

Communication in War

Text version

A resource in the Gallipoli Series



Communication in War

Part of the Gallipoli Music Memorial Resources

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Communication in War

Communication was very important during the war.

Generals needed to communicate with the soldiers.

Generals needed to communicate with their government.

Soldiers needed to communicate with each other.

Soldiers needed to ask for help.

There were many types of communication.

Communication was very difficult.

Commanders sent their troops into battle.

Sometimes there was no communication for days.

Soldiers did not know what to do?

Voice

The commanders could shout to troops.

But the soldiers needed to be near.

If the battle was very noisy they wouldn't hear.

Semaphore

One of the first successful communications was using flags.

Each letter is shown by different flag positions.

This is called Semaphore.

Flags could be seen from a long distance.

The problem was the enemy could see the flags too.

Telegraph

By 1914 messages were being sent all over the world.

Telegraphs used Morse code.

Each letter had a code of dots and dashes.

The letters were made with long and short sounds.

Flash lights

They also used Morse code with flash lights.

They made the messages with short or long flashes.

Sometimes the enemy could see the lights.

Soldiers invented codes to make the messages secret.

Telephone

In World War 1 there were no mobile phones.

Telephones had to be connected by cables.

Sometimes cables were very long.

But the cables could be damaged by shells.

Runners

A runner is a soldier who carries a message.

It was dangerous because of firing and shells.

Often it was the last hope when other communication failed.

Animals

Animals also carried messages.

Carrier pigeons are trained to fly back to their nests.

Messages were tied to their legs.

Dogs could run fast back to their commander.

Dogs also carried food and bandages.

Codes

It was important to keep messages safe.

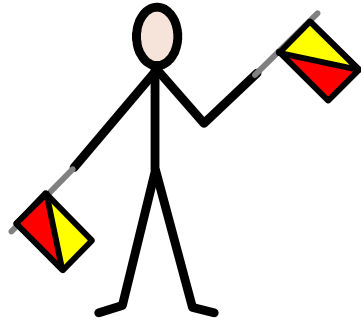
They didn't want the enemy to read the message.

Many secret codes were invented.

The codes helped to keep the messages safe.



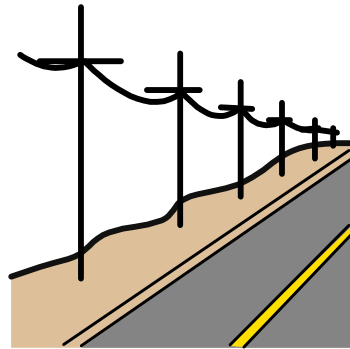
morse code



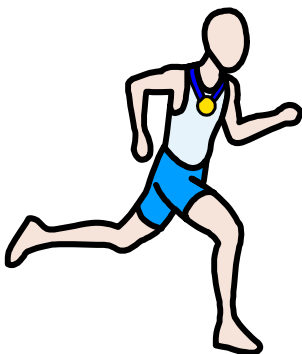
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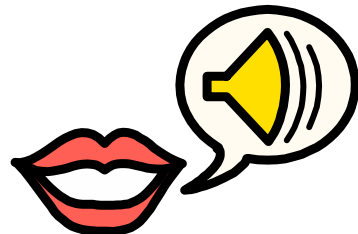
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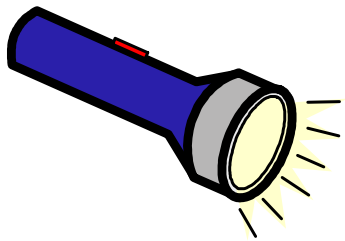
telegraph



runner



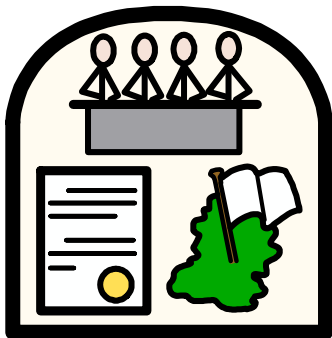
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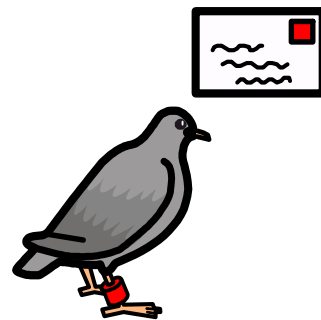
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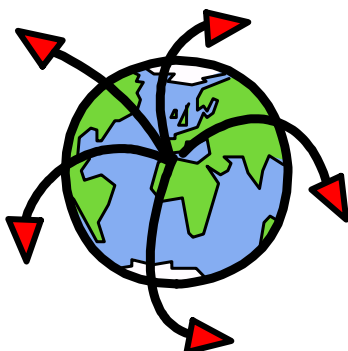
communication



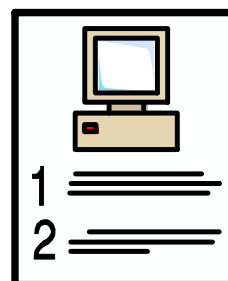
government



Carrier pigeons



all over the world



code