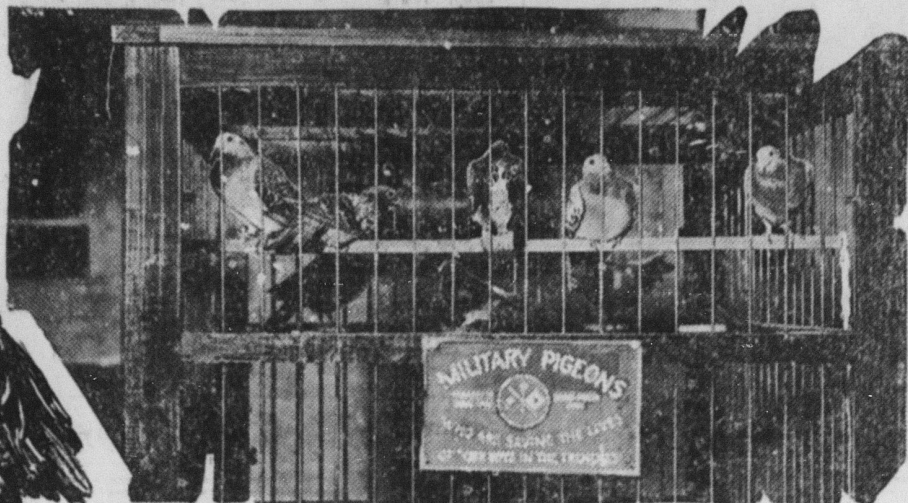


War Birds



"Old Abe"



Military Pigeons

U.S. ARMY SIGNAL CORPS
PHOTOGRAPH SERVICE
PHOTOS



The Plattsburgh Game Cock



"President Wilson"-Mounted

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

RECENTLY there was added to the war collections of the National museum in the Smithsonian institution in Washington an exhibit that is unique. In strange contrast to the imposing array of trophies and other relics of the conflicts in which this nation has engaged is the stuffed body of a scraggly-tailed pigeon with one leg shattered and twisted out of shape, yet it is mute testimony to one of the heroic deeds of the World War. For this bird is "President Wilson," the most famous carrier pigeon of all that served with the A. E. F. and hero of innumerable long and dangerous flights during the World War.

It began at Grand Pre. On the morning of November 5, 1918, advance units of the Americans were dismayed to find their communication lines dead. Radio failed, too, because of the overcrowded air. At Rampont, 25 miles away, was headquarters where staff officers anxiously awaited word from Grand Pre. Between the two points lay an inferno of fire and smoke, shot and shell. But there was no other way. The all-important message was entrusted to "President Wilson" which was soon winging its way toward Rampont.

Twenty-five minutes later the panting bird fluttered down in front of headquarters at Rampont, the message, intact, dangling from the torn ligaments of its wounded leg. Like many a human warrior "President Wilson" had been safely through the fighting from the start only to meet mishap with the armistice almost at hand.

That was the faithful little flyer's last time under fire. Nursed back to recovery "President Wilson" for the past eleven years has been an active member of the army pigeon loft at Fort Monmouth, N. J., giving the younger birds valuable pointers in the art of message bearing under war conditions. Death came quietly to the famous bird while asleep recently and the army decided to have the body stuffed and mounted. An officer of the signal corps accompanied it to the Smithsonian institution where it is now enshrined.

But even though "Taps" have sounded for this hero bird, there are still living others of his tribe whose records are nearly as remarkable. Visit Fort Monmouth, between Red Bank and Long Branch, N. J., today and you can see some of them.

Here you will see most of the famous war birds which rendered such valiant service with the signal corps in France, among them those two veterans, "Spike" and "Mocker," almost as renowned as "President Wilson." Here also you will see a number of captured German birds, but perhaps most interesting of all are the various pigeons which played an important role in the operations of the famous "Lost Battalion."

