

A

abolitionists- Those who advocated abolishing slavery altogether

ACW- American Civil War

agent provocateur- an undercover enemy operative

AoNV- Army of Northern Virginia

AoTCS- Army of Tennessee Confederate States

AoTUS- Army of Tennessee United States

AoCUS- Army of the Cumberland United States

AoJ- Army of the James United States

AoO- Army of the Ohio United States

AoM- Army of the Mississippi United States

AoP- Army of the Potomac United States

AoW- Army of the West Confederate States

AoW- Army of the West United States

AoV- Army of the Valley Confederate States

B

battalion- an operational unit composed of two or more companies

battery- an operational unit composed of four to six cannons

Billy Yank- what Union soldiers were called and called themselves

bivouac- a temporary encampment

BOF- birds of a feather

border states- states that did not secede ie: De. Md. Ky. and Mo.

breastworks- defensive barriers

brigade- an operational unit consisting of two or more regiments

bummers- soldier foragers

bushwhackers- a generic term for pro- Confederate guerrillas

C

canister shot- an artillery shell designed to explode upon firing, spraying out lead or iron shot

carpetbaggers- Northerners who descended on the South after the War, usually to exploit Freedman

company- usually consisted of 30 to 60 officers and men

Copperhead- a disparaging term applied to Peace Democrats

corps- an operational unit consisting of two or more divisions and commanded by a Major General

D

defeat in detail- strategy of attacking the spread-out elements of an enemy force one-by-one
division- an operational unit consisting of two or more brigades
double envelopment- tactic in which the enemy is surrounded

E

earthworks- entrenchment and or mounded earth parapets used as defensive positions
emancipate- to free from bondage
embargo- government imposed ban of goods
endemic disease- widespread outbreak among a population
EOL- end of line

F

fatigue duty- manual labor
Federal Army- Union Army
fire-eater- a Southerner who strongly advocated secession
flag officer- an ACW naval rank between captain and rear admiral
flame- to post an e-mail intended to insult and provoke
flamer- someone who habitually flames
flamebait- a posting intended to trigger a flame war
flamewar- an acrimonious dispute
flank- as a noun the right or left elements of a body of troops; as a verb, to attack a vulnerable side
frigate- any high speed medium sized warship

G

grape or grapeshot- type of ammunition consisting of a cluster of small iron balls used as a cannon charge
graving dock- a type of dry dock
gunboat- a squat, shallow-draft vessel
guru- being knowledgeable in a given area

H

high ground- any elevated ground

I

IIRC- If I Remember Correctly
IMO- In My Opinion
IMHO- In My Humble Opinion

IMNSHO- In My Not So Humble Opinion
independent command- commanders must determine overall strategy as well as specific tactics

J

Jayhawkers- self-appointed abolitionist guerrillas
Johnny Reb- what Confederate soldiers were called

K

L

line officers- military field commanders who execute the orders of the overall commander in charge
LOL- Laugh Out Loud
Lurker- someone who frequents reading the board, but rarely posts

M

mortar- a short thick-walled artillery piece designed to lob a heavy projectile in a steep high trajectory

N

nullification- the principle that a state may nullify and refuse to obey or enforce any federal law it considers unconstitutional

O

OMG- Oh My God

P

parole- releasing a POW to his own lines
Peace Democrats- Northerner who advocated a negotiated settlement of the war
peculiar institution- euphemism for slavery
picket- synonym for a guard or sentry
picket line- outer perimeter around a camp or line

pincers movement- tactic of attacking an enemy army from opposite directions
plug uglies- pro-Confederate thugs who attacked Union troops when that marched through Baltimore
political generals- commanders given a high rank as reward for political services
pontoon bridge- transportable temporary bridge
popular sovereignty-policy introduced in the Compromise of 1850 that allowed territory to vote as a free state or a slave state to be admitted to the Union
POV- Point of View
protective tariff- a tax imposed on imported goods with the purpose of discouraging the importation and therefore promoting the sale of domestic goods

Q

R

Radical Republicans- Northerners who advocated continuation of the war to absolute total victory and who further proposed severe punishment for the South
rave-persist in discussing a specific subject
rebels, rebel army- terms used by Union forces to refer to the Confederate army
Reconstruction- general term for the transitional period after the war
regiment- units consisting of ten companies or more two or more regiments made a brigade
retreat- orderly withdrawal of troops from battle
ROFL- Roll On The Floor Laughing
rout- withdrawal in panic and disorder

S

salient- any strong or strongly fortified position or concentration of troops projecting from the main line
scalawags- white Southerners who helped carpetbaggers
scow- flat-bottomed boat
secede- withdraw from membership in an organization in this case from the Union
servile insurrection- synonym for slave rebellion

sharecropping- practice of tenant farming in which farmer gives part of the crop to the landlord

Sherman necktie- heated up rails twisted like a pretzel which made them impossible to repair

states rights- doctrine that individual states command all powers not explicitly assigned to the federal government by the Constitution

T

Three- Fifths Compromise- slaves are only counted as 3/5 of a person for the purposes taxes and apportioning representation in Congress

total war- combat waged against civilians as well as military targets

troll- regularly posts specious arguments

U

Underground Railroad- network that helped fugitive slaves escape

UTSL- Use The Source Luke a pun - intended to ask someone what their source is for information

V

W

WTG- Way To Go

works- fortifications

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YHBT- You Have Been Trolled

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