

Scoop - Distinguished Signal Corps Pigeon

Pigeons were vital to communications during both war and peacetime. The Pigeon Program operated as a part of the Signal Corps from 1918, until its discontinuance in 1957. In 1919, the pigeon program was transferred from France where it was a part of the American Expeditionary Forces, to Fort Monmouth. The program was headquartered for most of its active life at Fort Monmouth.

This “series” of blogs is a presentation of biographical information for some of the more distinguished pigeons in this program. It is the 10th blog that presents biographical information since the inception of this blog site. This blog is about Scoop, a veteran of World War II. Scoop was recognized by the Signal Corps as one of fifteen World War II Hero Pigeons that were still living in 1957, when the program ended. He bore the number “8672 USA 43 SC.”

Scoop, was a black check cock that as his biography states ranked high among hero pigeons of WWII. Scoop was credited with the successful completion of over 20 combat missions for the American troops in Algiers. Under hazardous war conditions, he displayed courage and unusual speed in delivering many of the 72 messages sent by Army pigeons during 16 days of battle on the Mateur-Bizerte front.

Scoop was hatched in Morocco in 1943. He received his name due to his eagerness and ability to take flight faster than any other birds in his loft. After WWII, Scoop was rewarded for his heroism by being housed in Churchill Loft, the Army's "Pigeon Hall of Fame", Fort Monmouth, New Jersey.

When the Signal Corps discontinued the Pigeon Program, in March 1957, Scoop and a male “non-hero” bird were presented to the Riverside Park Zoo, in Scottsbluff Nebraska. Both birds were shipped to the zoo via “Air Express.” Scoop died in late 1959, his exact date of death is not known.