The story of the "Lost Battalion" is so familiar to most Americans that it needs no retelling—even though the name is a misnomer and most Americans therefore have a wrong idea about it. For Major Whittlesey's outfit never was really "lost"—it was "cut off" or "beleaguered." But be that as it may, the fact remains that had it not been for seven carrier pigeons, which the commander of that devoted band sent out from time to time, Major Whittlesey could not have sent word of his location back to his superior officers, they could not have rendered him such aid as they did, the Germans probably would have wiped the detachment out of existence before help arrived and it would have been a "Lost Battalion" indeed.

It was during the "push" of the Seventy-seventh division in the Argonne on October 2 that six companies of the first and second battalions of the Three Hundred and Eighth infantry, one company of the Three Hundred and Seventh infantry and two sections from the Three Hundred and Sixth machine gun battalion, all consolidated under the command of Maj. Charles W. Whittlesey, discovered that German forces were behind them and they were cut off from communication with the rear. At 2:50 a. m. on October 3, Major Whittlesey sent his first pigeon with this message "We are being shelled by German artillery. Can we not have artillery support? Fire is coming from northwest." At vari-

ous intervals that day he sent messages by pigeon, keeping his regimental commander informed of developments. By the morning of October 4, he had only two pigeons left, and about eleven o'clock he sent one of these with a message telling of the growing seriousness of the situation for the detachment.

That afternoon the American artillery started to lay down a barrage, but instead of falling upon the enemy it rained shell and shrapnel upon the beleaguered detachment. Then out of that inferno of noise, dust and confusion flew Whittlesey's last pigeon. Late that evening a soldier in charge of the pigeon cote at division headquarters came upon a pigeon, blinded in one eye by scattered shot and standing upon one leg. The other leg was almost severed and attached to the dangling leg was the pellet containing this message: "We are along the road paralleled 276.4. Our own artillery is dropping a barrage directly on us. For heaven's sake, stop it." Immediately the barrage lifted and Whittlesey's men were no longer swept by the fire of their own artillery.

A "war bird" of another type and more picturesque, perhaps, than these feathered veterans of the World War was the famous eagle "Old Abe" which served through three years of the Civil war with a Wisconsin regiment, taking part in 22 battles and 30 skirmishes and being wounded in three of them. "Old Abe" was captured by an Indian, Chief Sky, on the banks of the Flambeau river in northern Wisconsin in 1861. The Indian sold the bird and finally it came into possession of a company which was formed at Eau Claire and which became Company C of the Eighth Wisconsin regiment when it went into camp at Madison. There Captain Perkins of Company C named him "Old Abe," in honor of the President, a standard was made for him and he was carried beside the regimental flag.

When the regiment went into action, "Old Abe" gave evidence of the wildest delight in the smoke and roar of battle. Spreading his wings he would jump up and down on his perch, uttering wild and piercing screams which could be clearly heard above the noises of the conflict. But this Berserker spirit was not the only evidence of "Old Abe's" being a true soldier. If we are to believe the stories that have been told of him, before he had been a year in the service, he would give heed to the commands of the officers on parade, or when preparations for a march began. Of his military habits one chronicler has written:

"With his head obliquely to the front, his right eye turned upon the commander, he would listen and obey orders, noting time carefully. After parade had been dismissed, and the ranks were being closed by the sergeant, he would lay aside his soldierly manner, flap his wings, loll about and make himself at home generally.

"When there was an order to form for battle, he and the colors were the first upon the line. His actions upon these occasions were uneasy. He would turn his head anxiously from right to left, looking to see when the line was completed. As soon as the regiment got ready, faced and began to march, he would assume a steady and quiet demeanor. He could always be seen a little above the heads of the soldiers, close by the flag. That position of honor was never disallowed him.

"At the battle of Farmington May 9, 1862, the men were ordered to lie down on the ground. The instant they did so, 'Old Abe' flew from his perch. He insisted upon being protected as well as they, and flattened himself on the ground, remaining there until the men rose, when, with outspread wings,

he flew back to his place of peril, and held it until the close of the contest. At the battle of Corinth the Confederate general, Price, discovered him and ordered his men to take him if they could not kill him, adding that he would rather capture that bird than the whole brigade."

