SEMAPHORE CODES

Use the instructions and codes below to send messages between our replica semaphore stations. These two stations are located on the hills above the Commandant's House and the Accountant's House. The below semaphore codes were devised by Commandant Booth, whose code book contained over 3000 codes unique to the Tasman Peninsula semaphore system.

9
Top
60
Middle
400
Bottom

469 = *Irons, in irons*

GENERAL

040	*Message understood*
073	*As soon as*
192	*Message complete*
430	*How many*
1234	*Ready to signal*
1245	*Signal not understood*
1250	*Repeat last signal*
1251	*Send an answer*
757	*Send, sending, sent*
851	*To arrive, arrived*
855	*To be sent*
675	*Proceed[ing]*
2309	*Urgent, urgently*
960	*When*
961	*Where*
963	*Which*
966	*Who*
969	*Why*

PRISONERS ABSCONDING

1780	*Prisoner*
1841	*Boy absconded*
2131	*Troublesome and dangerous*
1842	*Several boys have absconded*
926	*Vicious*
930	*Violent*
1307	*Prisoner has absconded*
1308	*Several prisoners absconded*
1309	*A prisoner apprehended*
1310	*All prisoners apprehended*
1311	*Prisoners armed*
469	*Irons, in irons*
1291	*Double the patrols*
1294	*Patrols on full alert*
1291	*Party of constables or military*
1296	*Have been sent out*
1299	*Fire or smoke observed*
1301	*To scour hills*
1302	*Shot[s] heard*
1304	*Send support immediately*
2290	*Search*
2239	*Identification needed*

NAUTICAL

750	*Sea, by sea*
1138	*Ship*
1141	*Schooner*
1173	*Under sail*
1087	*Boat(s)*
1092	*Strange boat*
1094	*Boat required*
1104	*Boat in sight*
1106	*Boat missing*
1107	*Boat found*
1108	*Boat swamped*
1109	*Boat taken*
1110	*Boat recaptured*
1112	*Boat going out of Heads*
1120	*Canoe*
1122	*Dingy*
1133	*Barque*
1134	*Brig*

WEATHER

1195	*How is weather*
1196	*Blowing hard*
1187	*Heavy sea*
1201	*Quite calm*

PLACES

1225	*Sydney*
1226	*Hobart Town*
1227	*Launceston*
1228	*The Settlement [Port Arthur]*
1230	*Coal Mines*
1575	*Point Puer*
1614	*Fortescue Bay*
1621	*Norfolk Bay*
1641	*Eaglehawk Neck*
1675	*Cape Pillar*
1676	*Cape Raoul*
1695	*Maria Island*
1697	*Tasman Island*

DIRECTIONS

1208	*Northerly*
1209	*Southerly*
1210	*Easterly*
1211	*Westerly*
1212	*North-easterly*
1213	*North-westerly*
1214	*South-easterly*
1215	*South-westerly*
1219	*Heading in direction of*
1300	*In the vicinity of*

TIME

1522	*After*
1523	*At what hour*
1524	*Before*
1526	*Daylight*
1527	*Dark*
1528	*Evening*
1532	*Month, next month*
1533	*Morning*
1535	*Night*
1536	*Noon*
1537	*O'clock*
1538	*Sunrise*
1539	*Sunset*
1540	*Time*
1541	*Tomorrow*
1542	*Today*
1545	*Yesterday*
1558	*Sunday*
1559	*Monday*
1560	*Tuesday*
1561	*Wednesday*
1562	*Thursday*
1563	*Friday*
1564	*Saturday*

