

Glossary & Mini-Encyclopedia

A glossary of terms, phrases and British slang, along with a “mini-Encyclopedia” of certain references in the books.

4th Marine Brigade - During World War I, the 4th Marine Brigade, consisting of the 5th and 6th Marine Regiments, was part of the US 2nd Division in France. The Brigade participated in many actions, the most notable being the Battle of Belleau Wood. After the battle, the French renamed the wood Bois de la Brigade de Marine (Wood of the Marine Brigade) in honor of the Marines' tenacity.

Agincourt - An English victory in the Hundred Years' War. It took place on 25 October 1415 (Saint Crispin's Day) near Azincourt, in Northern France. King Henry V of England led his outnumbered troops into battle and participated in hand-to-hand fighting. The English longbow proved decisive over the armored French knights. Agincourt is one of England's most celebrated victories and was one of the most important English triumphs in the Hundred Years' War, along with the Battle of Crécy (1346) and Battle of Poitiers (1356). It forms the centerpiece of William Shakespeare's play Henry V, written in 1599.

Aksum - An ancient kingdom centered in Northern Ethiopia, in the Tigray region and in what is now Eritrea, it existed from approximately 80 BC to AD 825.

Angel's share - The portion of the whisky that escapes into the air as it ages.

AR15 - Semi-automatic version of the M16; 5.56 mm.

Athena - Greek goddess of wisdom and warfare; sometimes referred to as Pallas Athena, or even just “Pallas.”

AW159 Wildcat - Small helicopter made by AgustaWestlake used by the British army, among others. Has armed and unarmed variants.

The Badge - A reference to the Sergeant Major of a British army regiment.

Balmoral Castle - A large estate house in Royal Deeside, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, owned by Queen Elizabeth II. It is near the village of Crathie, 9 miles (14 kilometres) west of Ballater and 50 miles (80 kilometres) west of Aberdeen. Balmoral has been one of the residences of the British royal family since 1852, when the estate and its original castle were bought from the Farquharson family by Prince Albert, the husband of Queen Victoria. The Queen usually spends summers here.

Balvenie - A single malt Scotch whisky distilled by Wm H. Grant & Sons.

Blofeld - Villain in James Bond movies.

Boffin - British slang term for a scientist, engineer, or other person engaged in technical or scientific research and development.

Boudicea - Also spelled Boudica, was a queen of the British Celtic Icenii tribe who led an uprising against the conquering forces of the Roman Empire in AD 60 or 61. Her forces burned Londinium (London).

Buchanan - James McGill Buchanan Jr. (1919 - 2013) was an American economist known for his work on public choice theory, (*Calculus of Consent*, 1962), for which he received the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences in 1986. Buchanan's work initiated research on how politicians' and bureaucrats' self-interest, utility maximization, and other non-wealth-maximizing considerations affect their decision-making. Buchanan explains public choice theory as "politics without romance" because, he says, many of the promises made in politics are intended to appear concerned with the interest of others, but in reality are the products of selfish ulterior motives.

Carthage - An ancient Phoenician city-state and civilization located in present-day Tunisia. Founded around 814 BC as a colony of Tyre, within centuries it became the center of the Carthaginian Empire, a major commercial and maritime power. The city was destroyed by the Romans at the end of the Third Punic War in 146 BC.

Catherine de Medici - (13 April 1519 - 5 January 1589) was an Italian noblewoman, sometimes referred to as "The Mother of Kings." Catherine was born in Florence to Lorenzo de' Medici, Duke of Urbino, and Madeleine de La Tour d'Auvergne. In 1533 at the age of fourteen, Catherine married Henry, second son of King Francis I and Queen Claude of France. Catherine's marriage was arranged by her uncle Pope Clement VII. Henry's death thrust Catherine into the political arena as mother of the frail 15-year-old King Francis II. When Francis II died in 1560, she became regent on behalf of her 10-year-old son King Charles IX and was thus granted sweeping powers.

From 1560 to 1563, she ruled France as regent for her son Charles IX. After Charles died in 1574, Catherine played a key role in the reign of her third son, Henry III.

