

ARMY SIGNAL SCHOOLS  
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES  
FRANCE

**PIGEON SERVICE SCHOOL**

**WHAT AUXILIARY PIGEON MEN SHOULD KNOW.**

1. Birds should not be fed until away from their lofts 24 hours.
2. Only the feed sent with the birds should be given them, and not more than they will clean up at one meal. They should be fed once a day, about one hour before sunset.
3. Fresh water should be kept in front of the birds at all times.
4. Birds should be kept in a light place, but protected from the weather.
5. The trench rest basket must be placed inside the wire basket to protect the birds against rats.
6. Gas bags must be inspected and kept in position on the rest basket, ready for use.
7. Birds should not be kept at a station longer than 48 hours, except under extraordinary conditions.
8. No message is to be sent except by order of the Commander on the spot, and should bear his signature and rank.
9. Messages should be written on Pigeon Service Message book (Form 6 P. S.) in triplicate; triplicate copy retained for reference; original copy sent by pigeon, and duplicate sent with the next message bird. In the event of a very important message, two birds should be dispatched, one minute apart, each with a copy of the message.
10. Messages should be folded, rolled and placed in the aluminum message holder. The message holder should then be attached to the bird's leg which has no identification band. Care should be taken not to press the clips too tight.
11. In releasing a pigeon, do not liberate at or near headquarters. Select a different spot each time, some distance along the trench; otherwise enemy observers will spot and shell the location.
12. Pigeons will not home at night or in a fog. During light rains they will home, although the speed will be reduced. The bird's speed varies from 25 to 60 miles per hour.
13. Pigeon feed must be kept dry. For this purpose a tin box is furnished each pigeon station.