

## TRAINING PIGEONS AS WAR COURIERS

Pigeon training has become a feature of the new Army of the United States. Pigeon lofts are maintained at many of the Army camps and aviation fields throughout the country. The birds are taken over by the government before they are even old enough for raw recruits; are fed and conditioned, and then have a course of training just as has the recruit in the regular establishment.

When training is completed the pigeons go overseas. They play their part on the battle line, are killed and wounded, and some are taken prisoners. The Committee on Public Information has prepared this account of their training:

Two of the flying centers where pigeons are specially trained are Kelly and Carruthers Fields in Texas. No fewer than seventy-five pigeons are sent overseas from Kelly Field every six weeks. They come to the Kelly lofts when about three months old, and are trained by experts over a period of six to eight weeks before they are considered fit for duty. Early morning and late evening are the best exercise periods during the hot summer months, the plan being to send the birds up for a sixty-minute flight in the morning and a forty-minute flight in the evening. This time in minutes in the air represents for training purposes the distance in miles the pigeons are expected to cover. When the young birds begin to show the proper physical condition they are taken out in a trailer behind a motorcycle and liberated at distances varying from two to twenty miles from their loft.

The first period of their advanced training comes with flock tossing,

the pigeons being liberated in this manner in groups so as to prevent their being confused and lost. Each pigeon has a number, and by bell devices at the entrance of the coop their arrivals and the time of their flights are kept on record. Thus the progress of each is closely watched, and as soon as a bird shows unfailing ability to get home quickly he is ready for service overseas.

A white flag is the signal most commonly used for training these messenger birds. They soon learn that when this white flag is raised over their lofts they are to stay away for exercise, and that when the white flag comes down they may return for their food. On some fields, when birds stray a considerable distance from their lofts, they are called back by the rattling of a tin pan.

Speed is a feature in the training of pigeons at Carruthers Field though in many cases they are deaf and sometimes wounded. Recently one bird was shot and so seriously wounded that it could not fly. It returned to the loft two days afterward, having fluttered along the ground, or walked, the entire distance. So far, the greatest speed attained by any bird there is a little less than sixty miles an hour.

Carruthers Field also has a pigeon hospital, where sick and injured birds receive treatment, but at present there are only two patients, one being treated for gunshot wounds and the other, too fleshy for flight, is being dieted in an effort to reduce its weight and increase its speed.

The longest flight made by any pigeon at Kelly Field is eighty miles. One flew this distance in two and one-half hours.

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### MOONSHINE WAS ON TAP IN N. Y.

Raid on Plant in Henry Street Leads to Willett Street House

New York.—Three queer looking boilers nestled snugly on top of the triple burners of a gas stove in the basement apartment of the big tenement at 312 Henry street when the door to the apartment was crashed in by a squad of detectives from Police Headquarters. The place was empty of occupants, but the bubbling contents of the boilers were seized and internal revenue agents who examined the stuff later said the police had stumbled upon the biggest illicit still the revenue agents ever had seen in this part of the country.

As the detectives got into the place a rear window slammed, so several of them hurried to the yard. Half way up the fire escape they saw a man, who refused to heed their summons to halt. Two of the detectives drew revolvers and fired. The shots brought the man to a stop quickly and he was placed under arrest, charged with operating the still. At Police Headquarters later he said he was Louis Knell, a laborer, and gave his address as 85 Walnut street.

Without waiting to take their prisoner back to headquarters the detectives led him around to the Willett street address. There they reported finding dozens of bottles of alleged illicitly distilled whiskey, kimmel and other liquors which the police said were the product of the Henry street distillery. In the Willett street address they put Knell to a long period of questioning and obtained from him, they said, information that led them to go to the dingy three story building in the rear of 129 Ridge street.

The windows of the Ridge street place were covered with boards and burlap when the detectives got there, and the doors were fitted with locks on both the outside and inside.

One of the floors, the detectives charged, was fitted out elaborately as a bottling works, while the rest of the building apparently was used as a supply house, except for the upper floor, where the detectives said they found another complete still set up, but not in operation.

Between the Henry street apartment and the Ridge street building the police confiscated 600 pounds of sugar, 200 bags of corn meal and 700 cans of molasses. Thirteen barrels of mash were carted out of the tenement apartment and twelve more barrels were found in the Ridge street still. Hundreds of bottles, some of them full and some apparently ready to be filled were found in both places.

Discovery of the Henry street still was purely accidental. Detectives Oliver, Finn, Hoffman and Cooper went to the house hoping to find there "a man for whom they were looking in connection with an entirely different matter. When they entered the basement hallway they heard several persons talking about in the apartment and knocked on the door.

Immediately the place became quiet. The detectives waited a few moments and when their rapping was not answered knocked again on the door. Still no answer came and the door was crashed in. The barrels of fermenting mash stood all about and the flame in the gas jet beneath the boilers apparently had just been extinguished, for the liquid in the boilers still was steaming hot.

Well denied at first that he ever had been in the basement apartment, but the janitor of the place told the police he had been a tenant there for several months. Persons in the neighborhood said they thought the men who occupied the apartment, as well as those who frequented the Ridge street building, were peddlers of nuts, because push-carts were seen by the neighbors being trundled away from the both places late at night. But the neighbors also told the police that they had seen boxes and bottles that bore no labels also placed on the push-carts before the nuts were thrown in.

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