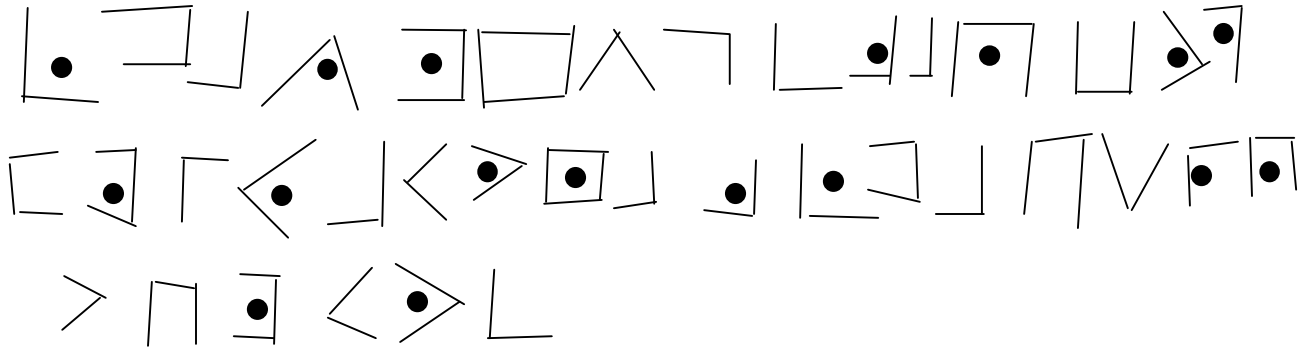
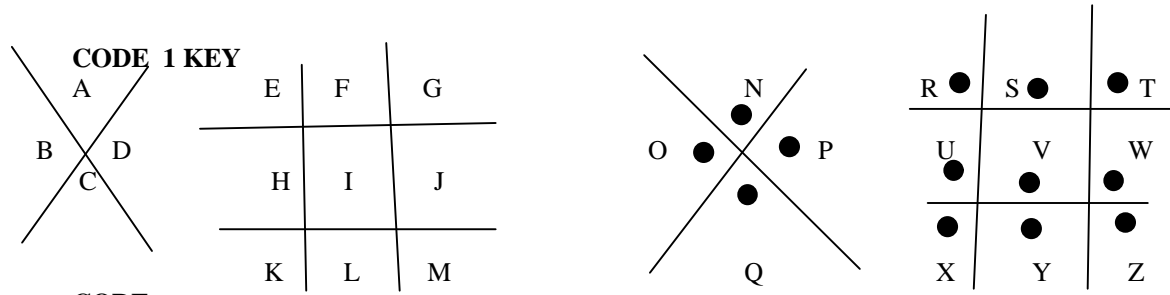


## Message Security in the back waters of the Civil War

Here is a quick lesson in carrying dispatches for Confederate pickets and men on reconnaissance missions. If you have an established code you can easily remember – like where “A” begins today, and if the “dotted blocks are A-M or N-Z, etc., you can pass messages fairly safely, and quickly without the enemy being able to break your code. The below code example is documented as actually having been used during the Civil War –mainly in the Confederacy. It was not a primary code, but it was used for low level information security. It can quickly be changed, modified, converted to numerical cipher, etc. and was easy to use for the average foot soldier or trooper.

In the example provided, the code is set up using two repeating geometric shapes. Here an “X” and a grid are used. Dots are placed in the second set to differentiate between first and second series. Next, the letter pattern is decided upon and put in the shapes. All parties using the code will need to know how the letters are arranged in order to decode the message. The flow of the code should be committed to memory and not carried with the message. One might have a changing list of these codes and merely write in the clear “use code 1” or something of that nature.

To encode your message, you merely draw the portion of the geometric shape that corresponds to your chosen letter. All that is carried by a courier or spy is the message itself. Give it a try



This breaks to:

The quick grey fox jumped over the lazy blue dog