

# THE VETERAN'S TONGUE

*By Aaron Young and Joe Strauser*

Biddy, Hoosey Dooksy, Jularky, Pig Duck, Pigeon - *Names for Sweethearts back home.*

Big Bug - *An Officer, so known because of: "Shoulder Straps and Brass Hats".*

Blue Pill - *Bullet.*

Bubs - *Friends. also known as: "Pards, Chums, Comrades, or Messmates."*

Bug Juice - *Liquor. also known as; "Pop-skull, Noggin, and Smile."*

Bully - *Term that can be used for almost any occasion.*

Bungay - *19th Century equivalent for "Go To Hell!"*

Camp Canard - *False news or rumors.*

Carry Guts to a Bear - *To Do Something Worthless.*

Cheese Knife - *Officer's Sword. also known as; "Toad-Stabber."*

Company Q - *Fictitious unit where all cowards went.*

Cotbelly - *Man who meddles in woman's work.*

Damaged - *To Be Drunk. also known as; "Slewed, Walking like a Virginia Fence."*

Dipper - *Tin Cup.*

Dough-Face - *Easily Influenced Person.*

Dunky - Dyed in the Wool - *Something ingrained.*

Feather Bed Soldiers - *Troops permanently stationed in the Rear.*

Fetch Up - *Stop Suddenly.*

Fid - *A Plug or Small Bunch.*

Fill the Bin - *To Agree With Someone.*

Fire in the Wrong Flock - *A Mistake.*

To Flat Someone - *To reject a Lover.*

Flummix - *To Give Up.*

Get the Mitten - *To be Rejected by a Lover.*

Grub Bag - *Haversack.*

Honeyfuggle - *Swindle.*

Hoof or Tramp - *To March.*

Indian Style - *To March in a Strait Line.*

Jack at a Pinch - *A last resort.*

Jackass Batteries - *Mountain Howitzer Cannons.*

Jigadier-Brindle - *Brigadier General.*

Johan - *Worthless Soldier. also known as; "Coffee-Coolers, and a Galoot".*

Kit - *All of Soldier's Belongings and Equipment.*

Lincoln Pie - *Army Bread. also known as "Tooth dullers, Worm Castles, Hardtack(Eastern Theatre), and Hard Cracker(Western Theatre)."*

Loco Foco - *Self Igniting Match.*

Logger Head - *Union Soldier from Pennsylvania.*

Mung - *False.*

Nobby - *Stylish.*

Old Birds - *Veterans.*

Old Nick - *The Devil.*

On the Square - *To Tell the Truth.*

Paper Collars - *New Recruit. also known as "Awkward Squad, Fresh Fish, Straw Foots, Green Horns, and Tenderfoots." see also "Dough-Face".*

Things to Say to a New Recruit: - *Hello Sonny does yer mother know your out!" Say, bub, give us a bunk o' gingerbread!"*

Pie Eater - *Country Boy.*

Potato Digger - *Irishman.*

Rocks, Greenbacks - *Money.*

Sand - *Nerve. also known as; "guts or spunk"*

Sardine Boxes - *Officer's Shoulder Straps.*

Scrouge - *to Crowd or Squeeze.*

Sink - *Latrine.*

Soft Corn - *Flattery.*

Spin Street Yarn - *To take a walk.*

Spoonsy - *A Silly Fellow.*

Stepper - *A High Spirited Person.*

Stretch Yer Blanket - *To Lie.*

Sucker - *A person from Illinois.*

Talking Iron - *Pistol.*

Tippybob - *Wealthy Class.*

Traps or Trucks - *Soldiers gear which hung from straps.*

Turn up His Toes - *To Die.*

Virginia Quickstep - *Diarrhea*.

Wake the Wrong Passenger - *To Catch the Wrong Person*.

Webfoot - *Infantryman*.

**Miscellaneous Phrases:**

Grab a Root! - *Can be used in two instances; When Foraging for food(this is where it was developed), or when someone trips or falls.*

Here's Yer Mule! - *A greeting to any mounted soldier.*

Same Ol' Rijiment! or Same Ol' Rijiment Only We've Drawed New Clothes! - *An answer to any passerby who dared to ask; "What Regiment is this?."*

Who Wouldn't be a Soldier? - *Synonymous with "Who Cares?."*

**Sources:**

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