

The Hello Girls: Turning Points
In War Communication and Women's Equality

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Junior Division

Group Performance

Process Paper:

499 Words

For our school's History Open House this year, we researched war inventions and turning points in communication, which led directly into research for NHD. Originally, we planned to choose a topic about Alaska, but the story of the Hello Girls captured our curiosity. They were the first American women in combat, facilitating communication in WWI. Even though these women could not yet vote, they still wanted to serve their country. It seemed consequential to focus on writing our script during Women's History Month. A few weeks into our project, we found out that one of us had relatives who were switchboard operators.

We conducted our research through the library, online, and three interviews which we thoroughly enjoyed. We watched a documentary and lectures, and listened to songs from the Broadway musical, "The Hello Girls." We read primary and secondary sources, many found at The Library of Congress and Chronicling America. We studied photographs, letters, maps, diagrams, Grace Banker's diary entries, and the technology of the switchboard. On March 7, as we wrote a scene about the invention of the telephone, we realized that it was Alexander Graham Bell day!

We created our project by researching individual Hello Girls we wanted to highlight and include in our presentation. We made a PVC frame and borrowed material for our set backdrop, and a friend made hats especially for our presentation. Our teacher gave us Signal Corps pins and we picked out matching outfits. For time's sake, we had to cut less important scenes, lines, and props in the development of our presentation.

Our historical argument is that Women Signal Corps operators stationed in France during WWI advanced turning points in telephone communication, and as the first women in the army, changed views on women's equality. Without the Hello Girls, Allied victory might not have been

possible. They found liberty in a new role in society without undermining others. As the first women to take the Army oath, they upgraded communication during World War I through their discreet, efficient work. Not only did they connect calls through the switchboard exchange, they often translated French or English conversations and kept everything they heard a secret.

The Hello Girls and switchboard communication contributed to victory in WWI, which significantly affected our history. Because these women fought do their bit in a way that they were qualified to do, they changed the president's mind about women's capabilities and patriotism. They showed the world a different view of women's right to full citizenship. The Allies won WW1 with the significant help of these switchboard operators. The 233 women soldiers who fought for freedom with the AEF do not have a voice now, so we decided to speak up for them. We sent letters encouraging Congress to pass the Congressional Gold Medal Act and received a call from Senator Dan Sullivan's office thanking us for our support. This is one way we feel connected to their story and want to be a part of passing it on.

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources

- Batt, Jess R. "World War I Music." *Smithsonian Music*, music.si.edu/spotlight/wwi-music. Accessed 25 March 2024. These are some songs from the WWI era. Listening to them helped us understand the music style. We were trying to find songs from that time that would be good for doing a parody. One main goal was to include songs in our performance, so we studied music from the time so we could copy the style and add our own message.
- Cartoon H-023; April First; 4/1/1920; *Berryman Political Cartoon Collection*, 1896-1949; Records of the U.S. Senate, Record Group 46 ; National Archives Building, Washington DC, 20408. Online Version, docsteach.org/documents/document/april-first, Accessed 10 February 2024. We read this to get the background story and process of women's suffrage.
- Cohan, George. "Over There." *New World Records*, 2015
google.com/search?sca_esv=e24bacfbbe0e1c54&rlz=1C1GCEU_enUS996US996&sxsrf=ACQVn0_dWFBMJfY4junvKINPedVBG2hfBQ:1711152003093&q=george+cohan+over+there&tbm=vid&source=lnms&prmd=ivnsbmtz&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjW8rP6iYmFAxU_CjQIHZMpCNYQ0pQJegQIERAB&biw=10
Accessed 5 March 2024. We used this song to make a parody that could go in our presentation.
- Evening public ledger. [volume] (Philadelphia [Pa.]), 09 March 1918. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress.
chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045211/1918-03-09/ed-1/seq-1/> Accessed 25 March 2024. This newspaper tells the story of one woman from Philadelphia who was accepted for Government telephone service abroad. We were interested in her story as an example of women thinking they were entering the army to serve in WWI.
- "German field telephone." *Library of Congress*, 1914,
loc.gov/pictures/resource/ggbain.17969/. Accessed 11 March 2024. This image helped us see what the telephones out by the trenches looked like.
- GWLI Staff. "Woodrow Wilson and the Women's Suffrage Movement: A Reflection." *Wilson Center*, 4 June 2013, wilsoncenter.org/article/woodrow-wilson-and-the-womens-suffrage-movement-reflection. Accessed 7 March 2024. We used this for our information about women's suffrage and the 19th Amendment. This also gave us good background information about how these women totally changed the President's stance on women's equality.
- Keel, Lois Sprengnether. "Pershing's "Switchboard Soldiers", Oleda Joure Christides, and Women's Suffrage." *Storytelling + Research = Lois*, 18 June 2016, storytellingresearchlois.com/2016/06/pershings-switchboard-soldiers-oleda.html.

