

15 Pigeon Heroes to Go to New Roosts; Army Closing Their Monmouth Center

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FORT MONMOUTH, N. J., April 6—The future homes of fifteen United States Army pigeon heroes of World War II, all of them combat veterans with more than twenty flying missions, were made known today.

Major General Victor A. Conrad, commander of the post, said the colorful warbirds would be presented to eight public zoos and parks over the country within the next few months. Among them is GI Joe, decorated with the Dickens Medal by the Lord Mayor of London.

Final allocation of the birds will close the Army pigeon breeding and training center at Fort Monmouth. On March 23, the last of the younger training birds there were disposed of at a public sale. At one time during World War II there were 54,000 birds on the roster ready for service or under various stages of training. Electronics advances have reduced the need for pigeons to a negligible point, the Army said in an announcement made last December.

GI Joe is credited with saving the lives of 1,000 British troops trapped in an Italian village about to be bombed from the air. He and C. O. D., another bird with heroic accomplishments in the Mediterranean theatre, will go to the Detroit Zoological Park.

The Baltimore Zoo in Druid Hill Park, Md., will receive Yank and Apex. Yank carried the news of the fall of Gafsa in Tunisia. Apex flew twenty combat missions in the India-Burma theatre.

Caesar and Flipper are being presented to the Oak Park Zoo, Montgomery, Ala. Caesar made forty-four combat flights in North Africa and crossed the Mediterranean with a message for troops in Tunisia. Flipper is a combat veteran of twenty European missions.

The National Zoological Park in Washington, D. C., will receive Anzio Boy and Global Girl. Anzio Boy has a record of thirty-eight wartime missions in Italy, and Global Girl flew twenty-three in the Mediterranean area.

The Dayton, Ohio, Museum of Natural History will house Lady Karen and Special Delivery. The Cleveland Zoological Gardens in Brookside Park will receive Pro Patria and Crossed Flags. The four birds flew more than 100 missions in Italy and elsewhere.

The Woodland Park Zoological Garden, Seattle, Wash., will be the new home of Geronimo and Eureka, with a combined total of fifty missions. Scoop, with a record of twenty missions in Algiers, will go to the Riverside Park Zoo in Scottsbluff, Neb.