

How to talk like a soldier in 1776

In the summer of 1776, George Washington's Continental army was stationed in Brooklyn in today's Red Hook, Carroll Gardens, Cobble Hill and Fort Greene. Some of their habits might seem pretty strange to us today.

Breeches (pants) these were made of linen or wool. They have buttons in front and a tie in back to adjust the waist.



Regiment a group of soldiers. Washington's army was made up of 36 regiments from the 13 colonies.



Musket (flintlock gun) The Brown Bess musket was the most common weapon used during the American Revolution. It is made of wood and steel with a smooth barrel or "bore". Each shot had to be loaded separately and took 20 seconds, if you were fast.

Bayonet the spear tip on the end of a musket

Ramrod the long post used to pack or load any weapon

Long Rifle a firearm with a "rifled", or grooved barrel, or bore. This range than a musket, but takes a very long time to load! Rifles were invented by German gunsmiths who immigrated to Southeastern Pennsylvania in the 1700's. Long rifles had no bayonets.



Kit a soldier's bag. In it he would carry musket balls, sewing needles, his pipe and his flint and steel for starting his campfire.



How to talk like a soldier in 1776 cont.

Pass a narrow path through a ridge of steep hills. Controlling passes was a way to slow down your enemy's advance.

Tory (conservatives, loyalists)
These were people who sided with the British.



Oliver DeLancey was from a wealthy New York family of Tories. He became an important officer in the British army in New York. DeLancey Street in New York is named for his family.



Gaiters cloth covers that go over your shoes and connect your pants to socks



Frock Coat Men wore long wool coats over their breeches with flowy linen shirts. Some were tailored into Military *Officer's uniforms*.



Advance (move forward) Battles are like chess! Armies seek to move forward and drive their enemy off of the field of battle.

Retreat To lose your position or give up land. Sometimes, you have to run away to stay safe!

Maneuver a planned movement in battle.

Militia a group of part-time citizen soldiers.

Tricorn a hat made of wool felt. The triangle shape would protect your face from sun and rain.

Hard Tack a biscuit or cracker.

Ration your food allowance.



**OLD
STONE
HOUSE**
& WASHINGTON PARK