Accessed 25 February 2024. This reading explained cool facts about Pershing's "Switchboard Soldiers," Oleda Joure Christides' story, and Women's Suffrage.

Kelly, Kate. "WWI: U.S. Recruits Women Operators." *America Comes Alive*, americacomesalive.com/wwi-u-s-recruits-women-operators/. Accessed 2 March 2024. This article showed how the Hello Girls had an effect on the soldiers of WWI. When the soldiers heard an American voice on the line, it gave them peace and a sense of home.

South Bend news-times. (South Bend, Ind.), 09 Jan. 1918. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn87055779/1918-01-09/ed-1/seq-4/> We used the newspaper in the site to know what people thought at the time about the war in Europe and the Hello Girls being recruited for service in the military.

Terrell, Ellen. "The Hello Girls of World War I – Heeding the Call." *Library of Congress Blogs*, 21 April 2021, blogs.loc.gov/inside_adams/2021/04/hello-girls-of-world-war-i/. Accessed 25 February 2024. This gave us good date facts and is also where we got the newspaper clip to add to our script.

The day book. [volume] (Chicago, Ill.), 01 March 1917. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045487/1917-03-01/ed-2/seq-1/> We read this newspaper and used it as a prop in our presentation.

The Evening World. (New York, NY) 6 Nov. 1916. Retrieved from the *Library of Congress*, loc.gov/item/sn83030193/1916-11-06/ed-1/. We read this newspaper and printed it off to use in our performance.

The Seattle Star. (Seattle, Wash.), 06 April 1917. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn87093407/1917-04-06/ed-1/seq-1/> We read this newspaper and printed it off to use it as a prop for our presentation.

Underwood, Clarence F. "Back our girls over there United War Work Campaign." *Library of Congress*, 1918. loc.gov/resource/cph.3b52925/. Accessed 20 February 2024 Y.W.C.A. poster for the United War Work Campaign showing a young woman seated at a switchboard with soldiers in the background. We used this WWI propaganda poster to give us an idea of what it was like on the front lines; specifically, being a women switchboard operator with soldiers right outside!

U.S. Army Center of Military History. "Oath of Enlistment." *Army.mil*, U.S. Army Center of Military History, 5 October 1962, <https://www.army.mil/values/oath.html>. Accessed 6 May 2024. This site gave us the correct wording of the military oath to use in our presentation. This became an important distinction in the case for recognition of women in the army, since they did take this oath.

US Signal Corps Wool Coat. *National Museum of American History*, Smithsonian, 1998.0165.35.01, americanhistory.si.edu/collections/nmah_335411. Accessed 2 March 2024. This exhibit helped us understand what American Signal Corps Operators' uniform looked like and what they had to wear everyday while they worked. We read the story about Olive Shaw, the original owner of this uniform, in several sources.

Wilson, Woodrow. "Address to the Senate on the Nineteenth Amendment" Online by Gerhard Peters and John T. Woolley, *The American Presidency Project*, 30 September 1918, presidency.ucsb.edu/node/329326. We accessed Woodrow Wilson's address to the Senate on the nineteenth amendment. In his speech, you can tell that his mind was truly changed by these women because they worked so hard under the pressure of combat and they deserved to be noticed. The president changed his view on women's suffrage in part because of their effort.

"Young Women of America, Attention!" *Bell Telephone News, Detroit Edition*, Vol. 7, No. 7, February 1918, p. 23. ggarchives.com/Military/WW1/HelloGirls/YoungWomenOfAmerica-Attention-1918.html. Accessed 16 March 2024. This article described what life was like for the girls before and after they volunteered for being switchboard soldiers.

Secondary Sources

Ambrose, Richard. History of the Telephone I Didn't Know That. 2013. National Geographic, [youtube.com/watch?v=qWUP9EigdjY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qWUP9EigdjY). Accessed February 2024. This video helped us understand the details of telephone technology.

Army Signal Corps Insignia - Crossed Flags – CavHooah.com.” *CavHooah.com*, cavhooah.com/products/army-signal-corps-branch-insignia-crossed-flags. Accessed 15 March 2024. We used this site to buy our pins and print the Signal Corps picture at the back of our backdrop.

