



Pigeoneers and Their Fleet Messengers.

ROAD WORK WITH THE PIGEONEERS.

Bird Men Here Busy Training Feathered Messengers.

There is no truth in the report that one of the pigeon-tamers of the Pigeon section, Signal Corps, is in the Base Hospital as a result of being kicked by one of the pigeons. The section is intact and on the job. Bucking pigeons are being broken every day, and made bridle-wise.

The pigeon remount station is that little green building not far from the camp post office and the wireless station, and has tin rat-guards on the posts that support it.

The men in the pigeon section are quartered with the Division Headquarters Troop. The work they will do in the field is considered one of the most important branches of signaling, and more than one of us is apt to be grateful to the fleet, feathered messengers that these bird-men are training.

Pigeon-training is a delicate art. The pigeoners here (they like to be called pigeoners), have a flock of young thoroughbreds in their charge. When the birds came here they had never seen anything but the inside of an egg and the inside of a box.

The pigeoners, many of whom have flown racing pigeons all their lives, tackled the job of making dependable messengers of the green birds. Their task is to develop the birds so that if the birds are liberated with a message any place within a thousand

miles of Spartanburg, they will speed back here and report promptly at the loft. A pigeon that is A. W. O. L. is absolutely no good. They must return at once to their home nest so that the message can be delivered. Well trained birds do not lose any time about starting for home. A flirt, a flutter, a whirl and they are off almost as fast as the bullets.

The Sweet-Tempered Pigeoneers.

The birds are taught to love their home nest. Pigeoneers never strike their charges. They speak to them only in gentle voices; they call them only endearing terms. Pigeons are not mules. The home nest represents FOOD to the birds. To get the best results the pigeons must be a little hungry when they start on their errand. The need of food speeds them up. Hunger makes them "trap" quickly. They trap when they push through a little wire gate, which electrically rings a bell announcing the arrival of a messenger. Teaching the birds to trap at once is now the principal work of the pigeoners.

They give the birds road work, i. e., send them up for flights around the loft and then rattle a pan of corn to bring the flock back to the loft. Those that are slow in returning to "trap," do not get any corn. After a bird has missed out on mess a few times for his slowness, he gets it into his head that it is a good thing to trap promptly.

The pigeon section is composed of the following expert pigeoners: Corporals Swain, Haggas, Sheehan, Taintor, and Privates Juber, Brady, Weiss, Thorn, Vanderveer, Odell, Heninger, and Swain.

Saving scraps over here will save the scrap over there.—S. O. S.

MAJ. GEN. O'RYAN LAUDS 105TH INFANTRY.

Praises Men for Good Shooting, Hiking and Discipline.

Major General O'Ryan was so pleased with the work of the 105th Infantry on its trip to the range that he has written a letter of commendation to the commanding officer of that regiment as follows:

April 9.

Commanding General, 27th Division, U. S. A.
Commanding Officer, 105th Infantry, Camp Wadsworth, S. C.

Commendation of 105th Infantry.

1. Please convey to the officers and enlisted men of your regiment my commendation of the manner in which the regiment has performed its duty during the past few weeks. Its record has been satisfactory from the beginning, but during the period mentioned its discipline, rifle practice, combat exercises and marching abilities have placed the regiment on a high plane of efficiency.

2. In the combat firing exercises on Thursday, April 4th, 1918, the regiment fired a large amount of service ammunition in broken country, including much wooded land, and its attention to detail and fire discipline were such that no accidents occurred. On Friday, April 5th, 1918, the regiment occupied a position prepared to assault an outlined enemy trench system on a front of 500 yards. The assault was preceded by a barrage fired by the batteries of the 104th and 105th Regiments of Field Artillery. Although the field batteries fired 480 rounds of shrapnel over the heads of the regiment, some of which burst within 65 yards of its first wave, the discipline and zeal of the command throughout were marked and worthy of special mention. The advance of the regiment in three waves behind was satisfactorily executed.

3. The 105th Infantry gives every promise of being an efficient, dependable unit in actual combat.

(Signed) JOHN F. O'RYAN,
Major General.

In that "Sahjunt at Camp Pike" a correspondent discovers a dear old friend, and recalls the following anecdote: "Pat, doing guard duty, was asked by his sergeant if he had seen the colonel in that part of the camp. No, he had not; but two hours later, when an officer passed, Pat asked: 'And who might you be?' Drawing himself up: 'I am Colonel Smith.' 'Oh, sure, you're the colonel, are ye? Well, you're going to get hell. The sergeant's been looking for you for two hours.'"

Do not stint the soldiers in the trenches by wasting food in the camps.—S. O. S.