

THE SECRET WORD

Our War Department Has About the Best Code in Existence.

SIMPLE, FLEXIBLE AND RAPID.

The Navy Has a Cipher of Its Own, as Has Also the Department of State. One of the Codes Used by England for Unimportant Messages.

The United States government employs probably more different kinds of codes than any other power. The state department has one of its own. The war department has one. And the navy uses a separate and distinct system. The code book or key of the navy cipher is kept always in a canvas bag, which is lined with zinc and heavily weighted. The bag is in the personal custody of the commanding officer of the ship, who has orders never to let it get away from him, but to throw it overboard in the event of capture by an enemy. The advent of wireless telegraphy has made this precaution doubly necessary, for the solution of an enemy's cipher in time of war might easily turn the scales of victory.

The only naval code book ever captured by an enemy was the one carried by the Chesapeake in the war of 1812. The commander of the Chesapeake, Captain Lawrence, was wounded early in the battle, and no one else knew where the code book was kept. When the frigate surrendered the British found the code behind a sliding panel, and the book is now in the British museum.

The cipher of the war department is very simple in its nature and by virtue of this simplicity, ease of operation, inscrutability and rapidity with which a new key can be substituted is said to hold first place among the military ciphers of the world. Army officers who have used other codes say that none of them compares to this one.

This cipher may in a general way be described as an ingenious method of distorting the order of words in a message and further obscuring the meaning by the systematic introduction of irrelevant words and meaningless names. The variety of distortions is great, and whenever a copy of the cipher is captured another cipher can be communicated in a very short time to all those who should have it.

A simple and ingenious naval cipher was invented by Captain Charles Morris for the use of the American navy during the war of 1812 and has been utilized by the navy department, with modifications, ever since. The principle is applicable alike to flag ciphers or numerical ciphers transmitted by telegraph or wireless.

Captain Morris in a hand written signal book bound by him in 1811 stated:

A circumstance may sometimes render it desirable to change the significance of the flags or the numbers expressed by them. The following method should therefore be adopted:

Let each day of the week be inserted in the signal book opposite a number. To each of these days affix a certain number, which is always to be communicated orally under charge of secrecy, that no enemy or improper person can become acquainted with it. The following list is an example:

Sunday (add) 1
Monday 2
Tuesday 3
Wednesday 4
Thursday 5
Friday 6
Saturday 7

Before commencing your communication insert the number corresponding to the day you wish to use. This will signify to the person who is to read the signal that he is to add the number corresponding to that day to all signals that may be made. The person sending the signal will subtract the same number from all signals. By this means an enemy's knowledge of your ordinary signals might really be converted to his disadvantage instead of the benefit which he might promise himself from them.

While nobody could tell you today the code used by any power in transmitting important and vital news and instructions, some of the more ordinary ciphers have been discovered. For instance, one of the simplest of all official ciphers is that used by the British foreign office for the transmission of comparatively unimportant messages, the cipher being too well known to risk detection when there is much at stake.

The letters of the alphabet are arranged in the form of a square:

1	2	3	4	5
a	b	c	d	e
f	g	h	i	j
k	l	m	n	o
p	q	r	s	t
u	v	w	x	y

Each letter is then represented by two numerals. Thus A would be 11, D would be 41, R would be 34, and so on. The letter Z, which has to be omitted from the cipher because of the fact that there are twenty-six letters in the alphabet, is represented by 0, while the same symbol is used to separate words.

Thus in "Rush arms to Zanzibar" the cipher would be:

361543201123244056300114304221134.

This cipher has the advantage of almost infinite variety, as by changing the arrangement of the numerals one may easily baffle a chance recipient of the message, while the person for whom the cipher is intended would have no trouble in reading it.—James Hay, Jr., in Every Week.

Good Reason.

Gibbs—Why do you call your waiter Billard 'Cue'? Dibbs—Because he gives the best satisfaction when he has a good tip.—Boston Transcript.

A wide spreading, hopeful disposition is your only true umbrella in this vale of tears.—T. B. Aldrich.

THE FEZ AND THE OTTOMAN.

Colors Mean Much, and Only the Arab Foregoes the Tarboosh.

That stream of people crossing the Galata bridge, over the Golden Horn, runs red, for every Ottoman, except the Arab, must wear the tarboosh. "The man with a hat" means the foreigner. The way to see Constantinople without attracting attention to yourself is to slip on a tarboosh, but the wise foreigner has been slow thus to surrender the one visible token of his special extraterritorial rights, for when trouble is afoot the word goes out to spare "the man with a hat" because of the fear of international complications. During the reactionary revolution that followed on the heels of the constitution there was a ludicrous scramble on the part of the Greeks and other Christians to get beneath hats, and the sudden crop of silk hats and derbies was wonderful to behold.

