



Semaphore

With Dick and Dot



Messaging friends without a phone

How to message friends without a phone, no texts, no messenger apps, no phone calls?

Nearly a hundred years ago, in *Winter Holiday*, the Swallows and Amazons used flags as a code. It's called semaphore. Dick and Dot saw them practicing but didn't know what it was, at first.

Today, hardly anyone would know about it either, so it's a secret way of sending messages!

Try it out: you need two sticks, with flags attached.

You can make the flags from any square sheet: use handkerchiefs, tissues or cut squares from old sheets.

Look at the pictures. Your friend is going to signal you. Ready?

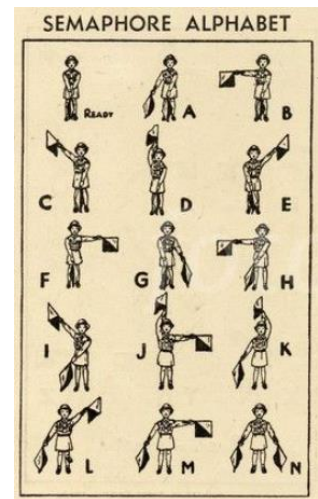
They face you, starting with their right hand, with positions for the letters A, B, C and D. Then they swap to their left hand for E, F and G.

For H onwards, two flags are used.

You have to learn what the flag positions mean, and practice until you can do it quickly!

Can you give it a go?

Message us and let us know if you can do it!



Start off with your right hand

Signalling to Mars

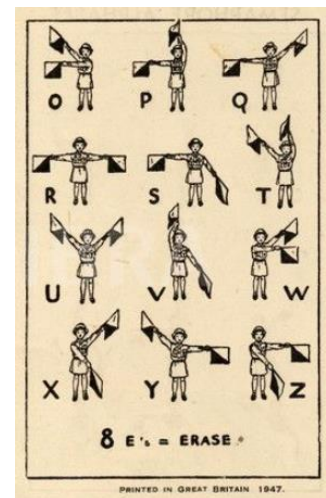
An extract from *Winter Holiday*:

In the boat, far out on the lake, the boy was resting on his oars. The red-capped girl who was with him was standing up. She, too, had a flag and had begun to wave it.

A shout of laughter sounded on the island.

"Peggy, you donk. You've got that one all wrong. Try it again." That clear voice they had heard before rang out over the water.

There was more flag-waving in the boat, and more from the island. Then there was a pause, and a moment later the signalling began again, only this time the signallers had two flags apiece, and did not wave them but held the flags at arm's length, first in one position and then in another.



You can search how to do numbers too

This page is part of the fun stuff for Swallows & Amazon fans.

Do you have ideas for more pages like this?

Three million cheers!

Make up your own page and send it to us.

If Nancy likes it, we'll add it to the collection!