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- Women baked and sewed thousands of items for soldiers, including over 200,000 quilts!
- Louisa May Alcott, well-known author of *Little Women*, volunteered to nurse the wounded.
- Because enlistment of women was forbidden by both Union and Confederate armies, women had to disguise themselves as men to become soldiers. For this reason, it is not possible to know how many women served in the military.
- *Women of the War*, published in 1866, devoted an entire chapter to soldier heroines.
- Despite general public awareness that women served in the army, the War Department denied having any documentation of women soldiers.
- Mary Owens served 18 months under the alias John Evans. Her identity was discovered when she was wounded in the arm. When she returned home, she received press coverage.
- Sarah Edmonds, alias Franklin Thompson, enlisted as a private in the Second Michigan Infantry in 1861. She deserted in 1863 because she had contracted malaria and feared being discovered if she were hospitalized.

FAST FACTS

WOMEN DURING THE WAR



WOMEN DURING THE WAR

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## ABOUT WOMEN DURING THE WAR

### **Women as Soldiers**

Throughout the Civil War, women looked for ways to help. Women on both sides were very patriotic. In fact, hundreds of women even disguised themselves as men and became soldiers! Some were even killed in battle.

### **Women as Spies**

Other women, like Pauline Cushman and Belle Boyd, were spies. Women made excellent spies because most men did not suspect them. Emmeline Piggott, a Confederate spy, hid secret messages in large pockets sewn under her skirts. Other spies hid secret messages in their hair buns.

### **Women as Nurses**

Before the Civil War, there were very few female nurses. That changed as thousands of women volunteered during the Civil War. Many people were against the idea of women being nurses, but they ended up playing a very important role in the war.

### **Women in Other Roles**

Some women traveled with soldiers as members of the "soapsuds brigade." Their job was to clean the clothes of the men in the military units. These brave women risked their lives, even though many men would have preferred that they had played their part off the battlefield.

Most women, however, helped out closer to home. When their fathers, husbands, and brothers left to join the army, women took their places in factories and farm fields. In the South, many women had to assume the duties of the slaves who had run away or been freed. Women kept America's economy strong throughout the Civil War.

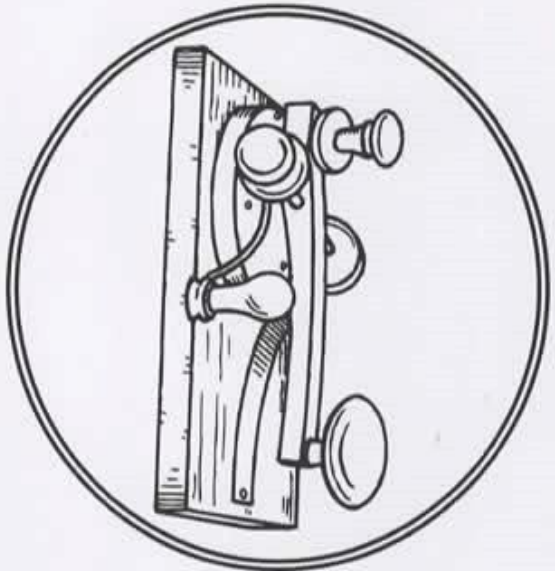
In the North, women volunteered in the Sanitary Commission. They sewed and baked for Union soldiers. They tended the wounded in Union hospitals. They also raised millions of dollars for the Union army. The South, however, did not have a Sanitary Commission. It was too poor. "With us," a Confederate once said, "every house was a hospital."

### **A Changing Society**

Thousands of women recorded their Civil War experiences in diaries. Today, these diaries help us learn about what life was like during the war. For example, women during this time had few rights. Most people did not believe that women were equal to men. They were not even allowed to vote.

However, the work that women did during the war impressed many people across the country. It changed the way men thought of women. It also changed the way women thought of themselves.





# WAR TECHNOLOGY



## WAR TECHNOLOGY

### FAST FACTS

- The Civil War was the first time people communicated by telegraph, transported troops by trains, and used ironclad warships and submarines in naval combat.
- The Confederate submarine named *H.L. Hunley* was the first submersible to engage and sink a warship. In 1995, the 40-foot submarine was discovered at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean off Sullivan's Island, South Carolina.
- The "Gatling Gun" was a crank-operated weapon with 6 barrels. It was one of the first machine guns used for war.
- Ambulances were used for the first time during the Civil War. In both the Union and Confederate armies, cooks and musicians worked as stretcher bearers, transporting the wounded in four-wheeled horse-drawn carriages.
- Samuel F.B. Morse's first telegraph, produced in 1846, could only send a signal 40 feet (12 meters). But by the mid-1850s, Morse and his business partners had established a national telegraph network.
- When the Civil War began, well-known photographer Mathew Brady's eyesight was too poor to operate a camera himself. He hired about 300 cameramen, who took thousands of photographs of all aspects of the war.



