

THOMAS E. MARTIN, PRESIDENT
MARK L. JOHNSTON, VICE PRESIDENT

CHAMP PICKENS
GENERAL MANAGER

FRANK ROSA, TREASURER
FRANK E. BOYD, SECRETARY

The Blue and Gray Association, Inc.

SPONSORS OF THE

BLUE AND GRAY CHAMPIONSHIP FOOTBALL GAME

NORTH VERSUS SOUTH

PLAYED ANNUALLY IN "THE CRADLE OF THE CONFEDERACY"

Montgomery, Ala.

December 6, 1956

Commanding General
Pigeon Section
Army Signal Corps
Washington, D. C.

Dear General:

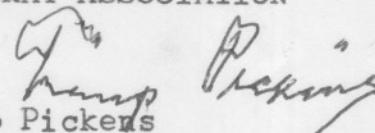
I see from the press reports that you are soon to disband your Pigeon Corps and that many of your war heroes will be out of a job.

This letter is just to say that all Montgomery and the Blue and Gray Association would greatly appreciate it if you would assign as many heroes as possible to Montgomery. They would be stationed in Oak Park where we have five cages of pigeons and adequate facilities for many more. I am sure these men would feel thoroughly at home at Oak Park where the pigeons are being kept, and we would have a large sign painted over their cages giving the names of the men and thanking your Corps for the privilege of sending them to Montgomery.

Thanking you for a reply at your earliest convenience, and with very best wishes,

Respectfully,

BLUE AND GRAY ASSOCIATION


Champ Pickens
General Manager

Incl 2

City of Montgomery Alabama

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WILLIAM A. GAYLE
PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION
FRANK W. PARKS
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS
CLYDE C. SELLERS
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

December 6, 1956

Major General Victor A. Conrad
Commanding Officer
The Signal Center
Fort Monmouth, New Jersey

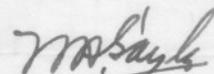
Dear General Conrad:

The City Commission of Montgomery joins with our Chamber of Commerce and other groups here in requesting that you donate as many of the eighteen pigeons with distinguished war records as you will to be placed in our zoo at Oak Park.

We assure you that they will be assigned to positions of honor in our park and that they will be given the best possible care.

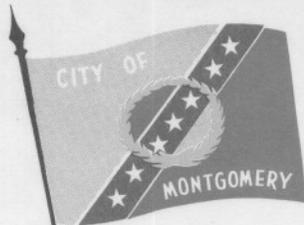
My personal best wishes and regards.

Sincerely yours



W. A. Gayle
M a y o r

WAG/b



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF MONTGOMERY

41 COMMERCE STREET

P. O. BOX 79, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

December 10, 1956

Maj. Gen. Victor A. Conrad
Commanding General
The Signal Center
Fort Monmouth, N. J.

Dear Gen. Conrad:

We have been very much interested in the Associates Press article of December 4th announcing your plans for disposal of the carrier pigeons in possession of your department.

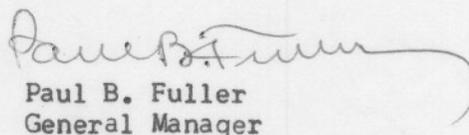
The leading park in the City of Montgomery is Oak Park, a very beautiful and popular recreation center with a very creditable zoo. In this park we have a number of well-constructed cages for birds and other fowl, among which are a number of pigeons of various breeds and types. This park employs competent personnel to care for these birds.

We are particularly interested in the 18 pigeons which have distinguished war records and would like very much to have all, or as many of these pigeons as possible, assigned to Montgomery. We can assure you that the citizens of our city would appreciate the privilege of caring for these birds and that they would be given positions of honor in our park.

The Chamber of Commerce will gladly assume responsibility for seeing that appropriate recognition is given to the birds and cages are properly marked and that adequate publicity will be given to the gift of these birds by your department.

We sincerely hope that you will honor our city by a donation of at least several of these pigeons.

