

# Port Battalion Soldiers in World War II Vocabulary

**stevedore** – a person employed or engaged at a dock to load and unload cargo onto or from ships

**battalion** – a ground force unit composed of a headquarters and three or more companies or similar units

**port battalion** – men on the docks unloading ships and reloading ships, or loading trains, or trucks

**convoy** – a group of ships or vehicles traveling together, typically accompanied by armed troops, warships, or other vehicles for protection

**Quartermaster Corps** – during World War II, the Quartermaster Corps operated in the Mediterranean, northern Europe, and the Pacific. Thousands of soldiers were trained to fill specialized roles which included providing over 70,000 different supply items and more than 24 million meals each day. When war was over, they had recovered and buried nearly a quarter of a million soldiers in temporary cemeteries around the world.

**mess hall** – a room or building where groups of people, especially soldiers, eat together

**latrines** – a toilet or outhouse, especially a communal one in a camp or barracks

**longshoreman** – person whose job is to load and unload ships at a port loading. The unloading of ships requires knowledge of the operation of loading equipment and the proper techniques for lifting and stowing cargo. Workers must be physically strong and be able to follow orders.

**forklift** – a vehicle with a pronged device in front for lifting and carrying heavy loads

**winch** – a hauling or lifting device consisting of a rope, cable, or chain winding around a horizontal rotating drum, turned by a crank, motor, or other power source

**pallet** – a portable platform for handling, storing, or moving materials and packages

**aft deck** – toward or at the back part of a ship

**forward deck** – toward the front of the ship

**sling rope** – a device (as a rope or chain) by which something is lifted or carried

**embarkation** – the geographic point in a routing scheme from which cargo or personnel depart

**debarkation** – the geographic point in a routing scheme to which cargo or personnel are taken

**Algiers** – the capital and largest city of Algeria, in the northern part of the country on the Mediterranean Sea

**Sicily** – a southern Italian island in the Mediterranean Sea, separated from the Italian mainland by the narrow Strait of Messina

**Anzio** – a central Italian town on the Tyrrhenian Sea, south-southeast of Rome

**Salerno** – a southern Italian seaport on the Gulf of Salerno, an inlet of the Tyrrhenian Sea

**Marseilles** – a port in southeast France, on the Gulf of Lions; it is the second largest city in the country and a major port