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8 Public Zoos to Get Fort Pigeon Heroes

FT. MONMOUTH — "GI Joe," "Yank," "Caesar" and twelve other Army pigeon heroes of World War II, shortly will be presented to public zoos throughout the country, it was announced today by Maj. Gen. Victor A. Conrad, Fort Monmouth commander.

The allocation of this select group of war birds, each credited with flying 20 or more combat messages, to national institutions, will mark the departure of the last of the Army Signal Corps trained couriers from the Pigeon Breeding and Training Center here. Over 1,000 birds were sold here last month to pigeon enthusiasts from all parts of the country.

Delivery of the 15 heroes from their special Army home in the "Churchill Loft" is expected to begin later this month. When placed in their new homes, the general public will be able to see these pigeon heroes, who by their heroic flights in Italy, North Africa, India-Burma and Europe, carved a special niche in American military history.

8 Zoos to Get Birds

The pending dissemination will have the 15 hero birds scattered in eight public zoos and parks from here to the west coast. Officials of these institutions offered sometime ago to provide homes for the hero pigeons.

GI Joe, the famous pigeon who saved the lives of 1,000 British troops, tops the list of heroes. He and C.O.D., the latter having twenty combat missions in the Mediterranean Theater, will be placed in the Detroit Zoological Park in Michigan.

The Baltimore Zoo in Druid Hill Park, Maryland, will receive Yank and Apex. Yank is renowned for carrying the message about the fall of Gafsa in Tunisia, while Apex flew over 20 important combat missions in the India-Burma theater of operations.

Another pair of war heroes, Caesar and Flipper, are slated for the Oak Park Zoo in Montgomery, Alabama. Caesar is credited with 44 combat flights in North Africa, in addition to a 300-mile flight, crossing the Mediterranean with an important message to American troops in Tunisia. Flipper is a combat veteran of 20 missions in Europe.

in Brookside Park receiving Pro Patria and Crossed Flags.

Lady Karen's record includes 31 missions, and 20-plus for Special Delivery. Both birds flew in Italy. Pro Patria is on record with 35 combat messages in Italy, and Crossed Flags having over 20 combat flights in the European Theater.

Seattle Gets Geronimo

Out on the west coast, the Woodland Park Zoological Garden in Seattle, Washington, will be the new home for Geronimo and Eureka. Both hero pigeons made heroic flights in Europe, with Geronimo credited with 30 missions and over twenty by Eureka.

Scoop is the other remaining hero and this pigeon with 20 combat missions for the American troops in Algiers, is going to the Riverside Park Zoo in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. For mating purposes, one female non-hero is being dispatched with Scoop.

All told, there will be nine non-hero pigeons coupled with the heroes.

Anzio Goes to Washington

In Washington, D.C., the National Zoological Park will house Anzio Boy and Global Girl. The former completed 38 wartime missions in Italy, while Global Girl delivered 23 messages over far-flung areas in the Mediterranean Theater.

Two sites in Ohio will be the new homes of four more heroes.

The Dayton Museum of Natural History will be presented Lady Karen and Special Delivery, and the Cleveland Zoological Gardens

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