Respectfully yours,


Paul B. Fuller
General Manager

PBF/fa



RECEIVED

514 Rec

P 710

DEC 8 07 36

CC039

WU3 NL PD MONTGOMERY ALA DEC 7

OTTO MEYER, ADVISOR PIGEON TRAINING SECTION
THE SIGNAL CORP CENTER FT MONMOUTH NJER

WE SINCERELY APPRECIATE THE INTEREST YOU HAVE CONVEYED THROUGH
YOUR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH DR. H. W. WATERS, JR.
REGARDING OUR EXTREME INTEREST AND APPICATION FOR SEVERAL WAR,
HERO PIGEONS. WE ARE SENDING IMMEDIATELY THE INFORMATION AND
MATERIAL WHICH WHEN ADDED TO OUR DESIRE WE HOPE WILL MAKE US
ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THEM

MARK W JOHNSTON PRESIDENT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MONTGOMERY ALA

917A

RECEIVED VIA
NONMILITARY FACILITIES

DISTRIBUTION	
CG	.....
C of S	.....
D/C of S	.....
G1	.....
G2	.....
G3	.....
G4	.....
Compt	.....
Comdt The Sig Sch	.....
Engr	.....
Exchange O	.....
Fin O	.....
IG	.....
Ord & Cml O	.....
PM	.....
Prop Dspo O	.....
Pub & Tech Info O	.....
Pur & Contr O	.....
QM	.....
Safety Dir	.....
Sig O	.....
Staff JA	.....
Sp Svc O	.....
Surg	.....
Trans O	.....
TI&E O	.....
Ch, Civ Pers Div	.....
Ch, Mil Pers Div	.....
Ch, Enl Pers Br	.....
Ch, Off Pers Br	.....
AG File	.....

ACT

Ind

13 December 1956

Mr. Paul B. Fuller
General Manager
Chamber of Commerce of Montgomery
P. O. Box 79
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Mr. Fuller:

Since I am coordinating the disposal of the Signal Corps carrier pigeon stock for General Conrad, he requested that I reply to your letter to him dated December 10, 1956, relative to the hero birds.

You may be sure that your gracious request, for this Command to make available to the City of Montgomery one or more Signal Corps pigeon heroes, will receive every consideration.

We have already received a number of requests for the hero birds and it is our plan to comply with as many of these as the number of birds in the hero category will permit. Requests have come in from the Director of Parks in Detroit, Baltimore, and Washington, D. C. Although we will not be able to comply with your request to take the entire stock of "heroes" we certainly will give serious consideration to making one or more available as a contribution to Oak Park.

As a matter of fact, Senator Hill has written to General Conrad regarding the desires of the City of Montgomery for some of these famous birds.

I hope that I will soon be able to forward you the decision of this Command relative to your generous and thoughtful offer.

Sincerely yours,

J. P. HOFFMAN, Chief
Public and Technical Information

01/13/56/TM

13 DEC 1956

Honorable Lester Hill
United States Senator
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Senator Hill:

Reference is made to your letter of December 7, 1956 regarding the Signal Corps hero pigeons. The Corps deeply appreciates the interest on the part of the City officials and the Chamber of Commerce of Montgomery, Alabama, in our hero birds.

At the present time this Command is making every effort to place all of the hero birds in public supported Parks and Zoos. It is our plan to find homes for the entire hero group and then write to those who have made requests as to the number that can be made available. We are operating under a first come first served policy, plus a review of the requesting agency, in order to make certain that the pigeons will be in good hands.

Within a short time I will again write you regarding our decision on the Oak Park Zoo request.

Thanking you for your interest in this matter, I am

Sincerely yours,

VICTOR A. CONRAD
Major General, USA
Commanding

COPY FOR: P&TIO

C O P Y

UNITED STATES SENATE

Montgomery, Alabama

December 7, 1956

Major General Victor A. Conrad
Commanding Officer
The Signal Center
Fort Monmouth, New Jersey

My dear General Conrad:

It has come to my attention that the pigeon breeding and training center at Fort Monmouth is presently being demobilized and that there are 18 pigeons, veterans of combat of World War II and the Korean conflict, which will be made available to some worthy zoo.

