

**MANUAL NO.6. MANUAL  
OF VISUAL SIGNALING OF  
THE U.S. SIGNAL CORPS**

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Manual No.6. Manual of Visual Signaling of the U.S. Signal Corps by A. W. Greely & D. J. Carr

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**A. W. GREELY & D. J. CARR**

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THE U.S. SIGNAL CORPS**



(Manual No. 6)



# MANUAL OF VISUAL SIGNALING

OF THE

## U. S. SIGNAL CORPS



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SIGNAL CORPS



WASHINGTON  
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1905



WAR DEPARTMENT,  
SIGNAL OFFICE,  
*Washington, October 25, 1904.*

The following Manual of Visual Signaling will replace all other pamphlets or similar instructions heretofore issued by this office. Officers and men of the Signal Corps will thoroughly familiarize themselves with the instructions and suggestions contained herein.

It is recognized that the duties devolving upon the Signal Corps of maintaining lines of information pertain very largely to electrical means of intercommunication. There is not, however, a proper realization of the importance of visual signaling as a means of transmitting orders and information. While, as a rule, visual appliances are growing to be subordinate methods of conveying information, yet, in the future, as in the past, the flag, the heliograph, and the lantern must often be indispensable and invaluable methods of signaling.

The Chief Signal Officer of the Army, therefore, enjoins upon the officers and men of the Signal Corps the necessity of acquiring a thorough practical knowledge of visual signaling as the base of signal duty. Every officer and noncommissioned officer should be so trained that he can properly locate signal stations, personally transmit and receive messages by heliograph, flag, lantern, or other method, and devise preconcerted message codes.

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He should also be thoroughly familiar with the use of the War Department and other military codes, so that in critical periods he can insure secrecy in visual messages by suitable use of codes or ciphers.

Military information, whether in the form of reports or orders, is recognized as absolutely indispensable to successful military operations, and the value of such information largely depends on the speed and accuracy of its transmission.

Visual signaling presents a great field for individual and resourceful work in the transmission of such information, and a thorough and careful study of this manual will furnish the theoretical basis on which practical operations may be successfully prosecuted.

A. W. GREELY,

*Brigadier-General,*

*Chief Signal Officer, U. S. Army.*

Approved.

ROBERT SHAW OLIVER,

*Acting Secretary of War.*

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