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FORT MONMOUTH, N. J. -- "GI Joe", "Yank", "Caesar" and twelve other Army pigeon heroes of World War II, were presented during April 1957 to public zoos throughout the country.

The allocation of this select group of war birds, each credited with flying twenty or more combat messages, to national institutions, marked 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 on March 23, 1957, to pigeon enthusiasts from all parts of the country.

Delivery of the fifteen heroes from their special Army home in the "Churchill Loft" was made by Fort Monmouth. In their new homes, the general public can 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.

The dissemination has these hero birds scattered in eight public zoos and parks from here to the west coast. Officials of these institutions had offered 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, were placed in the Detroit Zoological Park in Michigan. ("C.O.D." died in April, 1957. Pigeon was stuffed and retained at Detroit.)

(M. S. R. E)

The Baltimore Zoo in Druid Hill Park, Maryland, received "Yank" and "Apex". "Yank" is renowned for carrying the message about the fall of Gafsa in Tunisia, while "Apex" flew over twenty important combat missions in the India-Burma theater of operations. ("Apex" died in August, 1957; stuffed and mounted at Baltimore Zoo.)

Another pair of war heroes, "Caesar" and "Flipper", went to 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 Washington, D. C., the National Zoological Park houses "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 are new homes of four more heroes.

The Dayton Museum of Natural History was presented "Lady Karen" and "Special Delivery", while the Cleveland Zoological Gardens in Brookside Park received "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. "Crossed Flags" has over 20 combat flights in the European Theater.

Out on the west coast, the Woodland Park Zoological Garden in Seattle, Washington, has "Geronimo" and "Eureka". Both hero pigeons made heroic flights in Europe, with "Geronimo" credited with 30 missions and over 20 by "Eureka".

(M O R E)

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

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