

The Great Part Played by the Telephone in the War



ABOVE is a German telephone detachment laying a field telephone, unwinding the wire from a small drum carried by two of the men. The officer in command is telephoning on some matter connected with the laying of the wires. At the beginning of the war the wire was laid along the ground and in a later stage, when operations were hurried, this plan was necessarily adhered to. But when the armies are stationary the wires are laid six feet underground to prevent detection.

(At right)

BRITISH signal officer "listening in" on a German telephone line that he has tapped, hoping thereby to discover the enemy plans. His revolver is close at hand and his comrade is also keenly on the alert, for a patrol of the enemy may come along at any moment. So much of this listening was done on both sides in the early days of the war that later on a cipher code was used so that even if an order or message should be overheard by an enemy it would be only a jumble of unintelligible sounds and betray no military secret.



(At left)

ATELEPHONE dugout deep beneath the trenches so as to protect it from enemy shells. An operator, snugly ensconced, is receiving reports from artillery observers and transmitting them to the batteries. If the aviators are, as they have been called, the "eyes of the army," the telephone operators are the "ears," and the service they render can hardly be overestimated.



ABOVE is a field telephone and telegraph office set up by the Germans in a house some distance behind their first lines. Messages from the firing line are here received and immediately forwarded to main headquarters for the consideration of the staff officers. A very elaborate system is employed that for accuracy and efficiency would compare favorably with that of a large city in time of peace. This is essential, for it is a matter of life and death.