There is a tremendous amount of interest on the part of local citizens, city officials, the Chamber of Commerce, and private organizations such as the Blue and Gray Carrier Pigeon Club to get these splendid birds for the Oak Park Zoo in Montgomery. I am advised that the facilities for the pigeons at the Oak Park Zoo are excellent, and I think the Army can be assured that the birds will receive the finest care and affection. I shall appreciate your advises as to the possibility of getting these birds for the Oak Park Zoo.

Thanking you for every consideration that you may be able to accord this request, and with kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely,

/s/ Lester Hill

DEC 12 1956

13 December 1956

Honorable W. A. Gayle
Mayor, City of Montgomery
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Mayor Gayle:

General Conrad has instructed me to reply to your letter to him dated December 6, 1956, regarding a donation by the Army Signal Corps of its combat carrier pigeons with distinguished war records to the City of Montgomery.

You can be certain that your very generous and considerate offer will receive every consideration by this Command. At this particular time, a decision has not been reached in connection with the disposal of these pigeon heroes. As you can well imagine, a number of very fine letters have been received regarding the war birds. It our plan to comply with as many as possible.

Within a short time I will again write you relative to this Command's actions on the many gracious requests concerning the placement of these hero messengers who served with our soldiers during World War II.

Sincerely yours,

J. P. HOFFMAN, Chief
Public and Technical Information

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
House of Representative
Washington, D. C.
Federal Building
Montgomery, Alabama

December 7, 1956

Major General Victor A. Conrad
Commanding General
The Signal Center
Fort Monmouth, New Jersey

My dear General Conrad:

It has come to my attention that the City of Montgomery is quite anxious to obtain a number of the World War II carrier pigeon heroes, and I would like to recommend very strongly that the City's request be granted.

Montgomery has adequate facilities for the pigeons, and I am assured that they would be well cared for.

Much public interest is being displayed over the prospect of getting these pigeons and in the interest of the local people and organizations behind this move, I trust that Montgomery will be favored when the final decision is reached.

My best wishes.

Sincerely,

/s/ George Grant

C O P Y

SIGFM/IN

13 DEC 1956

Honorable George Grant
Representative in Congress
Federal Building
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Mr. Grant:

Thank you for your letter of December 7, 1956 regarding the interest of the City of Montgomery in connection with World War II Signal Corps hero pigeons.

We appreciate your interest and that of the City officials in placing these well known birds in public supported Parks and Zoological Gardens.

Within a short time I will again write you regarding the disposition of these pigeon heroes. At this time our plans have not been fully completed. I can assure you that due consideration will be given to your request.

Sincerely yours,

VICTOR A. CONRAD
Major General, USA
Commanding

COPY FOR: P&TIO

JPH/rgk/d

3/11.9
SIGFM/IN
Re: Disposition of Pigeons

14 December 1956

Mr. Mark W. Johnston, President
Chamber of Commerce
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Mr. Johnston:

This is to advise you that we received your wire of 7 December in connection with your request for several of the hero pigeons which are soon to be disposed of at Fort Monmouth, N.J.

I wrote your General Manager, Mr. Paul B. Fuller, on 13 December, at which time I assured him that the request from the City of Montgomery would be carefully considered. Therefore, this matter is now under consideration and I hope within a short time to be in a position to advise you of the disposition of the homing pigeon heroes.

Sincerely yours,

J. P. HOFFMAN
Chief, Public and Technical
Information Office

H. W. WATERS, JR., M. D.
730 ADAMS AVENUE
GYNECOLOGY
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

December 18, 1956

Major Otto Meyer
Signal Corps, Pigeon Section
Ft. Monmouth, N.J.

Dear Major Meyer:

I would like to thank you personally for the interest that you have shown in the project of Montgomery obtaining some of the war heroes for Oak Park Zoo. We realize that these birds have a lot of age on them and that they will not be expected to live very long but at the same time the Chamber of Commerce can have a big spread of publicity if one of the birds should be awarded to Montgomery. The Chamber of Commerce is very interested in this project as you will note that they have gone to Senator Lister Hill and Congressman George Grant to seek their influence to have one of them or more, awarded to the City of Montgomery's zoo.