PROVISIONS

821	*Supplies, to supply*
691	*Quantity - how much*
1477	*Bags*
1479	*Bushels (36 litres)*
1480	*Casks*
1482	*Fathoms (1.8 metres)*
1483	*Foot, feet (0.3 m)*
1484	*Gallons (4.5 litres)*
1486	*Hundredweight (51 kg)*
1490	*Inch (2.5 cm)*
1514	*Ounce (28 grams)*
1515	*Pint (0.6 litres)*
1516	*Pound (0.46 kg)*
1324	*Ammunition*
1325	*Arms (weapons)*
1339	*Blanket(s)*
1340	*Hammock(s)*
1345	*Boots*
1346	*Cap(s)*
1351	*Jackets*
1354	*Shirts*
1356	*Trousers*
1359	*Waistcoat*
1393	*Beef, cask*
1394	*Beef, fresh*
1396	*Biscuits, bags*
1398	*Cocoa*
1400	*Coffee*
1402	*Flour, bags*
1404	*Mutton*
1405	*Oatmeal*
1407	*Peas, cask*
1408	*Plums*
1410	*Pork, barrels*
1411	*Potatoes*
1413	*Salt*
1418	*Sugar, bags of*
1419	*Tea*
1420	*Tobacco*
1422	*Vegetables*
1423	*Vinegar*
2552	*Following items requested to be sent at first opportunity*
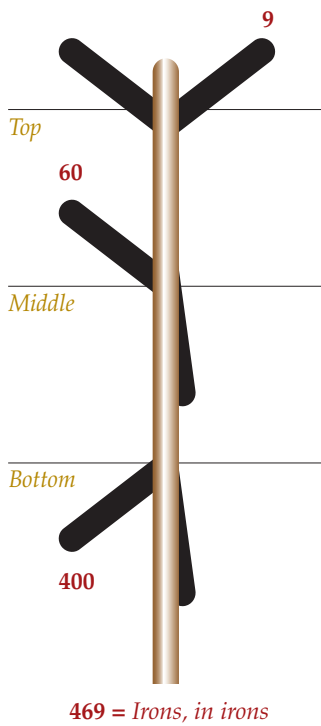
ILLNESS / INJURY

456	*Injury, injured*
1010	*Wounded*
2019	*Pain, painful*
1941	*Amputation will be necessary*
1817	*Drowned, drowning*
1729	*Medical aid needed immediately at*
1730	*Medical officer has departed for*
1732	*Sick hammock needed at*
1734	*Serious injury has occurred*
247	*Dying, dead*

PEOPLE

1031	*Commandant*
1041	*Storekeeper*
1043	*Engineer*
1045	*Commissariat Officer*
1050	*Military Officer*
1051	*Soldiers*
1061	*Boats Crew*
1067	*Constables*
1076	*Overseer*
1081	*Signalman*

TOP LEVEL = SINGLE UNITS

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0
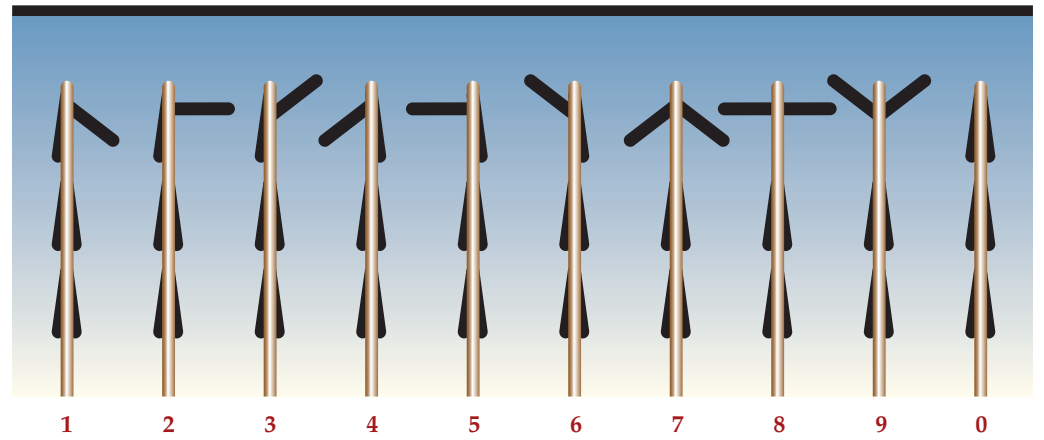
MIDDLE LEVEL = UNITS OF TENS

10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90
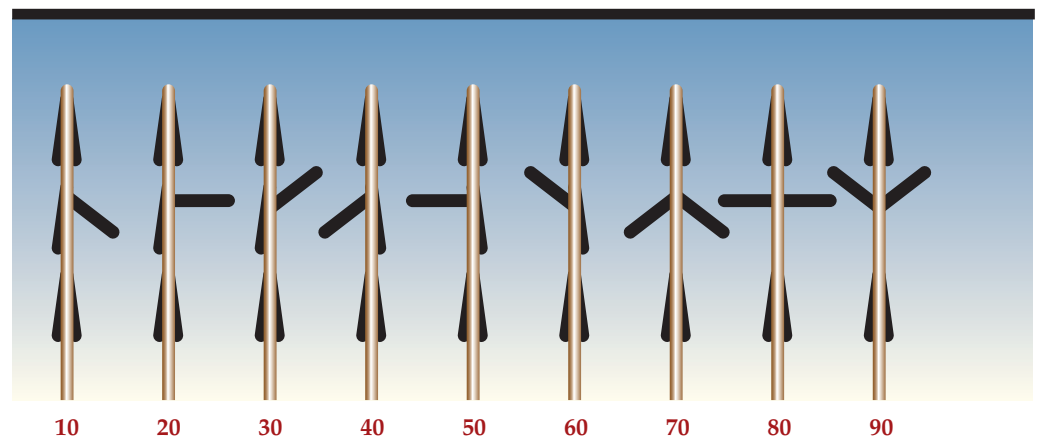
BOTTOM LEVEL = UNITS OF HUNDREDS

