

FORT MONMOUTH, N. J. -- Sixteen pigeon heroes of World War II are trying to be placed in public zoos or institutions throughout the country. This select group at the Signal Corps Pigeon Breeding and Training Center here at Fort Monmouth, housed in the special "Churchill Loft", are accredited with numerous combat message flights.

"GI Joe", awarded the Dickin Medal by the Lord Mayor of London in 1946, heads the list of heroes as the famous bird who saved hundreds of troops at Colvi Vecchia, Italy. Flying a message which cancelled a scheduled bombing of the city, the famous bird saved a British brigade.

"Yank" and "Caesar" are two other important pigeons with heroic flights in North Africa and Italy. The former carried a message on the fall of Gassa in Tunisia. "Caesar" was credited with 44 combat messages in North Africa.

Of the sixteen heroes, only three others have a name, the rest identified by numbers. Those named are "Anzio Boy", with 38 combat flights in Italy, "Lady Karen", who flew 31 messages in North Africa and Italy, and "Pro Patria", who carried 35 messages also in Italy.

The unnamed heroes flew messages in Europe, the Burma-India area, as well as the previously mentioned locations.

"Yank", hatched in 1942, is the oldest of the heroes. "GI Joe" came a year later, and "Caesar" in 1944. Four of the unnamed pigeons are hens.

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