Fashions in fexes pass in review across the bridge. The Albanian has a white headress—a cross between a fez and a skullcap. The Persian wears a huge black felt dome that is matched in size only by the big brown bulb that crowns the head of the dervish. The hadji, whose merit in having made the haj, or pilgrimage, to Mecca is proclaimed by his huge turban, is a frequent figure on the bridge, for every Moslem man who has the means and the physical strength is expected to visit the birthplace of the prophet at least once in his life. The elaborately wound headress of the hadji is of white cloth, but a sayid's or descendant of Mohammed, is of green. Sometimes the mosque officials, or imams, even when they are not of the prophet's blood, wear the green turban.

Only the men wear any sort of headgear. The oriental woman goes hatless. A cloth or veil is as much covering as she wears on her head. As I stood there on the bridge I saw a group of Turkish women stare through their thick veils at the hat of a foreign woman as she hastened by. Since Young Turkey has come into power western fashions are much in favor in Constantinople.—Youth's Companion.

A BATTLE OF THE WINDS.

When Boreas and Notus Rage at Each Other on the Bosphorus.

By a strange phenomenon, if the south wind prevails the superficial current of the Bosphorus is reversed, though the inferior current continues its accustomed course. Then the waters on the surface are piled tumultuously back upon one another, and the quays, which are several feet above the ordinary Bosphorus level, are flooded and perhaps made impassable. At such times caiques and smaller boats do not dare to venture upon the tempestuous surface.

Sometimes a strong wind blows northward from the Marmora, and another wind as strong blows with equal violence southward from the Black sea. Then, as one gale from some central point like Roumel Hissar, he beholds ships under full sail majestically approaching each other from both directions till at last they are only two or three miles apart. Between them lies a belt of moveless sea, into which they are forced and on which they drift helplessly about and perhaps crash into each other's sides.

This is a duel royal between Boreas and Notus and may continue for hours. Gradually the zone of calm is forced north or south. At last one wind withdraws like a defeated champion from the arena. The ships which it has brought thus far drop their anchors and wait or else hire one of the numerous steam tugs which are paddling expectantly about. The ships which have come with the victorious wind triumphantly resume their course, and meanwhile their sailors mock and jeer their fellow mariners whose breeze has failed them.—From "Constantinople," by Dr. Edwin A. Grosvenor.

Clothes in Colonial Days.

When Salem was settled the Massachusetts Bay company furnished clothes for all the men who immigrated and settled in that town. Every man had four pairs of shoes, four pairs of stockings, a pair of Norwich garters, four shirts, two suits of doublets, a pair of hose of leather lined with oilekin, a wooden suit lined with leather, four bands, two handkerchiefs, a green cotton waistcoat, a leather belt, a woolen cap, a black hat, two red knit caps, two pairs of gloves, a cloak lined with cotton and an extra pair of breeches.

Wills in Argentina.

In Argentina the laws provide that a father must leave his children four-fifths of his fortune, and a husband, if he has no children, has to leave half of his property to his wife. An unmarried son is compelled to leave his parents two-thirds of his property, and only unmarried persons without parents or descendants can make wills disposing of their possessions as they see fit.

Shocked Him.

"What did the boss do when you threatened to resign if he didn't raise your pay?"

"He surprised me."

"How?"

"He failed to show the slightest sign of alarm at the prospect of my leaving."—Detroit Free Press.

An Advantage.

"To what do you attribute your remarkable health?"

"Well," replied the very old gentleman, "I reckon I got a good start on most people by being born before germs was discovered, thereby havin' less to worry about."—Washington Star.

ROADS IN CHINA.

They Remind One Very Much of the Snakes in Ireland.

BECAUSE THERE ARE NONE.

What Apologies There Are For Them Are a Great Deal Like the Bed of a Stone Quarry—The Torture That Goes With a Trip in a Peking Cart.

Describing the roads, or, rather, the lack of roads, in China and the torture that is undergone by the tourist who, used to the luxurious modes of travel we may employ, trusts himself to the uncertain joys of a trip in a Peking chair, a writer in the Wide World Magazine says:

"Now, a Peking cart is a very venerable mode of progression. When our ancestors were lightly dressed in road and had no conception of any wheeled vehicle the Chinese lady was paying her calls in the back of a Peking cart, the seat of honor under the tilt, well out of sight of the passers by, while her servant sat in front, the place of comfort, if such a word can be applied to anything pertaining to a Peking cart.

