

FEATHERED SOLDIERS REGULARS IN UNCLE SAM'S ARMY

Along the Mexican Border Pigeons Are Being Used in the Hide and Seek Game With Bandits, and These Little Cavalrymen of the Air Are Proving Valuable Aids to Our Fighting Men



Mounted Soldier With Basket for Two Pigeons



The Watch on the Rio Grande



Removing Messages from Bird on Arxaval at Loff

The pigeon service is to be a permanent branch of the United States army. It is now in process of organization, as a section of the signal corps, and may be said to be already in full operation along the Mexican border, where its men, assigned to outpost duty, carry small pigeon cages of basketwork strapped to their backs and containing two or four messenger birds.

Some of these men are mounted and equipped as cavalrymen; others are on foot. If such a sentryman observes conditions across the border that seem to demand military attention, he can call for help without making any noise. Though he were shot and severely wounded, he would probably have strength enough to release a pigeon.

The main idea, along the Mexican border line, is to keep headquarters informed of the exact whereabouts of the men on outpost duty, and to convey warning of possible raids. At a number of points near the boundary pigeon lofts are now maintained. Some of them are stationary; others are mounted on motor trucks and others are operated for breeding and training the birds.

At Fort Sam Houston, Texas, there is a large breeding establishment to supply ready-trained young pigeons for the southern department. But this is only one of a number that will soon be in full operation. Another will be at Little Silver, N. J. These breeding stations will also be training stations for men enlisted in the pigeon service, an important part of their professional education having to do with the hatching, rearing and instruction of the birds.

During the war we had an opportunity to learn a good deal more than we knew before about the usefulness of pigeons as military messengers. Having come to realize their value, the war department proposes to utilize pigeons on a larger scale

from this time on in its intelligence service. There will be a large number of lofts established in suitable places. On the island of Oahu, in the Hawaiian archipelago, we shall have them; likewise in the canal zone and probably in the Philippines. A "loft" will be maintained at West Point, to familiarize future officers with methods of training and using the birds. There is likely to be another at Annapolis, for naval employment.

Pigeons are used in many ways in the air service. If an aviator makes a forced landing, due to engine or other trouble, he can send a bird to fetch help. Thus, for illustration, only the other day two airplanes were compelled to land on a flight from Kelly field (San Antonio) to Austin. Pigeons carried messages telling where they were and asking aid; the assistance arrived, the machines were repaired and the air trip was resumed before telegraphic or telephonic communication could have been established.

The birds, carried by airplane and in the cars of balloons, are housed in neat little boxes, specially contrived for the purpose, from which they can be readily lifted for launching, as the term is. All that is necessary is to push a thumb catch and raise the lid. The message is written on a small strip of thin paper rolled up and inserted into a little aluminum cylinder, which is fastened by a clip to the pigeon's leg.

The convenience of the mobile loft, run by gasoline is obvious, inasmuch as it can travel along with any military command that is on the march. For training the birds, the pigeon service also makes much use of motorcycles, by which they are carried to distant points, to be liberated and find their way back. At first the distances are short, but gradually they are increased, and in this way the feathered messengers get their education. Telegraph and telephone lines may

be wrecked by storms, or it may not be practicable to build them. "Wireless" may be rendered useless by atmospheric conditions. But pigeons rarely fail. They did wonderful work recently in Texas, bringing the first news of conditions in the storm-wrecked area along the coast. For some days, indeed, they afforded the only means of communication, the "radio" falling down completely.

On that occasion an army relief train, taking with it a radio tractor, was sent to Corpus Christi. The radio sent was put up, but failed to operate. Of course all the telegraph and telephone lines were down. But the birds came right through the storm and rain, making 150 miles in five to seven hours, about twice the time they would have required for the journey in good weather.

The balloon school at Brooks field, in the southern department, has amply demonstrated the superiority of pigeons over all other methods of communication for the air service. Free balloons are used for the training of pilots, and often they land hundreds of miles away, far from telephone or telegraph stations. Their use, however, is made known by releasing birds every half hour or hour, one being retained to give the location of final landing, so that a transport car may be sent to bring the balloon and its men back home.

The motor transport corps of the army now uses pigeons when trucks and truck trains are sent out on long trips into regions where telephone and telegraph stations are few and

far between. But the birds have a great variety of other possible employments. The war department is turning over to the forest service some of its war lofts for use when wire connections are unavailable or destroyed.