The Blue and Gray Racing Pigeon Club of Montgomery had a meeting the other night and they were told that the flying birds would be disposed of at a price which would be set upon the individual birds or pairs, about February 1st, and be an "on the spot sale." I believe this is the way that I understood it in our telephone conversation. The club is quite interested in obtaining some of these birds. Of course, it is out of the question that any of our members could be at Fort Monmouth on the day of the sale. We have watched the Bulletin and News to see if there might be some plan set forth in them whereby flyers could buy these birds and not be on the spot at the time of the sale. We have not seen any notice to this effect.

It appears that we are always asking favors of you. Maybe some day we can do a favor in return for you and if we can I want you to feel free to call upon us for we will sure be glad to do it. Will it be possible for you or one of your friends, to buy the Army birds for us and ship them to us? I am enclosing my personal check for \$100.00 which represents a pot that the club formed on the night of the meeting. We

-2-

Major Otto Meyer

12-18-56

would like for you to buy a crate from the Army or otherwise as you see fit, and then use the rest of the money to obtain the best birds possible. We will leave the selection to you. I might say that we would prefer birds of quality rather than a large number of birds. If this is possible, please ship them to me express collect.

Our club has grown by leaps and bounds for the past two years. At the present we have a membership of fourteen members and approximately eleven will be able to fly in the spring races. We have not had any dramatic speeds nor have we flown the long distances as yet but we have had a great deal of fun out of the sport. At the present time the sport remains a sport of fun. We have obtained breeders from all parts of the United States. Recently one member has purchased fourteen birds from Heitzman.

Thanking you in advance for this great favor and extending to you an invitation to visit us at any time you might be in this section of the country, I remain

Yours very truly

H. W. Waters Jr. Sect.

H. W. Waters, Jr., Secretary
Blue and Gray Racing Pigeon Club

w/w
encl

26 December 1956

Dr. H. W. Waters, Jr.
730 Adams Avenue
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Dr. Waters:

Your letter to Otto Meyer, dated December 18, 1956, has been referred to me for reply. This will also acknowledge receipt of your personal check for \$100.00 which is returned herewith.

I am familiar with the generous offer from the Oak Park Zoo and assure you that within a short time we will be in a position to advise the Director of the Zoo whether or not one or more of the pigeons in the hero category can be donated to Montgomery, Alabama.

As you probably realize, Mr. Meyer has been deluged with requests from pigeon fanciers wherein he would represent them at the disposal sale. This Command has ruled that Mr. Meyer may not act as a representative for anyone at the sale. I assure you that we are quite anxious to cooperate with pigeon clubs and we know of their interest and realize that the homing pigeons being disposed of by the Army Signal Corps would be in very capable hands.

Within a short time we will be in a position to announce the sale date. As you know, the disposal sale will be held right at the pigeon lofts at Fort Monmouth. This will give the purchaser an opportunity to see just what he is buying.

I am very sorry that we cannot comply with your request and hope that my explanation is acceptable. Wishing you continued good luck in the racing pigeons, I am

Sincerely yours,

1 Incl
Check (\$100.)

J. P. HOFFMAN, Chief
Public and Technical Information

SIGFM/IN 311.9
SUBJECT: Pigeons

28 December 1956

Mr. Champ Pickens, General Manager
The Blue and Gray Association, Inc.
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Mr. Pickens:

Thank you very much for your thoughtful letter of December 6th regarding the Signal Corps here pigeons. Your letter was forwarded by the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, Washington, D. C., to this Headquarters since jurisdiction for the placing of the hero birds will be coordinated from here.

At this writing, it has not been decided just what public supported institutions will receive pigeons in the hero category. However, I assure you that Oak Park in the City of Montgomery will receive fair and just consideration.

As a matter of fact, we have already received letters in behalf of Oak Park from Senator Hill, Congressman Grant, Mayor Gayle and Dr. Waters.

I will write you further on this matter at the earliest practicable date.

Sincerely yours,

J. P. HOFFMAN
Chief, Public and Technical
Information Office