

Say, Soldier, Do You Know Your Louisiana Vocabulary

It is as much a soldier's duty to know the land on which he serves as it is his duty to know the general orders, or so says the War Department.

American soldiers entering the various foreign countries—Africa, England, France, China, Germany, Iran—are handed little booklets that describe the countries, the people who inhabit these strange lands, and a few commonly used words and phrases. To date the Government has neglected to publish a booklet on

the land where Rat de Bois, Ravet, Boyou L'enfer, Prelle de Champs, Courtbouillon, Quardoon, Terrebonne and Jambalaya are common among the spoken language.

Where is this strange and mystic land? This terrebonne is the former home of the Houma and Boyou Goula Indians, a land that has served under at least nine flags and been the subject of many quarrels—Louisiana.

When American troops entered Iran, the Government was ready with the "Pocket Guide to Iran" which said, "Your opinion of the country and the people will never be any better than your knowledge of them. As you exercise your curiosity and gain fresh knowledge, you will increase your efficiency as a soldier and will add personal value and pleasure to a tough job." Because Louisiana is one of the GREAT 48 that makes up the United States it is not necessary to print a pocket guide, but a few hints on local language usage will prove of interest.

Soldiers stationed at Camp Claiborne will be running into many of the uncommon words—words used only in Louisiana—while visiting such towns as Ville Platte, Mamou, LeCompte, La Beau, New Iberia, New Orleans, La Place and Baton Rouge.

Listed below are a few of the Louisiana words that are uncommon to most soldiers stationed here.

Houma is Indian for red rising sun; Terrebonne is French for "good earth"; Pirogue, dugout skiff, is French of Spanish origin; Bayou is Choctaw for small river; Combo or Bumbo is African for thick okra soup; Jambalaya, mixed dish of Arabic origin; Lagniappe, meaning small gift, is French and Spanish; Banquette is French for sidewalk; Creole is Spanish—person of Spanish or French descent; Gris-gris, means a charm, is African; Tech for German "deutsch" or Indian for snake; Cocodrie is from French and Latin, means alligator.

Courtbouillon, means fish stew, is corrupted French; Sacaliat, fish from a French adaptation of Choctaw "sakli"; Ravet, cockroach, from Tupi, South American

Indians; Rat de Bois is French for opossum; Syrup de Batterie is French for open kettle syrup; Timballer is Spanish for kettle-drummer; Grand ecaille, big scales, French for tarpon; Manchac is Choctaw for rear entrance; Chassis is French for window; Cheverette comes from French crevette, meaning shrimp; Crencrow is French for turkey buzzard; Canard Cheval is French for horse-headed duck.

Perique, unique tobacco named after Pierre Chenet; "Ca Ira," old lullaby, means "world will continue"; Ilets is French for city block; Parole d'honneur is French for word of honor; Foutou of French origin, means "jig is up"; Cop-cop, a seedy, rustic; Questiqui dit, French Corruption, means a backwoodsman; Boyou L'enfer means Bayou Go to Hell; Prelle de champs is French for an Indian herb tonic; LeCache, old hiding place of Lafitte pirates, and Parish, means county, is a French word.

So it may be seen that one does not have to leave the shores of the United States in order to learn customs, phrases and local manners of people. Louisiana is just one of the many states in the nation which have their own heri-

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84th Division Prints Paper Under Fire

Not only is the Camp Claiborne-trained 84th Division making history with rapid advances on the Western Front, but its men find time to publish an eight-page newspaper, "The Rallsplitter," on the side.

A recent issue of the publication, datelined "Somewhere in Germany," was received this week through the Post Public Relations Office and indicates that S/Sgt. Harry M. Johnston editor, and his staff are doing a bang-up job in spite the difficulties of publishing in the midst of battle.

Sgt. Johnston, a former Claiborne News staff writer, organized "The Rallsplitter" shortly before the 84th Division concluded a 10-month period of training at this camp.