It is of "Old Abe's" conduct at this same battle of Corinth that another historian writes: "The regiment is in Mower's brigade and 'Old Abe' is on his perch, looking out over the scene. Cannon are thundering around him; there are long rolls of musketry; the air is thick with bullets. From the flank comes a fearful volley, enflaming the line, cutting down scores of men, and severing the cord which holds 'Old Abe' to the staff. He flaps his wings, rises above the two armies, circles over the Confederates, then back again to his friends and lights once more on his perch. The regiment is in retreat, and Old Abe goes with it, to be in a score of battles and to come out of them all unharmed."

Almost as renowned as "Old Abe" of the Civil war in our national tradition is a game cock which enjoyed a brief moment of fame during the War of 1812. In 1814 Lieut. Thomas MacDonough was placed in charge of a small American fleet on Lake Champlain to resist a strong British fleet which was moving down the lake to attack northern New York. On the morning of September 11 the British attacked the Americans in Plattsburgh bay. At the beginning Commodore Downie, the British commander, on his flagship, the Confiance, attempted to break the American line but was met by a devastating fire from the Saratoga, MacDonough's flagship.

Thereupon the battle resolved itself into a sort of a duel between the two flagships, both of which dropped anchor and at a distance of 250 yards from each other prepared to "shoot it out." The first broadside from the Confiance, which had heavier guns than the Saratoga, all but wrecked the American vessel. But it did something else. According to one of our school histories "At the first broadside fired by the enemy, a young game cock kept as a pet on board MacDonough's ship, the Saratoga, flew up upon a gun; flapping his wings, he gave a crow of defiance that rang like the blast of a trumpet. Swinging their hats, MacDonough's men cheered the plucky bird again and again. He had foretold victory. That was enough. They went into the fight with such ardor, and managed their vessels with such skill that in less than three hours all of the British ships that had not hauled down their flags were scudding to a place of safety as rapidly as possible."

Cyrus Townsend Brady gives a slightly less theatrical version of the incident. He says "It has been fondly noted by various writers that the first terrible broadside of the Confiance smashed a chicken coop on one of the American vessels, thus liberating a game cock, which sprang into the rigging and with lusty crowing encouraged the cheering crews. Inasmuch as nearly every writer puts the chicken in a different ship, it is safe to conclude that there must have been one chicken there, and the incident probably did occur. At any rate, if it was an American chicken, it would certainly crow upon being made free."

Before the battle began "MacDonough bade his waiting crews to prayer. There at their stations with bowed heads they knelt down upon the white decks, soon to be stained with their own blood, while with his own lips, in the familiar words of the Book of Common Prayer, the young commander invoked the protection of the God of Battles for the coming conflict—a rare and memorable scene indeed!" Spears, the naval historian, in commenting upon these two incidents, says, "with all due respect to religion, that for the purpose of rousing the seamen a rooster in the rigging is worth more than a dozen prayers on the quarter deck."

Community Building

Importance of Proper House Design Apparent

Through a better appreciation of architecture, home lovers more and more are striving toward perfection and beauty of house design. As a result, a knowledge of historic styles is well defined in the minds of interested and discriminating home builders. Today people know approximately what they want in the way of a home, and recognize the importance of architectural guidance. Only well-proportioned homes with artistic and correct architectural treatment attract and appeal.

To assure the ideal home—the size ever so small—the technically trained architect should be consulted. No one thinks of going to a dentist with bodily ills. By the same token no one should go to a contractor for home design. Home design is a highly specialized field, and only an architect can reflect and crystallize your home ideas properly and correctly into a design possessing merit.

One often hears "because I'm building a small house, I can't afford an architect—besides, I know where I can get some plans cheap."