Barlow, Abigail and Emily Bear. "If I Were A Man." The Unofficial Bridgerton Musical. *CurtainUp Musical Theatre Karaoke*. 2022. Youtube, [youtube.com/watch?v=mB9NHf1xga0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mB9NHf1xga0). Accessed 21 March 2024. This video helped us coordinate the tune and lyrics when we wrote the parody for the scene about women overcoming expectations and norms from the time.

Bartlett, Cora H and Carman Finch and Norma A. "Hello Girls." *Hillsdale County Historical Society*, hillsdalehistoricalsociety.org/hello-girls. Accessed 6 March 2024. This website described the long process Merle Egan Anderson and others experienced to finally receive their honorable discharge papers and victory medals.

Bell, Kelly. "Hello Girls' Kept World War I Communications Humming." *Veterans of Foreign Wars*, VFW magazine, 3 March 2021, [vfw.org/media-and-events/latest-releases/archives/2021/3/hello-girls-kept-world-war-i-communications-humming](https://www.vfw.org/media-and-events/latest-releases/archives/2021/3/hello-girls-kept-world-war-i-communications-humming).

Accessed 26 February 2024. This secondary source provided information and quotes for us to use in our script.

- Brown, Amanda. Interview with French teacher. 20 February 2024. As we researched The Hello Girls, we realized that one of the important qualifications they had was being bilingual in French, able to translate messages and interact with the French switchboard operators. We knew a few words, but not enough for this project. Miss Amanda, our high school French teacher, spent time with us for some language instruction. We recorded her saying some of the common phrases from the Bell telephone instruction handbook, and she helped us with our pronunciation.
- Bougin, Catherine. Personal Interview. 30 April 2024. In this personal interview, we talked with the granddaughter of the switchboard operator Marie Edmee LaRoux. She showed us pictures of her grandmother and told us more about what the Hello Girls went through. We also found out that there is a full military honors ceremony this Friday, May 3 to honor her and mark her grave.
- Braafladt, Kevin. "Bilingual women served as telephone operators in support of First Army during World War 1." *U.S. Army*, 2, March 2021 [army.mil/article/243847/bilingual_women_served_as_telephone_operators_in_support_of_first_army_during_world_war_i](https://www.army.mil/article/243847/bilingual_women_served_as_telephone_operators_in_support_of_first_army_during_world_war_i). Accessed 18 March 2024. This website gave us more information on how effective the switchboard operators were in aiding the American Expeditionary Forces.
- Chiaverini, Jennifer. *Switchboard Soldiers: A Novel*. HarperCollins Publishers, 2022, pp. 2-3, 425-427 Accessed 23 March 2024. This book provided different Hello Girls' stories and some French phrases. The letter we used in our presentation from Brigadier General Edgar Russel, Chief Signal Officer, we also found in this book. We also found the letter in a nonfiction source. This novel helped us understand overall themes, historical connections and the women's perspectives during those changing times.
- Chrisman, Danielle. "The Effect the Telephone Had on Literacy and Society." *ETEC540: Text Technologies*, UBC Blogs, Danielle Chrisman, 27, October 2013, blogs.ubc.ca/etec540sept13/2013/10/27/the-effect-the-telephone-had-on-literacy-and-society/. Accessed 24 January 2024. This article helped us understand the history of the telephone, how it affected communication worldwide.
- Christopher, Chris, Captain. Personal Interview. 30 April 2024. In this video interview, we were able to speak with a retired US Navy Captain who is a part of the World War One Centennial Commission. We talked about the Congressional Gold Medal that is being passed in Congress to honor the Hell Girls and how they affected the army through their service. He introduced us to a granddaughter of one of the Hello Girls who was being honored by a full military funeral on May 3, 2024.

Cobbs Hoffman, Elizabeth. *The Hello Girls: America's First Women Soldiers*. *Harvard University Press*, 2017. This book especially emphasized women's changing role in society and how the Hello Girls helped change President Wilson's stance on Women's Suffrage. In her book and footnotes, Dr. Cobbs has thoroughly explored the subject through primary sources and interviews. Through her work, we were able to understand the significant connection between the unprecedented work of The Hello Girls, changing even the President's views of women's capabilities. Especially significant was the difference in Brigadier General Russel's thoughts on women joining the war effort. This book was a great example of connecting to research and we learned so much from it.