Ceannard - Scottish Gaelic term for “leader,” old.

Charon - In Greek mythology and Roman mythology is the ferryman of Hades who carries souls of the newly deceased across the river Styx or Acheron that divided the world of the living from the world of the dead. A coin to pay Charon for passage, usually an obolus or danake, was sometimes placed in or on the mouth of a dead person. Some authors say that those who could not pay the fee, or those whose bodies were left unburied, had to wander the shores for one hundred years, until they were allowed to cross the river. In ancient epics, heroes – such as Aeneas, Dionysus, Heracles, Hermes, Odysseus, Orpheus, Pirithous, Psyche, Theseus and Sisyphus – journey to the underworld and return, still alive, conveyed by the boat of Charon.

Chosin - A reference to The Battle of Chosin Reservoir, 27 November – 13 December 1950, during the Korean War. About 120,000 Chinese troops surrounded the UN forces in North Korea; the 1st Marine Division was present, along with many US Army and allied units. In brutal sub-zero weather, the Marines fought their way out of the encirclement. Often referred to as “The Frozen Chosin.”

Cicero - (106 – 43 BC) was a Roman statesman, lawyer, and scholar who played an important role in the politics of the late Roman Republic and upheld republican principles during the crises that led to the establishment of the Roman Empire. *De Re Publica* (On the Commonwealth) and *De Legibus* (On the Laws) are his two major surviving works. Jefferson names Cicero as one of a handful of major figures who contributed to a tradition “of public right” that informed his draft of the Declaration of Independence.

CMT - Combat Medical Technician (British army).

Devil’s share - The portion of whisky that soaks into the cask while whisky ages.

Don Quixote - The Ingenious Gentleman Don Quixote of La Mancha or just Don Quixote, is a Spanish novel by Miguel de Cervantes. It was published in two parts, in 1605 and 1615. A founding work of Western literature, it is often labeled “the first modern novel” and many authors consider it to be the best literary work ever written. Don Quixote also holds the distinction of being the second-most-translated book in the world after the Bible. The plot revolves around the adventures of a noble (hidalgo) from La Mancha named Alonso Quixano, who reads so many chivalric romances that he loses his mind and decides to become a knight-errant to revive chivalry and serve his nation, under the name Don Quixote de la Mancha. He recruits a simple farmer, Sancho Panza, as his

squire, who often employs a unique, earthy wit in dealing with Don Quixote's rhetorical monologues on knighthood, already considered old-fashioned at the time. Don Quixote, in the first part of the book, does not see the world for what it is and prefers to imagine that he is living out a knightly story.

Federalist Papers - A collection of 85 articles and essays written by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay under the collective pseudonym "Publius" to promote the ratification of the United States Constitution.

FOB - Forward Operating Base.

Glenfiddich - a single-malt Scotch whisky distilled by Wm H. Grant & Sons; it is one of the Speyside variety.

Glock - A series of polymer-framed, short recoil-operated, locked-breech semi-automatic pistols designed and produced by Austrian manufacturer Glock Ges.m.b.H. The firearm entered Austrian military and police service by 1982 after it was the top performer in reliability and safety tests.

Gotterdammerung - Götterdämmerung (Twilight of the Gods) is the last in Richard Wagner's cycle of four music dramas titled *Der Ring des Nibelungen* (The Ring of the Nibelung, or The Ring for short). It received its premiere on 17 August 1876, as part of the first complete performance of the Ring. Act 3 contains a funeral march. The title is a translation into German of the Old Norse phrase Ragnarök, which in Norse mythology refers to a prophesied war among various beings and gods that ultimately results in the burning, immersion in water, and renewal of the world. However, as with the rest of the Ring, Wagner's account diverges significantly from his Old Norse sources.

Great War - World War I; this was the way it was referred to prior to there being a World War II, sometimes still used by older people or history buffs.