100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900
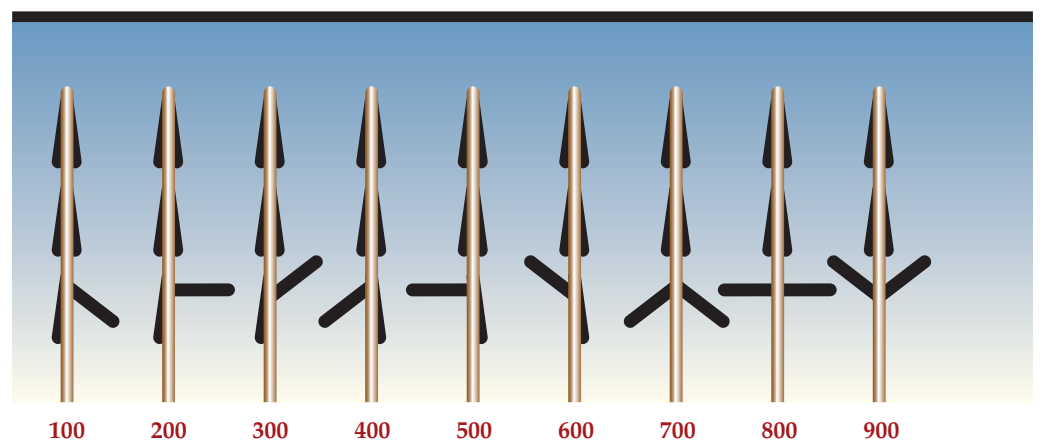
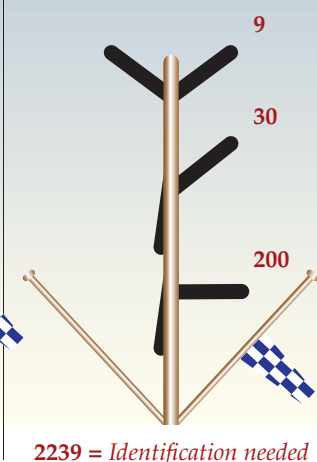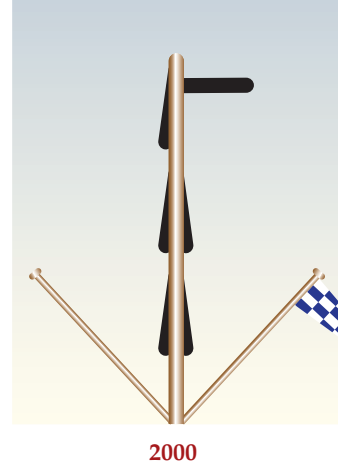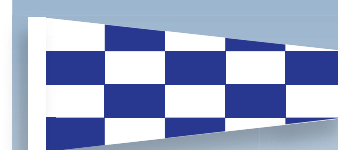## THOUSANDS FLAG

To show thousands, hoist the 'thousands flag' (chequered) to the end of the yard arm and use the single units to show if the number is in the 1000s, 2000s etc.

Then you can finish the code by dropping the thousands flag to half way down, and displaying the rest of the number, for example, 2239 would be sent like this:
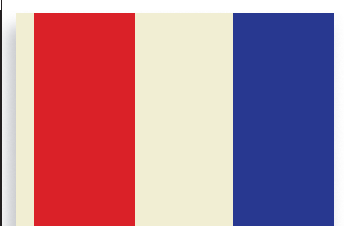
9
30
200

2000

2239 = *Identification needed*

SEMAPHORE FLAGS

The *Blue Peter* (or preparative flag) is used to indicate that communication is about to begin. The Blue Peter can also be hoisted to half mast to indicate a mistake.

The *Tricolor* (or numerical flag) is used to indicate that a number, rather than a letter, word or phrase, is being sent.

Blue Peter

Tricolour