Cobbs, Elizabeth. Personal interview with the author. 9 May 2024. We were honored to have a video interview with Dr. Elizabeth Cobbs, who is probably the world's leading expert on the Hello Girls. We felt very encouraged by her enthusiasm and were excited to have the opportunity to speak with her. When we were talking to her, she said she loved that we had included music, and thought it was appropriate that we sing about these "unsung heroes." We also appreciated how much work she put into the research of the Hello Girls and how much she shared with us. We thoroughly enjoyed interacting with her because she kept us engaged in what she was saying. She gave us great ideas for our presentation, like adding boots to our outfits. She shared what had moved her most in her studies of these women and we felt a personal connection to their lives through her description. She gave us valuable tips on following up on curious information and how to find primary sources. This was a highlight of our research process.

Cobbs, Elizabeth. "The Hello Girls: America's First Women Soldiers." *US National Archives*, 25 April 2017, [youtube.com/watch?v=RcnUrf7GGyM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RcnUrf7GGyM). Accessed 3 March 2024. In this lecture, Professor Elizabeth Cobbs reveals the challenges these courageous women faced in a war zone and under enemy fire to keep the U.S. army commanders connected with troops on the front lines.

Cobbs, Elizabeth. National WWI Museum and Memorial, 2018, www.theworldwar.org/learn/about-wwi/women-war-hello-girls-elizabeth-cobbs. Women at War: The Hello Girls - Elizabeth Cobbs | National WWI Museum and Memorial Accessed 4 March 2024. This video showed Elizabeth Cobbs talking about women's suffrage, and the first women soldiers.

Cowen, Richard. "Number, please? 'Hello Girls' answered the call in World War I." *Bergen Record*, 5 July 2019, [northjersey.com/story/news/passaic/2019/07/05/hello-girls-were-women-who-answered-call-during-world-war/1285014001/](https://www.northjersey.com/story/news/passaic/2019/07/05/hello-girls-were-women-who-answered-call-during-world-war/1285014001/). Accessed 3 March 2024. This site provided images of Grace Banker's dog tag and other rare images.

cw norma. "WW1 Signal corps Telephone Operator 'Hello Girl'." *U.S. Militaria Forum*, 22 August 2015, [usmilitariaforum.com/forums/index.php?/topic/247997-ww1-signal-corps-telephone-operator-hello-girl/](https://www.usmilitariaforum.com/forums/index.php?/topic/247997-ww1-signal-corps-telephone-operator-hello-girl/). Accessed 1 March 2024. This blog

had images of what The Hello Girls' outfits were like. We used the pictures for choosing which women we were going to portray.

Daugherty, Greg. "The Rise and Fall of Telephone Operators." *HISTORY*, 2 August 2021, [history.com/news/rise-fall-telephone-switchboard-operators](https://www.history.com/news/rise-fall-telephone-switchboard-operators). Accessed 1 March 2024. This is where we got President Wilson's quote along with the history of the switchboard and how it worked.

"Do you have what it takes to be a 1920s telephone operator? Play this unique video game and find out!" *A Smile and A Gun*, 27 April 2016, smileandgun.wordpress.com/2016/04/27/do-you-have-what-it-takes-to-be-a-1920s-telephone-operator/. Accessed 26 January 2024. We used these photos to give us an idea of what it was like working as a switchboard operator to practice our pantomime, and what it looked like.

Doughboy Foundation Staff. "Call on the Hill for the Hello Girls Seeks Support for Congressional Gold Medal Legislation." *The Doughboy Foundation*, 24 January 2024, doughboy.org/call-on-the-hill-for-the-hello-girls-seeks-support-for-congressional-gold-medal-legislation/. Accessed 7 March 2024. This article reported on the January 18, 2024 meeting as the volunteers walked the halls of the US Senate office buildings to ask Senators to cosponsor S.815, the Hello Girls congressional Gold Medal Act of 2023. Before this, we did not know that there was a bill to recognize them as America's first women soldiers, and we realized the connection of their story with current events. As a result, we sent letters to our Alaska senators and representatives, asking them to support this bill.

"Fighting talk: First World War telecommunications." *The National Archives*, nationalarchives.gov.uk/first-world-war/telecommunications-in-war/. Accessed 3 March 2024. The British National Archive exhibits showed us primary sources such as letters, maps and photos of inventions created for use in the war. We also read about the British employing women to be in the army, and realized that this may have encouraged General Pershing's decision to bring in American women.

