



Mail Rail Fact File



Mail Rail consists of 6 ½ miles of tunnels (9.6km) at an average depth of 70 feet (21m).



There were eight Mail Rail stations connected to the railway station above ground by a chute. These are: Western Parcels Office Baker Street, Western District Office Wimpole Street, Western Central District Office High Holborn, Mount Pleasant King Edward Building, Liverpool Street Railway station, Eastern District Office and Whitechapel.



Construction of the tunnels began in 1914 but was stopped in 1917 because building resources were needed for the First World War. The tunnels were used to store precious artworks from galleries and museums such as The National Gallery and Tate.



Mail Rail trains ran in a single tunnel 9ft in diameter (2.7m). At each station the main tunnel divides into two smaller tunnels each with a single track. Although the tunnels are much smaller than the London Underground, the stations look the same, with grand circular walls.



The original 1927 cars (trains) had to be scrapped after three years because of a design fault. They were replaced by new cars in 1930. Each car could carry four mail bag containers. Each container held 15 bags of letters or six bags of parcels. These trains lasted until 1981.



The new computer system introduced in 1993 enabled the entire railway to be controlled from a single point. 34 trains ran 18 hours a day along 23 miles of track. More than six million bags of mail were carried underground each year – that's more than four million letters every day.

MAIL RAIL

SCIENCE SHOW