west, including mules and machines. Possibly compare dialectal knock galley-west, "break to smithereens"; and for similar sense development, compare conk out, above. (1917 Depew 75; 1921 Nov. 11 Am. Leg. Wkly. 9).

west, send. v. phr. Kill. (1918 Aug. 17 Lit. Digest 67).

Whimpering Willy; Whispering Willy; Whistling

Willy; Whistling Jimmy, n. All nicknames for enemy heavy artillery shells or heavy artillery pieces. Though the least common of the lot, Whistling Jimmy may be the oldest; it was recorded in 1864. (1918 Adler 44; McBride 135; 1902, in Partridge s.v. Whistling Willie; 1864 Brobst 67).

whizbang, n. A high-speed shell, especially the German .88, or the gun which fires it. Hence, an extraordinary person or thing, or an explosively funny joke. (1917 Empey 173; 1919 McCarthy 62; 1916 Hall & Niles 156; 1919 Apr. 16 Fifth Div. Diamond 3).

Willy, n. Corned beef hash, Bill. Often as canned Willy, corn or corned Willy, tin or tinned Willy. In one form or another, a universal expression in the U.S. armed forces of the period. (1902 Apr. Our Naval Apprentice 14; 1918 Sep. 4 Casey 77).

windjammer, n. An old military term for the bugler or trumpeter. In the plural it could refer to all the members of a marching band. By back-formation, windjamming was used to mean "playing music," and provides the probable origin of to jam and jam session, two expressions which seem not to have been current before the 1930's. (1880 Oct. United Service 458; 1901 Oliver 23; 1919 U.S. Arty. 307th F.A. 190).

wind up, get (the or one's), v. phr. Become frightened, panic. The Americans learned this popular phrase from their British allies but no one has adequately explained its derivation. Perhaps it's scatological. (1915 OEDS s.v. wind; 1917 Eddy 47).

wind up, put the, v. phr. To frighten (somebody). (1919 Law unp.).

windy, adj. (Of individuals) frightened, panicky, afraid; (of situations or places) scary. (1916 OED s.v.; 1919 U.S. Arty. Narr. Btty. A 118).

wise-guy section, n. Intelligence section. (1928 Scanlon 331).

wolf, n. A daredevil stunt flyer, a "hotshot." (1918 Roberts 339).

Wooden Cross, n. Death and burial regarded as an ironic award for military service. (1918 Jan. 26 Bugler 23).

woodpecker, n. An old name for a machine gun. (1898 Parker 127; 1931 Dos Passos 410).

woolly, n. An occasional variant of Willy. (1918 Crowe 87).

woolly bear, n. A German artillery shell fitted with a timed fuse to explode in the air. Mostly a British term. (1918 McBride 135).

wurst, n. A German observation balloon, sausage. (1919 U.S. Arty. 101st 165).

W.W., n. A "wild woman," showgirl, prostitute, etc. Rarely, short for Whistling Willy. (1918 Janis 31; 1920 Skillman 168).

Yank, n. An American. (1778 Mathews s.v.).

yellowleg, n. Cavalryman. In the late nineteenth century, cavalrymen wore a broad yellow stripe along the outer seams of their uniform trousers, hence the nickname. (1893 Frye 109).

Y.M.C.A., n. There was no U.S.O. during World War I, and the Y.M.C.A. was one of a number of private agencies which ran canteens for American soldiers overseas. Many of these soldiers strongly resented the Y's policy of charging hard cash for any and all items, including simple snacks such as coffee and doughnuts. As a result these initials were commonly "translated" as "You Must Come Across" or "Your Money Cheerfully Accepted." (1919 Wilkins 48; 1931 Gallagher fol. title p.).

zigzag, adj. Drunk. From French. (1918 Hamilton & Corbin 125).

zigzig, n., v. (Have) sexual intercourse. From French. (1918 O'Brien 18).

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VITA

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