It is thought that civilians might make use of messenger pigeons in many practical ways—for instance, on hunting trips or on automobile expeditions through sparsely settled parts of the country. They are dependable up to 500 miles, though the best results are obtained when distances do not exceed half that. A homing bird can cover ordinarily 10 miles in 12 to

20 minutes, or 150 miles in 2 1/2 to five hours.

The pigeon used is not the so-called carrier, but the homer, which is an altogether different breed. It possesses in a marvelous degree the instinct to return to its home "loft." But this can be greatly improved and developed by education. In fact, the bird, to do proper service, must be trained and disciplined as carefully as any soldier of the line. One thing it must be taught is to enter its loft—its trap, as the technical phrase is—immediately upon returning. It must not be allowed to loaf outside, as pigeons sometimes will, especially after short

trips, when they come back un-fatigued and not particularly hungry. When they "trap" a ball ring, giving notice of their arrival. Special foods are required to keep them in proper condition. These include Canadian peas, vetches, millet, milo maize and rice. Hemp seed they eat occasionally as a dainty. Wheat is not good for pigeons. They must have grit and plenty of good clean water. Most of the army pigeon-stations have lofts equipped with running water. It is necessary to keep the birds confined when they are not working. The pigeon service is a branch of

the army that ought strongly to invite young men. Its duties are agreeable and interesting and the opportunities for advancement are good. The only requirements for enlistment are good health and physique, a grammar school education and a natural liking for animals. Men thus employed may engage in other studies, and at the air stations will have a chance to fly and to qualify as air pilots.

There are now a number of vacancies at the headquarters loft, Fort Sam Houston, southern department, also in the western department and in the department of Hawaii.

Launching a Pigeon from an Airplane

Motorcycles are Used for Training Birds on Mexican Border

SERVICE MEN PROFIT FROM LESSONS GLEANED IN FOREIGN BATTLEFIELDS

Spirit of Patriotism Engendered is Renewed Whenever They Allow Their Thoughts to Dwell on Fate of Peoples in France and Belgium.

(Continued From First Page.)
ger on account of the fond remembered associations connected with the season and home.
In the back areas, near the training camps and supply depots, the men managed to have a fair time, and did not get so down-hearted as the strangers who were far removed and in actual touch with old war zones. It was hard to be too lonesome when there was no sign of carnage and the happy French civilians were ready and anxious to do their level best to make things easy for the strangers from far-off America. But they felt the urge also, and while some of the sorrows was swept away the feeling of remoteness was always present, and even with these boys it seemed more than mortal man could stand to have to spend another happy season away from their loved ones.

erse before the normal is reached. The past year has shown that all the lessons that should have been taught by the war have not yet been fully assimilated. The ideal conditions after far from reached as yet, and some skeptics would have us doubt if they ever come. The service man seems to be a fond believer in the ultimate triumph of the ideals that he fought for, and is even ready to venture forth and do battle for the same essentials once again, if necessary. Right here skeptics would have us doubt if they do meet and solve, and has managed to emerge triumphant from most of the tests.
Unrest in America has not been the fault of the service man, and in Ore-

of the country is to the front and laboring for her better interests.
Not all of this has been easily learned, but the overseas man especially, has always present in his mind's eye, the harrowing scenes that he has witnessed as a tiny atom of the combat forces in the war-torn countries and there is always present in his intimate thoughts the lessons that he has had from his contact with the suffering peoples of other lands. All this has made him firm in his thoughts and determined that he will do his utmost to prevent like conditions to take place in his own land.
On his return he found that times had changed and that he had to often take his place in a world vastly dif-

thoughts, can hardly be understood by the average layman, but all that is necessary to attend one of their gatherings and witness the splendid spirit of co-operation and fair play that they have learned as a result of their service together in that most fascinating of closely knitting games, war.

work has been absorbed and it is not likely that the army men will ever forget what they have profited by union and will carry this on through the years to come. To date they have not allowed themselves to suffer, as was the case in the past, by getting together, managed to care for their comrades, except in a very few cases. In this respect it would be no more than right to state that there have been few who have abused the privilege that has been offered them of profiting by the assistance of their former chums-in-arms and that the splendid spirit of open-handed help among buddies is bearing great fruit.

