

SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

AMBULANCE TRAINS: LOGISTICS

A FORGOTTEN FIRST
WORLD WAR STORY

TALKING



Ages

11-14
14-16

Topics

WORLD WAR ONE • HISTORY

Skills used

OBSERVATION • DISCUSSION

Logistics

About Ambulance Trains

Explore the realm of First World War ambulance trains with our image bank for Key Stage 3 pupils. Discover the significance of the railway industry and ambulance trains during the 1914-1918 conflict, and learn about the life-changing journeys of wounded soldiers.

Using images in your classroom

Our galleries in the Science Museum Group are full of amazing objects which are all examples of how science and technology has changed and improved our everyday lives.

You can use images:

- To hook students' interest at the start of a lesson or to introduce a new topic.
- As part of a discussion to explore the stories of the people who have shaped the world we live in through their passion and creativity.
- As mystery objects and get your students using their science and history skills such as observation, using prior knowledge and asking questions.
- To create a display of applications of science in your classroom, connecting past, present and future examples of technology.
- In a pre-visit activity to familiarise students with some of the objects and themes they will find in any of our museums.

Logistics: Background information

The railways played a crucial part in the transportation of supplies and soldiers to and from the front line. The speed in which troops, munitions and equipment had to be moved to Europe was key to the war effort.

Ambulance trains were designed and built by the rail companies and were specifically for the transportation and treatment of the wounded. The railway also provided logistical support at home, keeping the usual services and managing the extra movement of people and goods for the war effort.

The aim of these resources is to help your students to explore the huge logistical task undergone to keep everything moving during the First World War. The resources offer an insight into logistically planning the movement of troops and cargo.

Teachers' notes

Use them as discussion points for learning about logistics during the First World War

Encourage your students to explore and interpret the resources

Compare the use of railways in today's society to their use within the war

Talking points:

What is happening in these images/quotes?

Chose a resource; how does it make you feel?

What were the responsibilities of the people having to plan this?

What obstacles would you need to overcome?

Does anything in these resources surprise you?

Visualise the scene the quote describes and draw it.

What do these resources not tell us?

What questions do you need to ask about these resources?

What other types of sources of information do you think you need to look at to find out the answers to these questions?

LONDON & SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

AS TO

**the discontinuance of and alteration
in the Passenger Train Service.**

The London and South Western Railway Company have to give notice that in consequence of the requirements in connection with the movement of His Majesty's Forces, it is not practicable to continue the whole of the Passenger Train Service as advertised in the Company's Time Tables, and that it will be necessary to reduce and alter the

PASSENGER TRAIN SERVICE

On and from Wednesday, 5th August, 1914

(and until further notice).

Special pamphlets giving full particulars of the suspensions and alterations will be issued as soon as practicable, and in the meantime intending passengers are respectfully requested to enquire at the Company's Stations and Offices as to altered services.

The Company also give notice that they are unable to guarantee the running or punctuality of trains, and cannot be responsible for any delay, loss or damage which may occur to passenger train traffic.

WATERLOO STATION,
AUGUST 4th, 1914.

H. A. WALKER, General Manager.

T.440/100.

Waterlow & Sons Limited, Printers, London Wall, London.



Limitations on railway travel

Day trip trains and cheap tickets were limited during the war.





Munitions for war

Railway companies transported more than just people, this is a gunpowder van. It provided information to reduce the risk of explosion caused by sparks from hobnailed boots.

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Image: Courtesy of
Imperial War Museum

All means of transport

British wounded soldiers travelling on a light railway. The trolleys were pushed by hand.
France, 1917.

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Image: Courtesy of
Imperial War Museum

Evacuating was not so easy

German wounded soldiers being evacuated by a Royal Army Medical Corps ambulance train. Ambulance trains could not always pick up casualties at stations. Sometimes it had to be closer to the front line. Belgium, March 1918.