

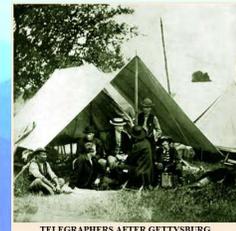
T-Mails, The Telegraph and Battle Management

Presentation to the
Civil War Round Table

Introduction

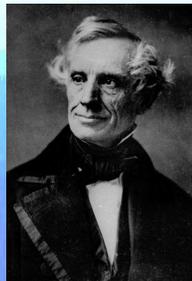
- Lightning Messages
- Who am I
- Sources
- Central theme:

How the telegraph was the
Internet of the 19th century



Lightning Messages

- Edutainment
- Drill down on logistics
- What will be discussed
 - Hardware & software
 - A learning process
 - The war begins
 - Tidewater
 - The West
 - Gettysburg
 - Hooker's move from VA to TN

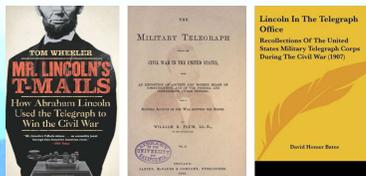


Samuel F. B. Morse

Who Am I and Why This Topic

- A student with a keen interest in logistics
- An economics major, back in the day
- A computer programmer by trade
- I have a interest in information technology
- The beginnings of real-time management at a distance has never really been told

Sources



- *Mr. Lincoln's T-Mails* © 2006 by Tom Wheeler
- *The Military Telegraph* © 1882 by William Plum
- *Lincoln In The Telegraph Office* © 1907 by David Homer Bates

19th Century Internet



How the telegraph was the Internet
of the 19th century

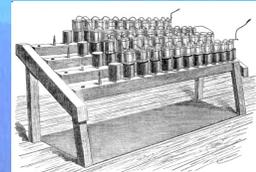
Telegraph – Hardware/Software

- Invention
- Pre – Civil War
- Railroads – Its use in management



Hardware

- Key & sounder
- Grove cell batteries
- Insolated wire
- Glass pole insulators
- Relays



Pre – Civil War

- 1844 - < 50 miles
- 1860 > 50,000 miles
- AP formed
- California by 1861
- Business transactions



Railroad Management

- Too unreliable
- By 1851 some use
- Dispatch “killer app”
- Other functions added
- Management from afar



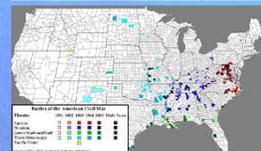
A Learning Process

- Tactical / Strategic
- Lincoln
- McClellan
- Stanton
- Grant



Tactical vs. Strategic

- Small unit wire
- Battle management
- Theater control
- Whole war



Leaders

- Lincoln
- McClellan
- Stanton
- Grant



War Begins at Ft. Sumter

First telegram:

Gen. Beauregard to the Secretary of War, Charleston, April 12, 1861.

We opened fire at 4.30 minutes.

G. T. Beauregard

[National Republican newspaper April 13, 1861]



USMTC

- 3 organizations
 - Private companies
 - USMTC
 - Signal Corp
- April 19, 1861
- Original people
- First line
- Lincoln's troops call



Manassas

- Union failure
 - Telegraph ends
 - Knows where troops are
 - Cannot get them in time
- Mass at the attack
 - Four converge
 - Johnston's march
 - Railroad & telegraph



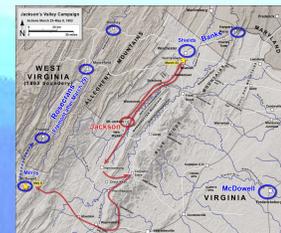
Rich Mountain

- McClellan's command
- First victory
- THE telegram
- Results



West of Washington

- Corps d'Armee
- Lee & Jackson
- Spring 1862
- Lincoln telegram
 - What it was
 - What it meant



USS Monitor vs. CSS Virginia

- Telegraph/Press
- Ft. Monroe line
- USS Cumberland
- Monitor vs. Virginia



Lincoln Learns to Command

- Setting up command
- Moving with the army
- Events to the west
- Walking around
- Taking command
- “Come home”
- Ineffective



Reinforcing Pope

- Slow walking
- Line went dead
- Herman Haupt
- Lincoln asks
- Railroad bridge
- Believes it's good
- Awful truth



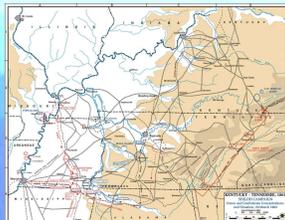
Telegraph in the West

- Wire did not follow
- Henry & Donelson
- After the fact
- Grant's fame
- Keeping lines open



Shiloh

- Location
- Grant's commo
- Buell's commo
- Early on 04/06/62
- Help is on the way

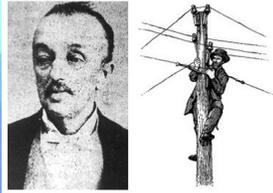


Tree Limb Telegraph "Office"



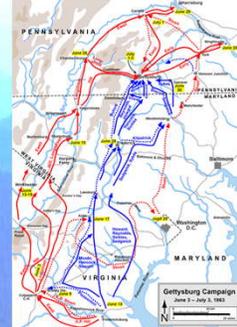
Tomfoolery

- Comic relief
- He rode with Morgan
- William G. Fuller
- Pistols & field glasses
- George D. Prentice
- Telegram to Fuller



Hinge of Fate, June/July 1863

- Brandy Station
- Intelligence
- Lee's march
- Crossing a rail line
- Lee finally gets it
- First action



In the Field at Gettysburg

- Tactical use
- Setting up defenses
- Interior lines
- Down to division



Virginia to Tennessee

- Feat of logistics
- Meeting 09/23/63
- 3 mo. to 7 days
- Order to Meade
- Details
- Trains roll
- Mission Accomplished



Lincoln Suspension of Executions

- Largest number
- This example
- A young soldier
- Lincoln Telegrams Project
- John F. Abshire