Frahm, Jill. "Women Telephone Operators in World War I France." *Center for Cryptologic History*, Department of Defense, 2016, media.defense.gov/2021/Jul/13/2002761522/-1/-1/0/WOMEN-PHONE-OPERATORS-IN-WWI-FRANCE.PDF. Accessed 27 February 2024. We used this article to get a good overview of the Hello Girls. It was hard to decide if it was a secondary source because it includes so many images and quotes that are primary sources. We got a lot of context and wording for our performance from this article.

Fouts, Douglas. "The Deadly Consequences of Poor Communication." *LinkedIn*, 27 July 2020, [linkedin.com/pulse/deadly-consequences-poor-communication-douglas-fouts](https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/deadly-consequences-poor-communication-douglas-fouts). Accessed 27 February 2024. We read this to understand how there could be mistakes in communication on the front line, and provided some useful facts about number of calls and what a difference the Hello Girls made by connecting calls efficiently.

Friddell, Claudia. *Grace Banker and Her Hello Girls Answer the Call: The Heroic Story of WWI Telephone Operators*. vol. 1, *Astra Publishing House*, 2021. 1 vols. This children's book gave us quotes from actual switchboard operators.

Hayes, Amy. "The Hello Girls of World War I." *The Collector*, 14 May 2023, thecollector.com/hello-girls-world-war-i/. Accessed 29 February 2024. This site provided interesting facts and context for our presentation.

Hill, Alexis N. "'Hello Girls' – Women Telephone Operators during WWI – The Unwritten Record." *The Unwritten Record*, 30 March 2021, unwritten-record.blogs.archives.gov/2021/03/30/hello-girls-women-telephone-operators-during-wwi/. Accessed 5 March 2024. We used this website to learn more about Signal Corps Women Telephone Operators in WWI.

"History Day: Performance Backdrops Made Easy." *Minnesota Historical Society*, 31 October 2017, [youtube.com/watch?v=8sr-qf7s5SE&list=PLRrmlN6cO7LvWRrRnuZugrnbnQNCK8XVai&index=3](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8sr-qf7s5SE&list=PLRrmlN6cO7LvWRrRnuZugrnbnQNCK8XVai&index=3). Accessed 27 January 2024. We used this video as an idea for a backdrop for our performance.

"Home History of the Telephone and Communication with Businesses." *Mitel*, mitel.com/articles/history-telephone-and-communication-businesses. Accessed 25 January 2024. This article also gave us a lot of useful information about the history of the telephone.

Hparkins. "The Hello Girls Finally Get Paid – Pieces of History." *Pieces of History, National Archives*, 24 June 2015, prologue.blogs.archives.gov/2015/06/24/the-hello-girls-finally-get-paid/. Accessed 9 March 2024. We used this website to give us information on how the Hello Girls were finally recognized as America's first women soldiers.

Lallanilla, Marc. "The Science of World War I: Communications." *Live Science*, 15 May 2014, [livescience.com/45641-science-of-world-war-i-communications.html](https://www.livescience.com/45641-science-of-world-war-i-communications.html). Accessed 3 March 2024. This helped us to understand how communication worked in WWI. It included a discussion of problems with radio and other easily intercepted or unreliable forms of communication.

Mills, Peter. "The Hello Girls." Prospect Theater Company, *The Kennedy Center*, October 7, 2019. [youtube.com/live/-yoTjIHQ6-k?si=E7RS-gh79zYftkZk](https://www.youtube.com/live/-yoTjIHQ6-k?si=E7RS-gh79zYftkZk). Accessed 16 March 2024. This performance inspired us to use songs in our own presentations. We even reached out to the producer and received permission to use some of their songs before we decided to write custom parodies based on a WWI era song.

Myre, Greg. "100 Years On, The 'Hello Girls' Are Recognized For World War I Heroics." *NPR*, 9 November 2018, [npr.org/2018/11/09/659349910/100-years-on-the-hello-girls-are-recognized-for-world-war-i-heroics](https://www.npr.org/2018/11/09/659349910/100-years-on-the-hello-girls-are-recognized-for-world-war-i-heroics). Accessed 22 March 2024.

This site helped with writing our final scene where the war ended and the hello girls got acknowledged as soldiers.

“Research Guides: Hello Girls: Topics in Chronicling America: Search Strategies & Selected Articles.” *Library of Congress Research Guides*, guides.loc.gov/chronicling-america-hello-girls/selected-articles. Accessed 25 January 2024. This research guide was the first boost of our whole project. It has Chronological newspaper articles about the Hello Girls in a timeline of major events. It gave us a lot of background history about the Hello Girls and their experiences. This helped us with the layout and order of our script.