"In spite of its long and aristocratic record if there is any mode of progression more wearying and uncomfortable I have not met it. It is simply a springless board set on a couple of wheels with a wagon tilt of blue cotton over it and a place for heavy luggage behind. The Chinaman sits on the floor and does not seem to mind, but the ordinary westerner, like myself, packs his bedding and all the cushions he can beg or borrow around him and then resigns himself to his fate.

"The Peking cart has one advantage, people will tell you—it has nothing to break in it. But there are moments when it would be a mighty relief if something did break, for if the woodwork holds together as it tosses you from side to side you yourself are one sore, bruised mass. Nor I cannot recommend a Peking cart, even on the smoothest road.

"And the roads in China are not smooth. We all know the description of the snakes in Ireland. There are none, and much the same might be said about the roads in China. There are so called roads, certainly, upon which the people move about, but I have seldom met one that was any better than the surrounding country, and very, very often on this journey I met roads where it was ease and luxury to move off them on to the neighboring plowed field.

"The recipe for a road there in the north seems to be: Take a piece of the country that is really too bad to plow or to use for any agricultural purpose whatever, that a mountain torrent, in fact, has given up as too much for the water, upset a stone wall over it—a stone wall with good, large stones in it—take care they never for a moment lie evenly, and you have your road.

"Leaving Peking for the eastern tombs, you go for the first two or three hours along a paved way of magnificent proportions planned and laid out as a highway should be. The great stones with which it is paved were probably put there by slave labor, how many hundred years ago I do not know, but the blocks are uneven now, some of them are gone altogether, though how a huge block of stone could possibly disappear passes my understanding, and whenever the carter could he took the cart down beside the road, where at least the dust made a cushion for the nail studded wheels, and the jarring and the jolting were not quite so terrible.

"It takes as long to get beyond the environs of Peking in a cart as it does to get out of London in a motorcar. First we passed through the Babylonish gate, and the great walls were behind us; then, outside the city, all looking dusty, dirty and khaki colored in the brilliant sunshine, were numerous small houses, and the wayside was lined with booths on which were things for sale.

"Along the roadway came an endless array of people, clad for the most part in blue cotton—men walking, men with loads slung from a bamboo across their shoulders, donkeys laden with baskets or sacks of grain, with fat Chinese on their backs. There were Peking carts, there were mules, there were ponies, and this busy throng is almost the same as it was a couple of thousand years ago.

"But it was a long, long while before I could feel I was really in the country. There was the khaki colored land, there were the khaki colored houses, built of mud apparently, with graceful tiled roofs, and blue clad people everywhere and everywhere at work.

"Always the fields were most beautifully tilled. There were no fences. The Chinese are too civilized to need fences, and when you see stone walls it is only because, since they can't be dropped off the planet into space, the stones must be disposed of somehow."

Paris For Politeness.

Translated rather crudely and literally, this is the notice in a Paris trolley car: "Messieurs the passengers descending from the carriage are urged (literally "prayed"), before renouncing the shelter which the carriage they are about to quit offers them, to assure themselves, as a preliminary, that no carriage coming in the opposite direction is in proximity."

Hope for the best, but work hard for the result.

CHOPSTICKS IN JAPAN.

How They Are Used and How They Are Served in Public Places.

The use of chopsticks is general in Japan, except among the richer classes, who have adopted European knives and forks, and, to some extent, the European cuisine. Small bowls of chiya or lacquered wood are the usual table equipment. After the various solid portions of the food have been lifted to the mouth with chopsticks the liquid remaining is sipped from the bowl.

In the case of rice, which would be tedious to pick up grain by grain, the bowl is often raised to the mouth and the rice shoveled or pushed in with the chopsticks. It is also customary to pour a little tea into the rice bowl after it has been nearly emptied, and in this way the few remaining grains of rice are washed down as the tea is drunk.

At public places, the chopsticks at each meal must be new. This is indicated by the fact that the chopsticks are made from one piece of wood and are left joined together, as were matches at one time in the United States. These new chopsticks are incased in a thin paper envelope, sealed at the end, and bearing Japanese characters advertising either the hotel or some firm that has furnished them free to the proprietor for the sake of the publicity thus gained. Toothpicks, which are freely used by all Japanese at meals, are also incased in envelopes that frequently bear advertising matter.—New York Times.

EXPLOSIVES OF WARFARE.

To a Great Extent They Are a Development of Fireworks.

War is a wholesale fireworks celebration. A giant firecracker is really a dangerous bomb, and rifle grenades are but small rockets, carrying high explosives and fired from rifles. Great fort destroying projectiles look simply like gigantic rockets.

