

SENDING MESSAGES

General Post Office Engineers

Communicating with troops on the front line is vitally important in any war. During the First World War, General Post Office engineers were specially trained to set up, maintain and operate telephones on the front line. This allowed quicker, more regular contact between troops and army headquarters than in previous wars.

Watch out!

Telegrams alerted the navy to the presence of the enemy. In the famous Battle of Heligoland one message said,

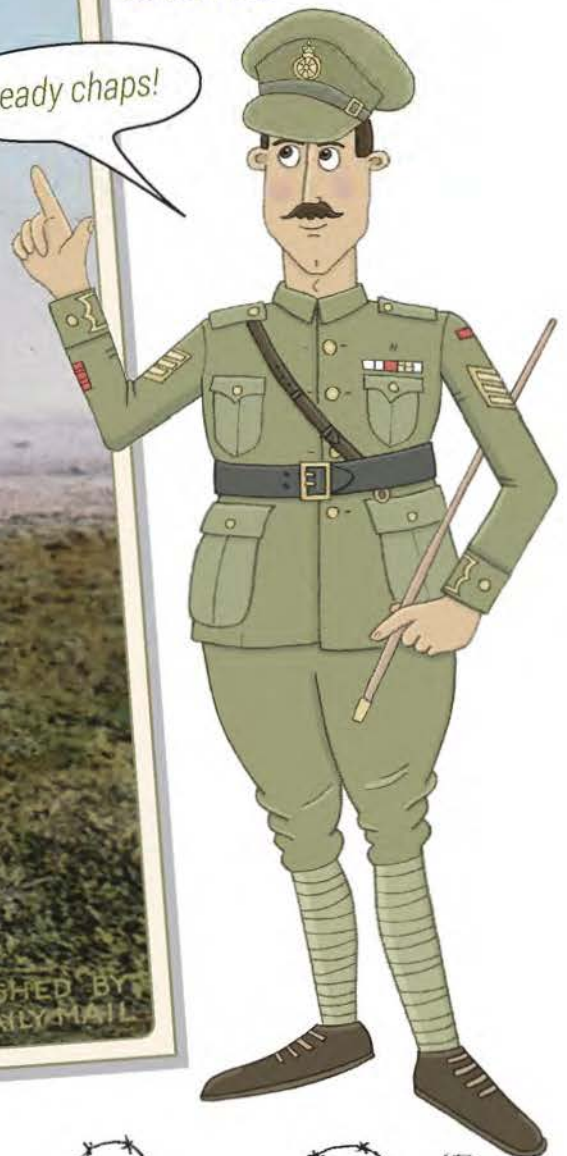
'Bear round sharp to starboard and you'll catch them'.

In the battle that followed, the British navy sank four German ships.



◀ Two soldiers, one standing on the other's shoulders, are attempting to use a telephone on the Front

Steady chaps!



It's official!

Every Saturday, a telegram giving up-to-date news of the war was sent from London to every telegraph office in Britain. It was printed out and displayed in Post Office windows for everyone to read on Sunday morning.

► **Mr Pike Pease, Assistant Post Master General, inspects the boys and congratulates them on their smart appearance**



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Boy messengers

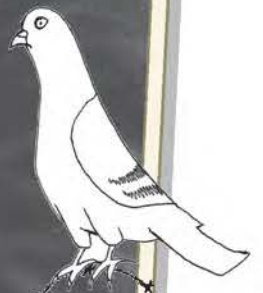


Boys, as young as 14, delivered telegrams to soldiers' families. They often delivered the tragic news of a son, brother, father or husband, killed in action. These telegrams earned boy messengers the nickname of 'angels of death'.

Pigeon post

Carrier pigeons were used to carry messages to and from the front line where telephone lines did not exist. The army used about 22,000 pigeons during the war and only two percent of birds failed to return.

▼ **Belgian agents care for pigeons in Flanders**



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