Schlenoff, Dan. “The Telephone at War, 1916.” *Scientific American*, 9 September 2016, blogs.scientificamerican.com/anecdotes-from-the-archive/the-telephone-at-war-1916/. Accessed 2 March 2024. This website helped us understand the history of the telephone and switchboard.

Sheftic, Gary. “America's first female Soldiers on screen for WW1 centennial.” *Defense Visual Information Distribution Service Dvids*, 18 December 2018, d1ldvf68ux039x.cloudfront.net/thumbs/photos/1811/4887573/1000w_q95.jpg. Accessed 4 March 2024. This website had photos of Merle Egan and valuable information about the process of receiving veterans’ status for the operators.

Stout, Doug. “One Particular 'Hello Girl' -- The Story of 1LT Janet Jones - World War I Centennial.” *World War I Centennial Commission*, worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/communicate/press-media/wwi-centennial-news/6225-one-particular-hello-girl-the-story-of-1lt-janet-jones.html. Accessed 16 February 2024. This helped us understand the life of Janet Jones, one of the Hello Girls.

“Switchboards Old and New.” *AT & T Archives*, AT & T Tech Channel. Switchboards, Old and New (Bonus Edition). Bonus ed., April 17, 2012, youtube.com/watch?v=xJ1fKFqt7qU. Accessed 12 February 2024. This Film helped us understand the details of how the switchboard works and how the American women switchboard operators used it.

“Tactics and Logistics on Land - Communication | Canada and the First World War.” *Canadian WWI Museum*, 16, October 2017 warmuseum.ca/firstworldwar/history/battles-and-fighting/tactics-and-logistics-on-land/communication/. Accessed 1 March 2024. This website emphasizes how vital communication is on the battlefield and some of the methods they used. It explains the vulnerabilities of the telephone cable strung along the ground. It must have been extremely dangerous for the Signal Corpsmen to repair the cables. This idea made The Hello Girls contribution seem even more important because they were qualified to do the switchboard job, it freed up technicians to keep the cables operating.

Tester, Jon. “S.815 - 118th Congress (2023-2024): Hello Girls Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2023.” *Congress.gov*, 2023, congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-

bill/815. Accessed 1 March 2024. This is the bill, now in committee, proposing that the Congressional Gold Medal be awarded in honor of the hello girls who served in WWI. We wrote our senators and representatives, asking that they support this bill, and invited them to come out and support NHD 2024. Although this is the original document, we decided it is a secondary source since it's not from the era we're portraying.

“The Hello Girls. Defense Media Activity- Army 2021.” *National Museum of the United States Army*, January 21, 2021. defense.gov/Multimedia/Videos/videoid/786670/ Accessed 5 March 2024. This film from the Department of Defense gave us a good idea of how the switchboard operators worked for the AEF.

“The History of the Telephone.” *CNET*, created by Luke Westaway and Andrew Hoyle, February 15, 2016. youtu.be/j3RbnsHTuVw?si=2kLO5YO21Vc-8tBW. Accessed 23 January 2024. This video helped us learn a ton about the history of the telephone and the huge difference it made in everybody's lives.

US Army Signal Corps. *WWI The Doughboy Podcast*, created by Theo Mayer, guest performance by Dr. Elizabeth Cobbs, episode 62, PodBean, 9 March 2018, podcast.worldwar1centennial.org/e/us-army-signal-corps-episode-62/. Accessed 18 February 2024. This podcast helped us understand the importance of recognizing the Hello Girls as America's first women soldiers. It was significant that they achieved veterans' status.

“War Communication during WWI.” *National Museum of the Marine Corps*, usmcmuseum.com/uploads/6/0/3/6/60364049/nmmc_wwi_military_communication_resource_packet.pdf. Accessed 6 March 2024. We read this to understand the types of communication that were available during WWI.

Weldon, Glen, and Elizabeth Cobbs. “The Hello Girls' Chronicles The Women Who Fought For America — And For Recognition.” *NPR*, 6 April 2017, npr.org/2017/04/06/522596006/the-hello-girls-chronicles-the-women-who-fought-for-america-and-for-recognition. Accessed 1 February 2024. This review gave us a lot of dates and facts by the numbers.

Wyman, Thomas Sage. “A Telephone Switchboard Operator with the A.E.F. in France.” *JSTOR*, 1997, [jstor.org/stable/26304427?seq=1](https://www.jstor.org/stable/26304427?seq=1). Accessed 6 March 2024. This source clearly outlined the experiences of a Hello Girl while serving with the American Expeditionary Forces.