Employment is a problem that the service men seem to have conquered to a great extent, though it is far from being completely solved. Indeed at the start of the recent cold snap there were over 1000 of the boys without work and it would seem that the storm was made to order, as they were offered ample labor and did not hesitate in availing themselves of what came to hand. They will likely always be found ready in an emergency and, for this reason, if for no other, would seem to be meriting the support of the entire community.
Keen to take their old place in the industrial life of the city and country, if they could not find a place they seemed to possess the ability to create one. Men who have been through the vicissitudes that they have would refuse to be daunted by any trivial obstacles offered by ordinary civilian life and they have gone in to win. All that they have to do is to think back on what they have been through, on what they have seen and then to go out and win, and they do so. Only give them half a chance and the great majority of them come through, they have the pride of corps, and they do, in civil life, just as they would have done in war, knowing that their comrades are standing behind them and boosting every effort.

Just a year ago the majority of them were yet in the battle zone, aching and tearing their hearts to pieces to get home. Now they are here, most of them again adjusted to peaceful pursuits once more. They are bigger, better men than when they went away. They have learned their lesson well and will teach what they have managed to acquire to future generations.

Scattered among our stores, offices and factories is the leaven of the

world war teachings, and all are managing to profit therefrom. Ruin and desolation, want and misery, pain and deprivation, all have their lessons, and graphic ones, too. Knowledge gained in such a manner and at such a cost is not to be despised, but once so gained cannot be forgotten. Pictures in the mind of what has happened in war zones, and the reflection on what was encountered there will always serve to keep the men who have managed to come through it safely resolute in their work. Students of cause and effect unite in telling us that we will have a sturdier and better class of men in the nation than ever before. A section of the country, such as Oregon, which led the nation in voluntary enlistments, will naturally show an even healthier condition than other parts of the United States. That this is already the case has been demonstrated during the recent period of unrest when this state was prominent by the utter absence of trouble.

Oregon's sons can always think back on one of the proudest records of the entire nation in war, and they have determined to make just as brilliant a battle in peace. All desolation and ravages are not of war, and the peace-time soldier of here will not forget the scenes of France and Belgium. Just a recollection of Ypres, the cloth hall, the ruined churches, the ravaged communities, the disrupted families, and above all, the superlative suffering, and then the contrast with the peaceful country of the nation that was the initial cause of the entire war, will serve to put fresh determination in the souls of all who went through the fight, that their country will not suffer likewise.

Who says the war is over? While others carry on.
The little wooden crosses spell out the dead and gone?
Not while they deck a skyline, not while they crown a view,
Or a living soldier sees them and sets his teeth awry.

E. W. Hornung pays this tribute to the fallen comrades in his epic poem, "Wooden Crosses," and the thought suggested cannot help but find an echo in the hearts of those who safely returned, and they will live their lives as their absent and glorified comrades would wish, for home and country.

Hotels Threaten to Close.
BRUNSWICK, Germany.—The hotels, restaurants and cafes here have notified the employees that they will close their establishments indefinitely from December 1 as a protest against the local government food rationing. The owners claim that not only is the system of distribution faulty, but they are constantly harassed by espionage and house searching for illicitly procured goods.

WAR ENDS GREAT HISTORICAL PERIOD, STUDENTS BELIEVE

Public Interest Stirred in England and Continent—Recent Events Said to Lead to Grand Consummation and Millennium in 1931.

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the Paris sector has worn proudly on his left shoulder.
Nevertheless, old Clovis, the Frank, was a Germanic tribesman, imposing his frogs on the race which merited lilies; and in the light of present knowledge, it becomes quite obvious (they say) that "the three uncivilized spirits like frogs" coming out of the mouth of the East to call forth the kings of the earth to the battle of Armageddon, are—once and always, yesterday, today and tomorrow—the personification of German propaganda and intrigue, as they appeared, originally with Clovis, the outsider in France.

Only today (they say) can we realize the world-famine (Revelation vi: 6-8) personified by him on the black horse and the voice in the midst of the Four Beasts saying:
"A measure of wheat for a penny, and a 'measure' of barley for a penny; and see that thou hurt not the oil and the wine!"

French interpreters go too far, undoubtedly, when they apply this warning to the prohibition of French wines in America and American petroleum refining in France; but it is not exactly those interested in the prophecies do not hold to the exact dates as above. The conviction is, rather, that the times are near—that we are at the end of some great period, and able, now, to look into things which angels desired to see!

