



HISTORY OF SIGNALLING IN 100 OBJECTS THE CABLE WAGON



This famous picture is of the Scottish Signal Company Royal Engineers that was based in the TA Centre in Jardine Street, Glasgow, which remains to this day the RHQ of 32nd Signal Regiment. The cable wagon that is on display in the Blandford Museum is claimed to be the only remaining cable wagon in the world and can be viewed there. This vehicle was in service from 1911 to 1937 and consisted of a team of six horses pulling the cable wagons with two outriders, who dispersed



the cable away from the main track or road. The whole team, when fully manned consisted of 9 men. Although often there was an additional team leader shown in photos. The second picture is from a painting that conveys the feeling of motion that must have been present when seeing this team working on the battlefield. The majority of WW1 communications depended on laying "line" and repairing it under fire, when damaged by artillery shelling or the movement of tanks and other vehicles.

The preparation for the Battle of the Somme included laying over 50,000 miles of cable. 43,000 of this total was laid above ground and 7,000 miles dug to a depth of at least 6–7 feet. The cable wagon was replaced prior WW2. It was replaced by line laying from vehicles, cable carts or by Royals Signals soldiers on their feet dispensing from a drum of cable - *Certa Cito!*