

Homing Pigeons Play Important Role With War Communications

MIAMI, Fla.—Dusty, the homing pigeon at the Army Air Transport Command's 36th St. base here, is no longer a "gourmet's specialty"—squab on toast—but rather a feathered soldier in the United States Army.

Dusty is an army messenger who bails out at 35,000 feet to fly through flak and natural phenomena over hundred miles of ocean and land to bring to his home base the message upon which may depend the lives of his comrades.

The pigeon is represented in all branches of the armed services. Combat units carry their pigeons along—they are parachuted down to men in isolated areas—to substitute for wartime-talkie radios when dense jungles make the short range radio ineffective.

The pigeons chief role is to substitute for other forms of communication.

When the Army Air Force decided to adapt the bird for use in aircraft, they ran into some difficulty. Releasing the pigeons from ground cages, to pick their own altitude for flying, was one thing; tossing them out into the slipstream of a four-motored bomber roaring along at 300 miles an hour at altitudes up to 35,000 feet, where sub-zero temperatures will freeze a man's hands or face and where an oxygen mask must be worn was something else. The blast from the propellers threatened to shear their wings off.

The Army solved the problem by placing the bird in a paper bag, slit down one side, before dropping him out. The second it takes him to fight free is enough to sweep him clear of plane and propeller wash.

Flight surgeons were puzzled over the pigeon's complete immunity to freezing temperatures and lack of oxygen. During flight the pigeon is oblivious to altitude while the crew men work in oxygen masks. The mystery was for a time second only to the question, how does a pigeon pick a straight course home from a distance of several hundred miles?

The answer, however, was soon found by flight surgeons. They discovered that the pigeon's basal metabolic rate was so low that even the oxygen present at 35,000 or 40,000 feet is sufficient to keep the bird alive. His oxygen intake is low and he is able to withstand the cold because of a slightly higher body heat, the medicos explained.

U. S. Chief of Staff



General George Catlett Marshall served as chief of staff during the entire war. During World War I he served as aide-de-camp to General Pershing.

In addition his body insulation can be doubled by fluffing out his feathers to catch warm particles of air.

The Air Transport Command's 36th St. base began using pigeons five months ago. It now has 1,800 birds, with other thousands scattered at stations throughout the Caribbean and South American bases.

Tactical ships leaving the Miami base and combat planes ferried to overseas theatres carry a crate of four pigeons—two to fly home to the Miami base and two who will fly to the next base on the route.

If the plane lands at sea, all birds are set free with messages, which give the location, time, identity of ship and any other information which might be necessary.

The pigeons are put through a regular "basic training" at ATC's bases at 36th St., Homestead and Morrison Field, Fla., under the direction of Lt. John Regan, a former Boston College football star.

Pigeons sometimes break loose from their coops. One recently flew from St. Lucia Island in the lower Caribbean and turned up five days later at Morrison Field—a flight of 1,750 miles.

An experienced pigeon can fly from 12 to 15 hours steadily but he won't fly during a heavy rain

Holding Stalingrad Was Turning Point

By September 7, 1942, the immense and highly mechanized German army had forced the Russians back 1,100 miles from their borders. On the 13th began the siege of Stalingrad, Russia's great steel-producing city. Here the Russians determined to make their stand. With equal firmness, the Nazis decided to take the city, although sounder military judgment would have dictated bypassing it. As the months dragged on, the city became a symbol and a point of honor on both sides. Hitler gave orders to capture Stalingrad at any cost. Stalin told his troops to die in place rather than yield an inch.

Slowly the Germans cleared the suburbs. Then the battle for the city itself opened. Attack and counterattack held the fighting to the outskirts day after day. Sometimes the Nazis would claim a small advance. Then the Russians would announce that they had repulsed the enemy. The slaughter was frightful, with neither side apparently caring what the cost in lives would finally be.

Street Fighting Begins.

Fighting in the streets started about the 17th, in the northwestern corner. Bitter hand-to-hand struggles held the Germans at the borders. Meanwhile bombing planes and artillery were leveling the buildings as the Nazis blasted at the stout defenders. All the civilian population had long since evacuated. There was an army in the city, and one without.

On November 9 the Russians launched an offensive south of Stalingrad and a smaller one north of the city. Gradually the prongs of these curled together, cutting the Nazi supply lines. Nevertheless, fighting of unprecedented ferocity continued within the city. Every weapon known was employed, from siege artillery to bayonets. Men struggled from building to building, month after month. The dead lay where they fell. There was little heed paid to wounded. It was savage beyond description.

Nazis Feel Pinch.

By the end of the year the isolated Nazis were beginning to feel the pinch. The generals in the field advised abandoning the siege, fearing a disaster. But Adolf Hitler, always mindful of prestige, sternly ordered that the city be taken. His "intuition" told him to tell his men to hold on, to continue fighting in bitter cold, without supplies, against an enemy who had no thought of yielding.

due to the weight of the water on his wings.

A pigeon will not fly after dark even though he may be over the ocean. He will settle down into the water and drown.

At Gates of Stalingrad



The siege of Stalingrad and its defense by every man, woman and child in the city, will always be considered as a classic of the war. No city in history ever withstood such a powerful siege. It proved the turning point in the war between Russia and Germany.

Invasion of France A Triumphant March For Allied Armies

After many anxious months of preparations, the invasion of continental Europe from the west became practicable. General Eisenhower gave the momentous order, and on June 6, 1944, known in military terms as "D-day," the great landing craft began moving across the channel from England to a stretch of beach on the coast of northern France, in the department of Normandy. More than 4,000 ships and many thousand smaller craft piled back and forth in the choppy waters, under the protection of 11,000 airplanes and units of the British and American navies. Men and materiel poured ashore in unending streams. The landing, without port facilities, was the greatest in history, and was possible only because of the newly developed American landing craft.

