COMMUNICATION DURING WORLD WAR II

How did people send messages during WWII?

Newspaper

GERMANS INVADE AND BOMB POLAND BRITAIN MOBILISES

Warsaw, Cracow, Nine Other Towns Bombed: Danzig is "Annexed"

FRANCE DECLARES "STATE OF SIEGE"

GERMANY INVADED POLAND TO-DAY. COMPLETE BRITAIN WILL

Newspapers were used to inform citizens of local and international events, as well as opinions of others. Letter-to-the-editors allowed for people to convey their opinions on certain topics and for others to see it.

Propaganda

The government used propaganda to persuade citizens of certain ideas and beliefs and/or communicate messages to citizens. This was primarily done through posters, radio, comics, or newspapers.

Wireless Telegraph

These devices were used to transmit messages in forms of dots and dashes (Morse Code). These dots and dashes were converted into text by someone who knows Morse Code. This was a form of encrypted messaging.

Radio

Radios were used to communicate strategies/missions between soldiers, both on land and air. It was also used to communicate propaganda, keeps families in touch, and entertain users with music.

Cryptography

Cryptography is the study of secret codes. Machines would turn ordinary text into secret code. The secret code could only be deciphered by code books that military personnel had. Without that, it was virtually impossible to figure out.

Field Telephones

The Field Telephone was the device used by soldiers to communicate with others when on the ground. Technology had improved greatly to allow for greater production and use of telephones on the field.

Mail

V-MAIL is SPEED MAIL

Letters were mailed to communicate with people. However, it took up valuable space. Victory mail was developed to tackle this issue. A special form was used to allow the letter to be photographed in microfilm. The small film is transported and then reproduced and delivered.

Animals

Animals, primarily pigeons, were used to send messages from one location back to their "home" base. Pigeons were great at finding their way home, and thus, were easily trained to send messages from an unfamiliar location back home.

genially

References

Anyka. (n.d.). *Morse code telegraph transmitter* [Photograph]. Shutterstock.

    https://www.britannica.com/topic/Morse-Code

Auel, L.B. (1996). *Buddies: Soldiers and animals in World War II*. National Archive.

    https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1996/fall/buddies.html

Back, G.I., & Thompson, G.R. (n.d.). *World War II and after*. Britannica.

    https://www.britannica.com/technology/military-communication/World-War-II-and-after

Bukvoed. (2006). *Modified TA-312 field telephone* [Photograph]. Ownwork.

    https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/ad/Tel-312AH-latrun-exhibition-1.jpg

Chapman, J. (2000). The power of propaganda. *Journal of Contemporary History, 35*(4), 679-

    688. https://doi.org/10.1177/002200940003500410

Clarke, C. W. (1933). Signal Corps Pigeons. *The Military Engineer, 25*(140), 133–138.

    http://www.jstor.org/stable/44563742

General Motors Corporation. (1942). *Warning! Our homes are in danger now!* [Photograph]. Records of

    the Office of Government Reports. https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/powers-of-persuasion

Guise, K. (2019, December 7). *Mail call: V-mail*. The National WWII Museum.

    https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/mail-call-v-mail

Hilton Archive. (1939). *The front page of London's Evening Standard newspaper on Sept. 1, 1939,*

    announcing the German invasion of Poland [Photograph]. Getty Images.

    https://time.com/5659728/poland-1939/

National Museum of the United States Air Force. (n.d.). *War of secrets: Cryptology in WWII.*

    https://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/Visit/Museum-Exhibits/Fact-

    Sheets/Display/Article/196193/war-of-secrets-cryptology-in-wwii/

Reuters. (n.d.) *An employee of an auction house presses a key on a working original Enigma cipher machine on display at an auction house in Bucharest on Tuesday* [Photograph]. The Japan Times. https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2017/07/12/world/bought-e100-world-war-ii-enigma-machine-fetches-e45000-auction/

Simmons, G.J. (n.d.) *Developments during World War I and II*. Britannica. https://www.britannica.com/topic/cryptology/Developments-during-World-Wars-I-and-II

Smith, C. C. (1980). Diluting an Institution: The Social Impact of World War II on the Arkansas Family. *The Arkansas Historical Quarterly, 39*(1), 21-34. https://doi.org/10.2307/40023149

Smithsonian. (2011). *Victory Mail*. National Postal Museum. https://postalmuseum.si.edu/exhibition/victory-mail

United States Bureau of the Census. (1906). *Special reports: Telephones and telegraphs 1902.* Washington Government Printing Office. https://books.google.ca/books?id=x-cpAAAAYAAJ&q=%22wireless+telegraphy%22&pg=PA118&redir_esc=y#v=snippet&q=%22wireless%20telegraphy%22&f=false

Unknown. (1940). *British soldiers release a pigeon with a message capsule attached to its leg* [Photograph]. Warfare History Network. https://warfarehistorynetwork.com/2019/03/15/warfares-unsung-pigeon/

Unknown. (n.d.) *V-mail is speed mail poster* [Photograph]. The National WWII Museum. https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/mail-call-v-mail

Unknown. (n.d.) *WW2 family tuning to the radio* [Photograph]. Getty Images. https://imperialglobalexeter.files.wordpress.com/2014/09/ww2_family_tuing_radio.jpg

Wallace, R., & Kiser, T.M. (2020, April 25). *The EE-8 field telephone*. The National WWII Museum. https://www.nationalww2museum.org/EE-8-Field-Telephone