## ABOUT WAR TECHNOLOGY

### **The First Modern War**

The Civil War has been called the first modern war. Many devices that are common today were first used in the Civil War. Other technology, like submarines and the telegraph, were invented earlier. But it was the war that made them popular.

### **On the Battlefield**

Some inventions were created for the battlefield. A machine gun called the Gatling Gun was first used in the Civil War. People were shocked at the huge number of deaths it produced. Land mines also caused a lot of destruction. Confederate soldiers buried shells a few inches below ground that exploded on contact.

### **At Sea**

New technology was also used during battles at sea. Underwater mines were first used on a wide scale by Confederate forces to protect key waterways. Mines damaged over twenty Union ships and destroyed many others. The mere suspicion that mines were present would force the cancellation of Union naval operations.

Ironclad ships replaced wooden ships. The Confederates built the first one from the burned hull of the USS *Merrimack*. The new ironclad was renamed the CSS *Virginia*. The first battle using ironclads was between the CSS *Virginia* and the USS *Monitor*.

### **In the Skies**

Hot-air balloons were first used by the Union army during the Civil War. In 1862, during the Warwick-Yorktown Siege, Union General George McClellan used two gas balloons called the *Intrepid* and the *Constitution*. They were launched almost daily to observe Confederate defenses. Confederate forces responded with their own use of surveillance balloons.

### **Photography**

The Civil War was the first war to be widely photographed. Photographers took pictures of slaves, battles, and camp life. It was the first time many soldiers had ever had their photo taken. Americans were fascinated with these pictures. They were so different from the lifeless paintings everyone was used to. When photos of dead soldiers from the Battle of Antietam were published in newspapers, people were horrified. It was the first time photos of war casualties had been made available to the public. Photography even changed the way some people looked at slavery. Photographs of slaves, with their tired faces and shabby clothes, convinced Northerners more than ever that slavery had to end.

Ultimately, advances in technology changed the way people waged war.



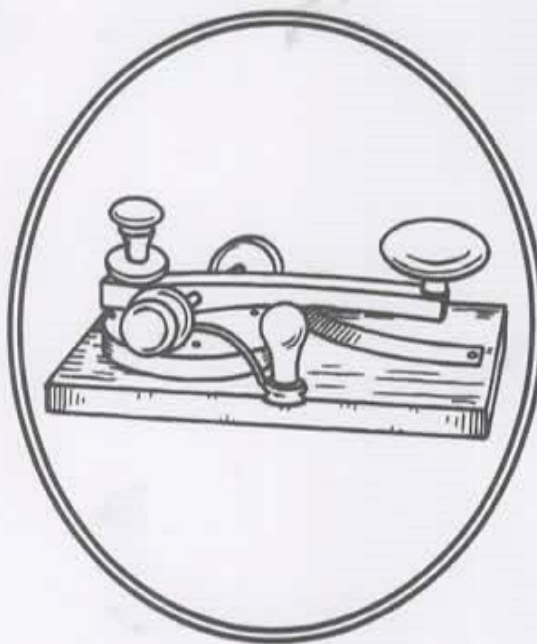
# THE TELEGRAPH AND MORSE CODE

## ⇒ MORSE CODE ⇐

A	.-	J	.---	S	...
B	-...	K	-.-	T	-
C	-.-.	L	.-...	U	..-
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## THE TELEGRAPH

**B**efore the telephone was invented, people used the telegraph. A telegraph is a machine that transmits messages in Morse Code, a series of dots and dashes that represent the letters of the alphabet. The telegraph became very important during the Civil War. President Lincoln used a telegraph to learn the most recent news from the battlefield. Sometimes telegraph messages even let armies know when enemy troops were approaching.



# THE TELEGRAPH AND MORSE CODE

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General Ulysses S. Grant  
Battle of the Wilderness

## MY CODED MESSAGE

Code:

Code:

Code: