

Worksheet 8. Communications - p.1.

During World War I, almost one hundred years ago, how did the soldiers manage to keep in touch with home ... contact other units ... send and receive messages ... transport goods ... move people between places?

Keeping in touch

Soldiers at Fovant Camp sent postcards and letters to their families and friends using their own Camp Post Office.



Dec 5th 1917. Dear Friend, Just a few lines before I go. We are going to some warm climate as we have got sun helmets. Yours Truly Malcolm

The postmark is that of Fovant Camp Post Office. It is difficult to see, but remember that the card, written in pencil, and the photograph are almost a century old.



The soldiers have got their sun helmets on but with all that rain under foot I don't think this can be the country with the warm climate.

Sending and receiving messages

Although during World War I the general mechanics and maintenance of signalling was carried out by the Royal Engineers, each individual regiment had it's own signal section.



Wireless telegraphy



Motorbike couriers



Message dogs and handler



Pigeon carrier

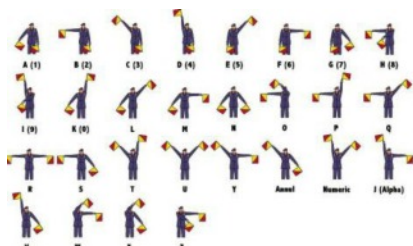


heliograph

- Find out more about the wartime use of animals. as messengers
- After learning the Morse code send messages to your friends. Morse can be transmitted either by buzzer, waving a signal flag or by using a torch as a *heliograph.
- How do these methods of sending messages differ from the ways we contact other people today?



Trench telephone



Semaphore flags can also be used for morse. Hold a single flag upright, a small wave = a dot, a large wave = a dash.



Morse buzzer

A - -	I - -	Q - - -	Y - - -	1 - - - -
B - - -	J - - -	R - - -	Z - - -	2 - - - -
C - - - -	K - - -	S - - -	Period - - - -	3 - - - -
D - - -	L - - -	T - -	Comma - - - -	4 - - - -
E - -	M - -	U - - -	? - - - -	5 - - - -
F - - -	N - -	V - - -	/ - - - -	6 - - - -
G - - -	O - - -	W - - -	@ - - - -	7 - - - -
H - - -	P - - -	X - - -		8 - - - -
				9 - - - -
				0 - - - -

Morse code

* use a dictionary

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Moving people and goods between places



ON FOOT

The soldiers marched up to the trenches, into battle, back to rest centres, and to different camp areas as battle fronts changed. Usually in full kit, the soldiers marched everywhere.



BY ROAD



Horse drawn supply convoy



Supply truck



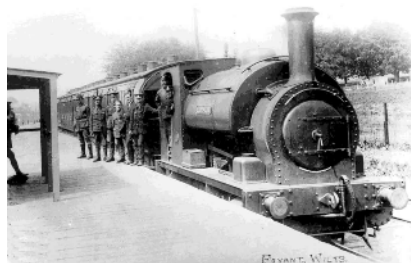
Pigeon carrying truck



Mule drawn supply wagon



Mules hauling ammunition along a light railway 1917



At Fovant Camp station.

Fovant Military Railway, built in 1915, joined the main line two miles away in Dinton. A troop and goods carrier, it also brought the wounded to the camp hospital.

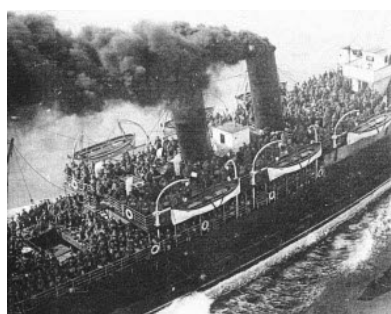


Hospital train in France



British troops being transported by cattle wagon. France 1917

BY SEA



Troopship England to France 1917

These pictures show how troops, and their equipment, were moved almost a hundred years ago.

- Would the same methods be used today?
- There is one transport method used now that was not available during World War 1.
- What is it?