

**Bomb-shell.**—A shell projected from a mortar or bomb.

**Bombardier.**—The lowest non-commissioned rank in the British army.

**Breach.**—An aperture, of considerable width, made in the walls of a fortress, to facilitate its being stormed. When an engineer reports to the officer commanding at the siege of a fortification that a breach is "practicable," he means that either by a constant fire of artillery or certain mining operations, the way is open for the assault.

**Breech.**—The part of a gun in which the charge is deposited communicating with the vent, lock, or detonating primer.

**Brigade.**—Three or more regiments of infantry or cavalry, or three batteries of artillery, associated together.

**Bull's Eye.**—The circular spot in the centre of a target.

**Caisson.**—A box attached to a gun carriage for the conveyance of ammunition, tools, &c., that may be immediately required.

**Cannon.**—The guns used by the artillery. The word is derived from the Italian, and means a *cane* or *reed*, which, in shape, the guns originally resembled.

**Caponnier.**—A covered passage running across a ditch, and connecting the walls of a fortress with the outer works.

**Carronade.**—Small pieces of artillery supported on swivels.

**Casemate.**—Bomb proof works within a fortress, and used as barracks, magazines, store-rooms, &c.

**Chevaux de Frieze.**—A cylindrical pole, from around which project spiked bars, presenting a barrier to an attacking enemy. Used with great effect by the French when the walls of Badajoz had been breached by the British.

**Counterscarp.**—The side of a ditch facing the walls of a fort.

**Command.**—The height from the crest or top of a parapet to the bottom of the ditch. The term is likewise applied to the position of an officer at the head of a body of troops.

**Cohorn.**—A small mortar.

**Congreves.**—Formidable rockets, invented by a General Congreve, in the reign of George III.

**Cornet.**—The lowest commissioned rank in the cavalry.

**Cremaille.**—Literally "a flesh hook"—applied by the French to a description of entrenchment with a long face and short flank. Called by the English "indented lines."

**Crochet.**—A narrow passage running round the counterscarp of a fortress.

**Curtain.**—A straight wall in a fortress connecting two bastions.

**Dahlgren.**—The name given to an American gun, after its inventor, a captain in the navy.

**Deblai.**—The excavation caused by forming a ditch around a work of any kind.