Hand of Danjou - Jean Danjou (15 April 1828 - 30 April 1863) was a decorated captain in the French Foreign Legion. He commanded 2 lieutenants and 62 legionnaires who fought the legendary Battle of Camarón against 3000 Mexican troops during the French intervention in Mexico, during which he was killed. His wooden hand was recovered after the battle. When the Legion moved to France, Danjou's wooden hand was taken to Aubagne, where it remains in the Legion Museum of Memory. The hand is the most cherished artifact in Legion history, and the prestige and honor granted to a Legionnaire to carry it on parade in its protective case is among the greatest bestowed on a Legionnaire. 30 April is celebrated as "Camerone Day," an important day for the

Legionnaires, when the wooden prosthetic hand of Capitaine Danjou is brought out for display.

Hannibal - Hannibal Barca (247 – between 183 and 181 BC) was a Carthaginian general and statesman who commanded Carthage's main forces against the Roman Republic during the Second Punic War. He is widely considered one of the greatest military commanders in world history. His father, Hamilcar Barca, was a leading Carthaginian commander during the First Punic War. His younger brothers were Mago and Hasdrubal, and he was brother-in-law to Hasdrubal the Fair, who also commanded Carthaginian armies. Best known for moving his army, including elephants, over the Alps to invade Italy. He crushed the Romans at the Battle of Cannae, which is still studied by soldiers today. However, he had to retreat to Carthage. He lost the Battle of Zama on the plains in front of Carthage to Scipio Africanus, but was not killed. The Romans finally destroyed Carthage in the Third Punic War.

Hayaku - Japanese word borrowed by US Marines; for “move to in a hurry.”

Hayek, F.A. - Friedrich August von Hayek (1899 – 1992), an Austrian-British economist and philosopher who is best known for his defense of classical liberalism. Hayek shared the 1974 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences.

Herodotus - (c. 484 – c. 425 BC) was an ancient Greek historian. He is known for having written the book *The Histories*, a detailed record of his “inquiry” on the origins of the Greco-Persian Wars. He is widely considered to have been the first writer to have treated historical subjects using a method of systematic investigation—specifically, by collecting his materials and then critically arranging them into a historiographic narrative. On account of this, he is often referred to as “The Father of History,” a title first conferred on him by the first-century BC Roman orator Cicero.

HK - Heckler and Koch; German weapons manufacturer.

Horatius - Publius Horatius Cocles was an officer in the army of the early Roman Republic who famously defended the Pons Sublicius from the invading army of Etruscan King Lars Porsena of Clusium in the late 6th century BC, during the war between Rome and Clusium. By defending the narrow end of the bridge, he and his companions were able to hold off the attacking army long enough to allow other Romans to destroy the bridge behind him, blocking the Etruscans' advance and saving the city. The story of “Horatius at the Bridge” is retold in verse in the poem “Horatius” in *Lays of Ancient Rome* by Thomas Babington Macaulay, which enjoyed great popularity in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The most iconic verse is:

Then out spake brave Horatius,

The Captain of the Gate:
"To every man upon this earth
Death cometh soon or late.
And how can man die better
Than facing fearful odds,
For the ashes of his fathers,
And the temples of his gods."

Ides of March - 15 March, usually is in reference to the day Julius Caesar was assassinated.

Iwo Jima - The Battle of Iwo Jima (19 February - 26 March 1945) was a major battle in which the United States Marine Corps and Navy landed on and eventually captured the island of Iwo Jima (8 square miles) from the Imperial Japanese Army (IJA) during World War II. Japanese combat deaths numbered three times the number of American deaths although, uniquely among Pacific War Marine battles, American total casualties (dead and wounded) exceeded those of the Japanese. Though ultimately victorious, the American victory at Iwo Jima came at a terrible price. According to the official Navy Department Library website, "The 36-day (Iwo Jima) assault resulted in more than 26,000 American casualties, including 6,800 dead." Of the 21,000 Japanese soldiers on Iwo Jima at the beginning of the battle, only 216 were taken prisoner, some of whom were captured because they had been knocked unconscious or otherwise disabled. The majority of the remainder were killed in action, although it has been estimated that as many as 3,000 continued to resist within the various cave systems for many days afterwards, eventually succumbing to their injuries or surrendering weeks later. Joe Rosenthal's Associated Press photograph of the raising of the U.S. flag on top of the 169 m (554 ft) Mount Suribachi by six U.S. Marines became an iconic image of the battle and the American war effort in the Pacific.