This attitude has accounted for hundreds of unattractive homes which have no resale value—eyesores and a disgrace to the community.—Cleveland Leader.

Store Front Counts as Good Business Asset

"The store front indicates the character of a business establishment as well as of the men back of it, and that holds good whether the business is clothing, shoes, plumbing or what not," Howard H. Edmonds writes in an article called "Store Fronts." In a recent issue of Domestic Engineering.

Edmonds draws upon his experience in building and remodeling store fronts for many Cleveland companies for the material in his article.

"The store front is a silent salesman which works 365 days in the year and if given half a chance will return its cost many times over in sales volume," he continued.

"A few of the great advantages of bringing a store front up-to-date are: It becomes a public improvement; it stimulates an activity in the entire community; it gradually builds up a healthy trading center in which to do business."

Attractive Homes an Asset

Two ideas about the American home have had a remarkable growth in recent years. One is that the dwelling of today, if it is to hold a fair position in competition with the motor car and other comparatively recent attainments from the outside, must display the attractiveness and good taste that characterize many of these other things. But it has become increasingly evident, too, that the task of bringing the home up to the desired artistic level is even more a matter of education, good taste and skillful guidance than it is a matter of money. The element of cost must be considered, of course, in any circumstances. But attractiveness of the best sort may be a feature of the moderately priced home as of the motor car of a similar nature.

Getting on Airman's Map

Communities that want the world to know they are air-minded—and most of them apparently have this desire—can make air-marking one of their first important objectives. Labeling the town, village, city or hamlet with its name painted in large and legible letters on the roof of the tallest building may seem rather a humble start in the direction of aviation. Far from it.

"It is the easiest way to get on the airman's map," says a pilot with hundreds of hours of cross-country flying to his credit.

The Fireless City

The fire prevention idea has developed into a major community enterprise in the city of Albany, Ga., and it now enjoys the distinction of being regarded as the "Fireless City." With a population of 20,000, it has the lowest annual loss by fire of any city in the country. There were but 91 alarms of fire during 1928 and the total loss was but \$4,520. This has been accomplished by wiping out many fire hazards and by maintaining an energetic fire patrol nightly.

Much Money for Building

Fifty-six life insurance companies, located in cities throughout the country, lent \$374,011,470.30 on American homes in 1928, according to the National Association of Real Estate Boards.

Scouts to Plant Trees

Boy Scouts of Canandaigua, N. Y., have contracted to plant 3,000 trees this summer as part of the Ontario county reforestation project.

Alabama's Good Work

Thirty-eight miles of shade trees have been planted along Alabama highways this season.

Needs Help

Good roads do not necessarily make a town. The town has got to make itself.—Country House.

Pipe-Organ to Sound in Famous Tabernacle

One wonders what Spurgeon would have thought of the new organ which is to be brought into use at the Metropolitan tabernacle, writes "Looker-On" in the London Daily Chronicle. The great preacher shared the old Scottish dislike of "a kist 'o whistles," and in his time would permit no musical instrument of any kind in the tabernacle services, all the singing being led by a precentor, who announced the hymns and sang through the first line to give the congregation a start. "In recent years an American organ has been used, but the famous church in Newington Butts has had to wait until now for its first pipe-organ. It should be added that, despite—or because of?—the lack of instrumental aid, the congregational singing at the tabernacle has always been notably good.

OLD DOCTOR'S IDEA IS BIG HELP TO ELDERLY PEOPLE



In 1885, old Dr. Caldwell made a discovery for which elderly people the world over praise him today!

Years of practice convinced him that many people were endangering their health by a careless choice of laxatives. So he began a search for a harmless prescription which would be thoroughly effective, yet would neither gripe nor form any habit. At last he found it.

Over and over he wrote it, when he found people bilious, headachy, out of sorts, weak or feverish; with coated tongue, bad breath, no appetite or energy. It relieved the most obstinate cases, and yet was gentle with women, children and elderly people.

