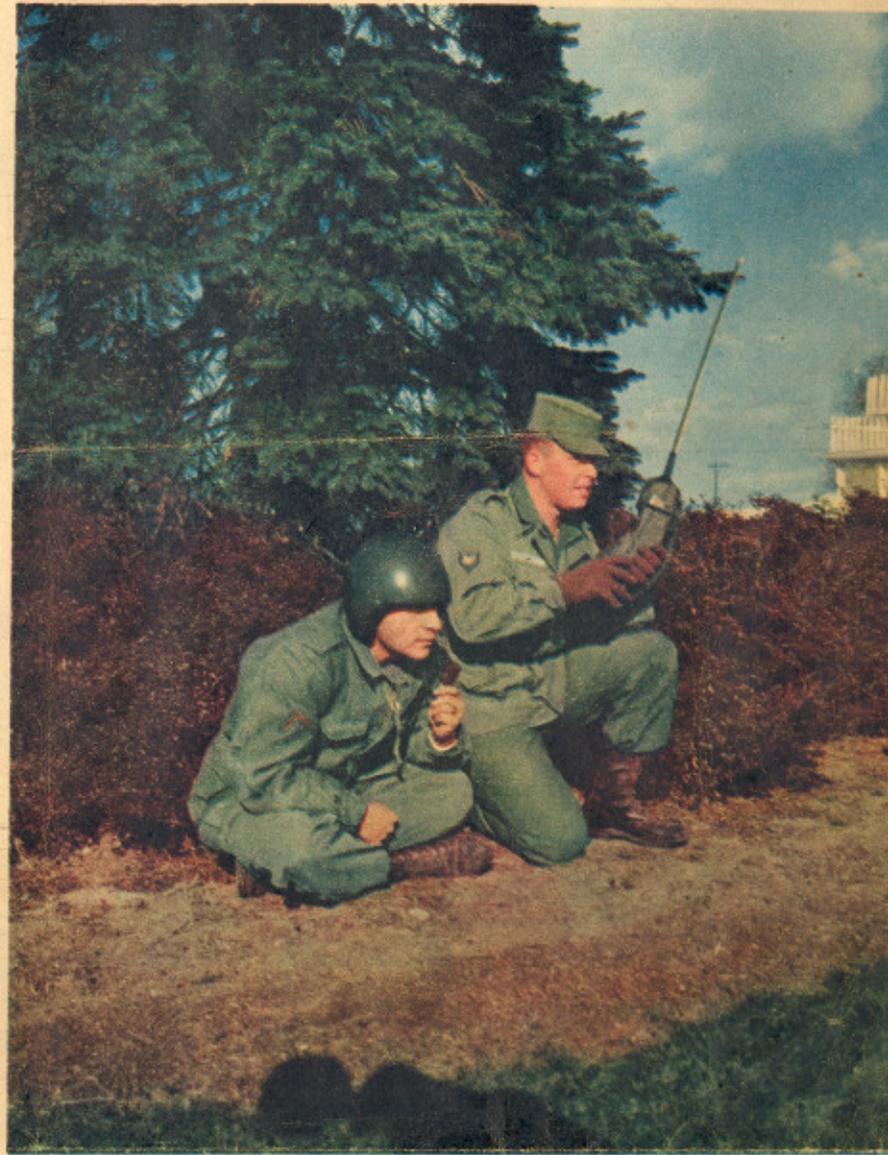




Mr. Meyer and Sp. 2/c James Decker display a pigeon's flight feathers. Long, primary feathers are propellers. Shorter feathers, close to body, maintain bird in flight.



Pfc. Carmine deRosa and Sp. 2/c Decker demonstrate, with a helmet radio and "handy" talkie, why the carrier pigeon, as military messenger, has reached end of the line.

against Pancho Villa  
y 17, 1917, the pigeon  
e an official part of  
was championed by  
who urged the use of  
rld War I. When the  
ntered the war there  
ons "under arms," ob-  
from civilian breed-  
ber 5,000 saw action

sold by the War Assets Administra-  
tion.  
"G.I. Joe," one of World War II's  
greatest pigeon heroes, saved a bri-  
gade of British troops who had pre-  
maturely entered Colvivecchia in  
Italy. The bird flew 20 miles in as  
many minutes to call off a scheduled  
Allied air strike on the town. For this  
action "G.I. Joe" received the Dickin  
Medal from the Lord Mayor of Lon-  
don in 1946.

Other pigeons contributing to the  
success of military

were the most reliable means of com-  
munication used by the Army in  
World War II. In certain cases the  
use of carrier pigeons as a means of  
communication was given preference  
over that of the radio or telephone.  
All OSS agents dropped behind enemy  
lines carried pigeons. The birds were  
the safest means of getting a message  
back to friendly forces, since they,  
unlike the radio, could not be moni-  
tored nor could their messages be  
intercepted. Also, the birds could not