K-Bar - Combat knife used by US Marines, and other forces; very heavy 7-inch blade.

Kush - An ancient kingdom in Nubia, centered along the Nile Valley in what is now northern Sudan and southern Egypt. The city-state of Kerma emerged as the dominant political force between 2450 and 1450 BC, controlling the Nile Valley between the first and fourth cataracts, an area as large as Egypt. The Egyptians were the first to identify Kerma as "Kush" and over the next several centuries the two civilizations engaged in intermittent warfare, trade, and cultural exchange. Much of Nubia came under Egyptian rule during the New Kingdom period (1550-1070 BC). Following Egypt's disintegration amid the Late Bronze Age collapse, the Kushites reestablished a kingdom in Napata (now modern Karima, Sudan). Though Kush had developed many cultural affinities with Egypt, such as the veneration of Amun, and the royal families of both kingdoms often intermarried, Kushite culture was distinct. King Kashta ("the Kushite") peacefully became King of Upper and Lower Egypt, while his daughter, Amenirdis, was appointed

as Divine Adoratrice of Amun in Thebes. King Piye invaded Egypt in the eighth century BC, establishing the Kushite-ruled Twenty-fifth Dynasty. The monarchs of Kush ruled Egypt for over a century until the Assyrian conquest.

Lysistrata - An ancient Greek comedy by Aristophanes, originally performed in classical Athens in 411 BC. It is a comic (in the ancient Greek sense of comedy) account of a woman's extraordinary mission to end the Peloponnesian War among Greek city states by denying all the men of the land any sex, which was supposedly the only thing they truly and deeply desired. Lysistrata persuades the women of the warring cities to withhold sexual privileges from their husbands and lovers as a means of forcing the men to negotiate peace—a strategy, however, that inflames the battle between the sexes.

LZ - Landing Zone (for helicopters).

Machiavelli - Niccolò di Bernardo dei Machiavelli (1469 - 1527) was an Italian Renaissance diplomat, philosopher and writer, best known for *The Prince* (Il Principe), written in 1513. While much less well known than *The Prince*, the *Discourses on Livy* is often said to have paved the way of modern republicanism.

MI5 - Military Intelligence, Section 5; the United Kingdom's domestic counter-intelligence and counter espionage agency.

MI6 - Officially the SIS, Secret Intelligence Service. The foreign intelligence service of the United Kingdom, tasked mainly with the covert overseas collection and analysis of human intelligence.

Minerva - Roman goddess of wisdom and war; the Romans essentially merged their old goddess Minerva and the Greeks' Athena.

MO - Medical Officer (British army).

MP - Member of Parliament.

Nelson - Vice-Admiral Horatio Nelson, 1st Viscount Nelson, 1st Duke of Bronté, KB (29 September 1758 - 21 October 1805), also known simply as Admiral Nelson, was a British flag officer in the Royal Navy. His inspirational leadership, grasp of strategy, and unconventional tactics brought about a number of decisive British naval victories, particularly during the Napoleonic Wars. He was wounded in combat, losing sight in one eye in Corsica at the age of 35, and most of one arm in the unsuccessful attempt to conquer Santa Cruz de Tenerife when he was 38. He was fatally shot during his victory at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805.

Nubia - A region along the Nile river encompassing the area between the first cataract of the Nile (just south of Aswan in southern Egypt) and the confluence of the Blue and White Niles (south of Khartoum in central Sudan). Home to several ancient empires.

OC - Officer Commanding (British army).

Order of the Thistle - The Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle is an order of chivalry associated with Scotland. The current version of the Order was founded in 1687 by King James VII of Scotland (James II of England and Ireland) who asserted that he was reviving an earlier Order. The Order consists of the Sovereign and sixteen Knights and Ladies, as well as certain "extra" knights (members of the British Royal Family and foreign monarchs). The Sovereign alone grants membership of the Order.