Meanwhile, paratroopers had been dropped over Caen, a strategic town eight miles inland. Fighting broke out on many points along a 100-mile front, as comparatively weak German forces tried to halt the onrushing horde of American and British troops that kept arriving, hour after hour. Bombing planes pounded many points of Germany in the first hours of the invasion, not only near the beachheads, but far inland. There was consternation reported in Germany among the tired civilians, and the Nazi high command seems to have been successfully deceived as to the time and place of the landings.

Tanks Start Smash.

The next day, June 7, Allied tanks began to drive into the country. Groups of five to seven miles were made, as the beachhead was deepened. Chief areas of conflict were around Caen and Bayeux, where more obstinate German resistance developed as reinforcements came up. Nazi counterattacks, however, were successfully repelled, and gains continued. On June 9, American armored columns reached a point 17 miles from Cherbourg, the large port city of the Normandy peninsula, and one of the major objectives of the campaign. On June 26, Cherbourg was entered by victorious Allied troops.

The "big push" was accomplished with comparatively light losses. It was officially announced that up to June 21, 3,082 Americans had been killed, 13,121 wounded, and 7,059 reported missing. The British and Canadian combined force, numbering about half the American contingent, lost 1,812 killed, 8,599 wounded, and 2,131 missing. German total casualties were estimated at 70,000, which included large numbers of prisoners.

Fan Out in Wide Sweeps.

The first week of August saw American armored columns supported by infantry, fanning out in wide sweeps sometimes advancing 30 miles a day. All during August sensational speed was maintained, as German resistance broke and crumbled. The enormous Allied army in northern France seemed to advance almost at will, limited only by the necessity of maintaining supply lines. Lieutenant General Patton's armored spearhead, in particular, thrust across central France at a pace that far exceeded the Nazi blitzkrieg of 1940.

By September 1, the fifth anniversary of the war, astonishing victories had been achieved. Paris had been liberated; an American thrust had reached the fortress of Verdun, last obstacle before the German border; another column was pushing north toward Belgium to isolate the rocket-bomb-launching coast. Still other drives were advancing southeast toward Lyon to make a junction with the second invasion force moving up from southern France; smaller segments smashed southwest and northwest in what were gigantic mopping-up activities, clearing such remaining points of resistance as Le Havre, Dieppe, Orleans and Tours.

For Safe Shaving Place a light on each side of the bathroom mirror for safe shaving.

Lend-Lease Aid To Russia Now Totals Over Eight Billions

WASHINGTON—In turning back the German armies, Russia has been aided by \$8,255,000,000 worth of American Lend-Lease materials shipped in the period from October, 1941 through February, 1945, Leo T. Crowley, Foreign Economic Administrator has disclosed.

This represents 16,250,000 short tons of war material, but does not include 13,000 planes flown to Russia from the United States by American and Russian pilots—the largest number of aircraft transferred to any ally during the war.

The Soviets have received 31.7 per cent of all Lend-Lease supplied to the Allies, according to Mr. Crowley's statement. Included in this are munitions valued at \$3,950,000,000, war production and industrial equipment valued at \$2,920,000,000, and food and other agricultural products totaling \$1,455,000,000.

The Red Army has been aided in its task by 12,850 United States-made combat vehicles, including tanks, self-propelled guns, half tracks, and armored scout cars. 1,900 ordnance service vehicles

and about 50,000 jeeps.

Signal equipment valued at more than \$170,000,000 has been delivered, in addition to 1,355 steam locomotives, 50 diesel-electric locomotives, 9,272 flat cars, 1,000 dump cars, 100 tanks, and 24 heavy machinery cars.

Russia has received 308,000 trucks and other vehicles in which more than one half of all supplies have been transported to Soviet troops on some sections of the Eastern front.

German armies on the Eastern Front have reeled under the added weight of 135,000 United States manufactured submachine guns, 13,000 pistols, more than 8,200 antiaircraft guns, and 306,000 tons of explosives.

The growing flood of Lend-Lease to Russia is seen in year-by-year totals. It began in 1941 with a three-month total of 217,280 tons. In 1942, the first full year it rose 2,744,000 tons, according to the Crowley report.

In 1943 it increased to a total of 5,360,000 tons, and in 1944 the to-

tal was 6,964,000 tons. In and February of the current year, 960,000 tons have been shipped. Foodstuffs, supplies for Soviet armies have been the main of planes and tanks and armored cars.

The Russians had 40 per cent of their last year's crop of grain during the Ukraine during the report period, but the country faced a shortage of maintaining its war effort months, during the war working during the now being reclaimed and probably yield its harvest.

Naval and marine troops from the United States has included submarine torpedo boats, mine-sweeping landing craft, marine stations, submarine cable stations, electrical equipment, sets, and 3,000 jeeps.

Naval artillery units has included 100 anti-aircraft guns, and 50 anti-aircraft

Mother's Food Recommended for Infants and Children. Recommended for infants and children. Milk daily, in moderate servings of 1/2 cup, 4 or 5 times every day. Large servings of 1 cup, twice daily, for older children. Amounts of water and fruit D. secured from the or fish liver.



To Those Who Sacrificed....

Some men are awarded the Purple Heart posthumously.

Some live to wear it with pride and memories. Memories of by how slim a chance they lived while others died.

The spirit of those who fall and of those who survive is the same. Each hero in battle WOULD give all with a full understanding that only the perpetuation of freedom is worth such sacrifice...

We can help the living — and honor our dead heroes, only by doing all we can to shorten the war!

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