Today the same famous, effective prescription, known as Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin, is the world's most popular laxative. It may be obtained from any drugstore.

Victory for Eagles

After two years of warfare against a representative of Uncle Sam, two bald eagles stand victorious with Uncle Sam's agent in full retreat. The latter, a telegraph operator, has been stationed atop a forty-foot pole to register the shots fired from the naval station at Dahlgren, Va. Upon this perch the eagles built their nest and a conflict has been raging for possession, with the operator forbidden from shooting the birds under a penalty of a \$50 fine. So he retreated to a new pole, conceding victory to the eagles.

Buffalo in the Arctic

As a result of the success attending the introduction of the reindeer into the American Arctic, the experiment has been tried with buffalo taken from points in the northern part of the United States and southern Canada. Nineteen American buffaloes were liberated more than a year ago at Jarvis creek in Alaska, and while they have been carefully watched they have been given no special care, except an occasional ration of food when nature had cut off the supply. The last reports indicate that the animals were thriving in the most satisfactory manner.

For bloated feeling and distressed breathing due to indigestion you need a medicine as well as a purgative. Wright's Indian Vegetable Pills are both. Only 25c a box. Adv.

Airplane's Triumph

Airplanes are transporting all materials for building the town of Wau in the Edle Creek goldfields of New Guinea. From the coast of New Guinea the planes need only thirty minutes to reach the site, whereas it takes nine days by ground through jungles and over mountains.

When two men who know it all begin to instruct each other, it soon becomes a contest of showing off.

Peen-a-mint
The Cheering Laxative
No Taste But the Mint
Chew It Like Gum

For Constipation
Non habit forming
Safe Scientific

POULTRY NETTING, BARBED WIRE, SCREEN CLOTH, slightly used. Barrels prices. Write for list. Keystone Sales Co., 45 Metropolitan Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.

For Ivy Poisoning
Try Harford's
Balsam of Myrrh
All dealers are authorized to refund your money for the first bottle if not suited.

WORMS—A CHILD'S GREATEST ENEMY

Look for these symptoms in your child—gritting the teeth, picking the nostrils, disordered stomach. These signs may mean worms. And worms left in the body mean broken health.

Don't delay one hour. Frey's Vermifuge rids a child of worms quickly. For 75 years it has been America's safe, vegetable worm medicine. At all drugstores!

Frey's Vermifuge Expels Worms

One Drop

Bourbon Poultry Medicine
For each chick daily in drink or feed stimulates appetite, aids digestion, regulates bowels, promotes health, lessens chance of disease infection. On market for 50 years. Small size 60c, half pint \$1.00. At drugstores, or sent by mail. Bourbon Remedy Co., Box 7, Lexington, Ky.

Nonsense

Jean Assolant, the French airman, said at his wedding breakfast in Old Orchard:

"Everybody ought to get married. Most people's excuses for not marrying are as nonsensical as Sir Thomas Lipton's."

"Sir Thomas, you know, said to the Dolly sisters:

"Yes, I'm a bachelor, and I'm going to remain one, for you know, my dears, married men make the worst husbands."

Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war, but the warriors get all the statues.



"I Feel Like a New Person"

"I took Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound when I was tired, nervous and run-down. I saw the advertisement and decided to try it because I was hardly able to do my housework. It has helped me in every way. My nerves are better, I have a good appetite, I sleep well and I do not tire so easily. I recommend the Vegetable Compound to other women for it gives me so much strength and makes me feel like a new person."—Mrs. Lena Young, R. # 1, Ellsworth, Maine.

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound

Lydia E. Pinkham Med. Co., Lynn, Mass.

W. N. U., BALTIMORE, NO. 23-1930.

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Here's the sure, quick, easy way to kill all mosquitoes indoors and keep 'em away outdoors!

FLIT
Kills Flies, Mosquitoes, Moths, Red Bugs, Roaches, etc.

Spray clean smelling

FLIT
because its stainless vapor KILLS QUICKER

Largest Selling Insect Killer
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