Picts - A group of Celtic-speaking peoples who lived in what is today eastern and northern Scotland during the Late British Iron Age and Early Medieval periods. The term Pict is thought to have originated as a generic exonym used by the Romans in relation to people living north of the Forth-Clyde isthmus. The Latin word *Picti* first occurs in a panegyric written by Eumenius in AD 297 and is taken to mean "painted or tattooed people."

Plato - An Athenian philosopher during the Classical period in Ancient Greece, founder of the Platonist school of thought, and the Academy, the first institution of higher learning in the Western world.

The Republic - A Socratic dialogue, authored by Plato around 375 BC, concerning justice, the order and character of the just city-state, and the just man.

Plutarch - (46-after 119 AD) was a Greek Middle Platonist philosopher, biographer, essayist, and priest at the Temple of Apollo. He is known primarily for his *Parallel Lives*, a series of biographies of illustrious Greeks and Romans, and *Moralia*, a collection of essays and speeches. Upon becoming a Roman citizen, he was named Lucius Mestrius Plutarchus.

Queen Victoria - (24 May 1819 - 22 January 1901) was Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland from 20 June 1837 until her death. Parliament voted her the additional title of Empress of India in 1876. Known as the Victorian Era, her reign of 63 years and seven months was longer than that of any of her predecessors. It was a period of industrial, political, scientific, and military change within the United Kingdom, and was marked by a great expansion of the British Empire.

Rorke's Drift - A battle in the Zulu war of 1879 in southern Africa; just over 150 British and colonial troops defended the station against attacks by 3,000 to 4,000 Zulu warriors. The massive but piecemeal attacks by the Zulu on Rorke's Drift came very close to defeating the much smaller garrison, but were consistently repelled. Eleven Victoria Crosses were awarded to the defenders.

Royal Highland Fusiliers - The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland is an infantry battalion of the Royal Regiment of Scotland. Prior to 28 March 2006, the Royal Highland Fusiliers was an infantry regiment in its own right, created by the amalgamation of the Royal Scots Fusiliers with the Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment) in January 1959.

Royal Regiment of Scotland - The Royal Regiment of Scotland is the senior and only Scottish line infantry regiment of the British Army Infantry. It consists of four regular and two reserve battalions, plus an incremental company, each formerly an individual regiment (with the exception of the first battalion, which is an amalgamation of two regiments). However, each battalion maintains its former regimental pipes and drums to carry on the traditions of their antecedent regiments.

Royal Victorian Order - The Royal Victorian Order is a dynastic order of knighthood established in 1896 by Queen Victoria. It recognizes distinguished personal service to the monarch of the Commonwealth realms, members of the monarch's family, or to any viceroy or senior representative of the monarch.

SAS - Special Air Service; British army special forces, the unit undertakes a number of roles including covert reconnaissance, counter-terrorism, direct action, and hostage rescue.

Smith, Adam - (1723 - 1790) was a Scottish economist, philosopher as well as a moral philosopher, a pioneer of political economy, and a key figure during the Scottish Enlightenment, also known as "The Father of Economics" or "The Father of Capitalism." Smith wrote two classic works, *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* (1759) and *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations* (1776). The latter, often abbreviated as *The Wealth of Nations*, is considered his magnum opus and the first modern work of economics. In his work, Adam Smith introduced his theory of absolute advantage.

Solicitor - One of the two main types of lawyers in the UK, the other being barristers.

Sowell, Thomas - (born June 30, 1930) is an American economist and social theorist and is a senior fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution. Themes of Sowell's writing range from social policy on race, ethnic groups, education, and decision-making, to

classical and Marxian economics, to the problems of children perceived as having disabilities.

SPECTRE - A criminal organization in James Bond movies.

Sprog - A recruit, British army slang.

Stradivarius - A Stradivarius is one of the violins, violas, cellos and other string instruments built by members of the Italian family Stradivari, particularly Antonio Stradivari (Latin: Antonius Stradivarius), during the 17th and 18th centuries. Instruments made during Stradivari's "golden period" date from 1700 to about 1725.

Sykes-Fairbairn - A commando knife.

Terrie - A member of the Taliban in Afghanistan (British army slang).