The first magazine gun was a Roman candle. The first projectile propelled by an explosive was a rocket. The first shrapnel was a bomb discharging luminous stars instead of bullets.

Modern warfare is, so to speak, a development of Fourth of July ideas.

However, gunpowder—the first explosive—was itself mere play stuff for at least a thousand years before anybody thought of using it for war purposes. It was commonly employed in China for fireworks and crackers during the earliest centuries of the Christian era. The bombs nowadays dropped by military aviators are children's torpedoes magnified to make them deadly.

Really an incendiary bomb was the famous "Greek fire" of the crusaders. It has been said that shrapnel is a modified fireworks bomb. It has the form of a cylinder, which, at a distance from the gun muzzle suitably timed by a fuse, blows its own head off, throwing out 250 or more lead bullets that travel on their own account with a velocity of 400 feet a second.—Philadelphia Record.

Cemeteries Where Women Gossip.

Friday, the Sabbath of the Moslems, when all true believers of the masculine gender make a point of going to church, their wives, sisters and daughters resort to the cemeteries and wait for the dead. But all their time is not spent in weeping, and sorrow is not the only emotion they display on these occasions. They take with them bunches and garlands of flowers and decorate the graves of their relatives and pray and weep over the dead for a time. Then when this pious duty is performed they gather in little groups and have a good time gossiping about the living. Thus the day of mourning is very popular among the Moslem women. It gives them almost the only opportunity they have of cultivating the acquaintance of their neighbors.

Crowns by Wholesale.

It is told of one of the ancient kings of Egypt that his coronation procession occupied a whole day in passing through the city of Alexandria and that 3,200 crowns of gold were carried by the servants. One crown was three feet in height and twenty-four feet in circumference. There were also carried in the procession sixty-four suits of golden armor, two boots of gold, four and a half feet in length; twelve golden basins, ten large vases of perfumes for the baths, twelve ewers, fifty dishes and a large number of tables—all of gold. Twenty-three of the 3,200 crowns were valued at \$34,400, and it is not surprising that the procession was guarded by 80,000 soldiers.—St. James' Gazette.

Let Her In on This.

"I believe a man should be master in his own house," said the newly married man. "There can be only one head in a family, and I mean to be it."

"That's a very good idea," answered his friend, who had been married more years than the other had lived, "a very good idea indeed. Have you spoken to your wife about it?"—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Tree Leaves and Water.

Ash leaves are capable of taking up more water than those of most other trees. In a hundred pounds of ash leaves are eighty-five of water. In the same weight of beech leaves seventy-five, of maple sixty, of pine fourteen and of fir ten.

Naturally So.

"She's been so consoled since they managed to get a player piano."

"Well, dear, player piano owners do as a general thing put on airs."—Baltimore American.



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Suppressing Swearing.

Profane as well as legal oaths have been the subject of many parliamentary measures in England. No fewer than five separate bills having the prevention of swearing for their object were presented during the reign of James I., but it was not until 1623 that an enactment was finally carried defining and controlling the offense. In 1635 a public department was established to collect the fines enforced by this law. The officials of this department, of whom one was appointed in every parish, were allowed 2s. 6d. in the pound on the money thus collected, and the balance was paid over to the bishop for the benefit of the deserving poor. These penalties ceased to be enforced after the restoration, but were revived by a statute of William and Mary and still further increased under George II.

Has the Most Legs.

The little creature which bears the distinction of owning more legs and feet than any other known organized being is the millepede, which literally means "thousand footed." There are several species of this curious worm, all possessing the characteristics of having a many segmented body, each segment provided with a pair of legs. Unlike the centipedes—"hundred footed"—they are perfectly harmless.

Proper Exercise.

In exercising it is necessary to remember that a sufficient number of muscles should be brought into play at one time to stimulate the action of the heart and lungs and increase the circulation and respiration, otherwise the body as a whole will not be benefited by the exercise.

A Real Grievance.

Magistrate—How comes it that you dared to break into this gentleman's house in the dead of night? Prisoner—Why, your worship, the other time you reproached me for stealing in broad daylight. Ain't I to be allowed to work at all?—London Telegraph.

Her Idea.

"The spelling book's all wrong, mamma."

"Why so, Ethel?"

"Because it don't look right for a little thing like a kitten to have six letters and a big cat to only have three."—Yonkers Statesman.

Cause and Effect.

"When I sing I gets tears in my eyes. What can I do for this?"

"Stuff cotton in your ears."

—Chicago Tribune.

The one prudence of life is concentration; the one evil is dissipation.—Emerson.