



HISTORY OF SIGNALLING IN 100 OBJECTS 'THROUGH'



Francis Patrick Martin was a soldier, telegraphist and artist. The picture, entitled 'Through' is his most well known WW1 battlefield picture. It holds a special place within the Royal Corps of Signals, hence its selection to be Object 100 in this collection to commemorate the Corps' centenary.

The original painting hangs in the HQ Officers' Mess in Blandford. This picture captures the plight of the lineman-telegraphist during WW1: exposed under fire and alone on the Western Front. His telephone can be seen beside him and the implication of the picture is that the soldier has made the connection through himself in order to maintain communications.



Martin served in the Boer War and while there he learned earning how to ride and manage horses. After this he left the army to join the GPO as a telegraphist but re-enlisted in 1914 in the 5 Scottish Rifles (Cameronians), In his own words he stated ,“The GPO gave him away” and he was brought back into the RE Signal Service Regiment based in Jardine Street, Glasgow (today the HQ of 32nd Signal Regiment).

His experience with horses meant he worked with cable laying teams. Martin saw service in France with the Indian Corps, gaining much experience of laying line on the front line. In 1917, after promotion to Sgt, he became an instructor at the Bedford Signals Service Training Centre (SSTC), ending the war there as RSM.

SSTC’s motto was “Be thorough to be through.” It was SSTC’s motto that inspired his title for this painting. He returned to work for the GPO after WW1 becoming a famous artist in his own right. During WW2 he continued to work for the GPO and served in the home guard. His picture remains an inspiration to all in The Corps in respect of service, team-work, duty and professionalism.

Certa Cito!