The Trojan Women - A tragedy by the Greek playwright Euripides. Produced in 415 BC during the Peloponnesian War, Euripides's play follows the fates of the women of Troy after their city has been sacked, their husbands killed, and their remaining families taken away as slaves.

The Troubles - A term used to refer to the violent period in Northern Ireland between the late 1960s and 1998; the British army was heavily involved.

Thermopylae - Greek for "hot gates"; it is a place in Greece where a narrow coastal passage existed in antiquity. It derives its name from its hot sulphur springs. The Hot Gates is "the place of hot springs" and in Greek mythology it is the cavernous entrances to Hades. Thermopylae is primarily known for the battle that took place there in 480 BC, in which an outnumbered Greek force probably of seven thousand (including the famous 300 Spartans) held off a substantially larger force (several hundred thousand, supposedly) of Persians under Xerxes. Legend has the following epitaph by Simonides was written on a monument placed there after the battle: "Go tell the Spartans, stranger passing by, that here obedient to their laws we lie."

Two IC - Second In Command (British army).

Ugly, Ugliers - British army nickname for AH1 Apache helicopter; the AH1 is a licensed version of the US AH64-D Apache attack helicopter.

Valhalla - In Norse mythology, Valhalla (from Old Norse Valhöll “hall of the slain”) is a majestic, enormous hall located in Asgard, ruled over by the god Odin. Chosen by the Valkyries, half of those who die in combat travel to Valhalla upon death.

Valkyries - In Norse mythology, a valkyrie (from Old Norse valkyrja “chooser of the slain”) is one of a host of female figures who choose those who may die in battle and those who may live. Selecting among half of those who die in battle, held to be the most valiant (the other half go to the goddess Freyja's afterlife field Fólkvangr), the valkyries take their chosen to the afterlife hall of the slain, Valhalla, ruled over by the god Odin. There, the deceased warriors become einherjar (Old Norse “single (or once) fighters”). The legend is that they fight each other all day and feast all night.

War of the Roses – a series of fifteenth-century English civil wars for control of the throne of England, fought between supporters of two rival cadet branches of the royal House of Plantagenet: the House of Lancaster, represented by a red rose, and the House of York, represented by a white rose. Eventually, the wars eliminated the male lines of both families. The conflict lasted through many sporadic episodes between 1455 and 1487, but there was related fighting before and after this period between the parties. (author’s note – supposedly *Game of Thrones* was inspired by events in this conflict.)

Williams, Walter - Walter Edward Williams (March 31, 1936 – December 1, 2020) was an American economist, commentator, and academic. He was the John M. Olin Distinguished Professor of Economics at George Mason University, as well as a syndicated columnist and author known for his classical liberal and libertarian views.

Whisky - with no “e”, scotch.

Woad - A dye from plant seeds. Julius Caesar reported (in *Commentarii de Bello Gallico*) that the Britanni used to color their bodies blue. Due to this and other Roman accounts of them painting (or possibly tattooing) their bodies, northern inhabitants of Britain came to be known as Picts (Picti), meaning “painted ones” in Latin.

Xhosa - An Nguni ethnic group in Southern Africa whose homeland is primarily within the modern-day Eastern Cape. The Xhosa Wars (also known as the Cape Frontier Wars, or Africa's 100 Years War) were a series of nine wars or flare-ups (from 1779 to 1879) between the Xhosa Kingdom and European settlers in what is now the Eastern Cape in South Africa. These events were the longest-running military action in the history of African colonialism.

Zulu - The Kingdom of Zulu, sometimes referred to as the Zulu Empire or the Kingdom of Zululand, was a monarchy in Southern Africa that extended along the coast of the

Indian Ocean from the Tugela River in the south to Pongola River in the north. The kingdom grew to dominate much of what is today KwaZulu-Natal and Southern Africa. In 1879, the British Empire invaded, beginning the Anglo-Zulu War. After an initial Zulu victory at the Battle of Isandlwana in January, the British Army regrouped and defeated the Zulus in July during the Battle of Ulundi. The area was absorbed into the Colony of Natal and later became part of the Union of South Africa.