To Daniel it was said: "Shut thou up the vision, for it shall be for many days (in symbolic prophecy, a "day" has always been the symbol of a year, and a "time" of 360 years). But to John, 600 years later, it was said: "Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book; for the times are at hand"—clear evidence, says the school of Guinness, that the lapse of time is an element in the comprehension of prophecy. The early church, having long to wait, was mercifully allowed to imagine that the time would be short, but now that 18 centuries have passed, it becomes clearer, continually, where we are.

All interpreters are quite agreed, for example, that the prophecies of Daniel are, for the most part, fulfilled and not unfulfilled prophecies—that, starting from near their own epoch, they each gave the outline of the history of the people of God, Jewish and Christian, right on to the millennium.
And so, where are we?
Evidently, say the more moderate, we are at the end of the great period called "the times of the Gentiles," quoted by our Lord, St. Paul calls it "the fulness of the Gentiles." It is the great "seven times" of Daniel

—the grandiose "week" each of whose days is a "time" of 360 years, and whose whole duration is, therefore, 2520 years.

The tree which Nebuchadnezzar saw cut down for its attempt to be left and walled with the dews of heaven until "seven times" should pass over it, represented the insanity period of the Roman Empire. The great apostasy of the latter days having a period of 1260 years assigned to it—repeatedly spoken of as half a week, or "time, times and the dividing of time" (1, 2 and 1/2)—it becomes obvious that the other half of the "week" is the first half, passed ahead of it. So, as a fact, they say, we have only to count. The Assyrian, Persian, Grecian, Roman and other Gentile empires which were to fill up this long interval of Jewish bad luck have, as a matter of history, already lasted for about 2520 years!

Counted by solar "times," the dates are as follows:
"From B. C. 606 (conquest of Jehoiachin, Loss of Jewish independence), the "seven times," i. e., 2520 years, bring us to A. D. 1915.

"From B. C. 588 (overthrow of Jehoiachin; fall of the throne of Judah), they bring us to A. D. 1923.

"From B. C. 587 (burning of the temple and complete destruction of Jerusalem in the days of Lezekiah), they bring us to A. D. 1934.
Any of these dates, for example, would have filled with wonder and delight, could he have seen the fortunes of Jerusalem coming out of the world's war, old Christopher Columbus, when he wrote his "Interpretations of the Prophecies," 500 years ago. If you desire to look them up, consult Professor H. C. Kirk of Washington, D. C., the author of "The Secret of Columbus" (Hayworth, 1914). Columbus, foreseeing absolutely no detailed meaning of his famous quotations from Isaiah, would have deemed the present approximation of prophecy and history to be wonderful, indeed!

"Surely, the Isles await for me, and the allies of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from afar! (Isaiah ix: 1.)

"And it shall come to pass in that day that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros . . . and from the islands of the sea." (Isaiah xl: 11-12.)

"The islands of the sea, that's us! the nations, and shall assemble thee outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth."

All right.
It's close at hand.
While as for us, it is written—and Columbus wonderfully copied it: "And to the Isles he shall pay recompense!"

FAITH.

Since all that is was ever bound to be;
Since grim, eternal laws our Being bind;
And both the riddle and the answer find,
And both the carnage and the calm decree;
Since plain within the Book of Destiny
Is written all the journey of mankind
Inexorable to the end; since blind
And mortal puppets playing parts are we:
Then let's have faith; good cometh out of ill;
The power that shaped the strife shall end the strife;
Then let's bow down before the Unknown Will;
Fight on, believing all is well with life;
Seeing within the worst of war's red rage
The gleam, the glory of the Golden Age.

—Robert W. Service.

gon, in common with other sections of the country, he has been a real factor in its subjugation. Co-operating with the civil authorities in this fight, the service man has shown a willingness to apply the lessons that he learned in so costly a manner on the battlefields that proves he will ever be a force to be reckoned with in the country. It is regarded as a healthy sign, and as an indication of what may be expected in the future, when the concerted actions of the ex-soldier are considered. He has removed his uniform, but is yet in the service of his country. The time served with the colors has taught him much, and America seems to have found herself and the healthy blood

ferent from that he left. This was not altogether on account of the fact that there was such a startling change in actual conditions, but a great deal of it was for the reason that the man's course of reasoning and thinking had altered. His viewpoint had altered, he had learned to consider essentials and cast out the little things and would not accept situations that he had been content with in the past, but insisted on what he thought was his rightful due.
A better America and a better Oregon will be the result, no doubt, if this has not already taken place, but the army is yet present in everyday life, though they have removed their uniforms. How strong the service man is, and how healthy are his