

Perhaps one of the oldest branches of the Army is that in which the pigeon is incriminated. The pigeon branch naturally divides itself into two parts thusly :

1. The Carrier Pigeon which is an animated mono-planed animal of the aviator type with a strong tendency to travel the shortest distance between two points in the shortest possible time.

2. The Pigeon Carrier which is not infrequently a rational human being.

The first date in which these birds were used for anything other than culinary purposes was in the "rain" of Noah. At that date, we are informed, the entire surface of the earth was covered with water — a curious liquid not unlike French beer but more intoxicating. Mr Noah after wandering aimlessly over the face of the deep, guided by a prismatic compass, a round ruler and a strong sense of smell, conceived the idea of sending out scouts for the purpose of locating a suitable jumping-off trench for his menagerie. As we are told in Holy Writ, the pigeon carried this out in a perfectly satisfactory manner, returning with the lid of an olive tree as a sample copy. Since that date the pigeons have been permanently attached to the Army and are as integral a part thereof as sergeant-majors, field punishments or Bully Beef tins.

The following technical information has been secured regardless of cost from a large number of (hot) air experts — and is probably the most accurate ever exposed to the general public.

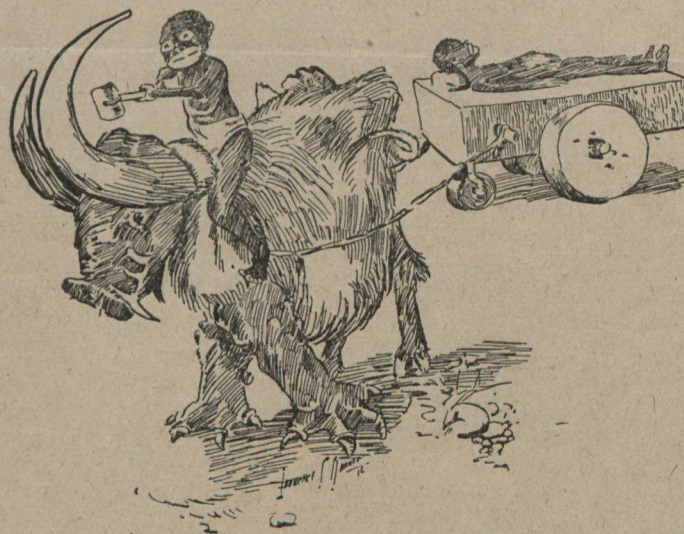
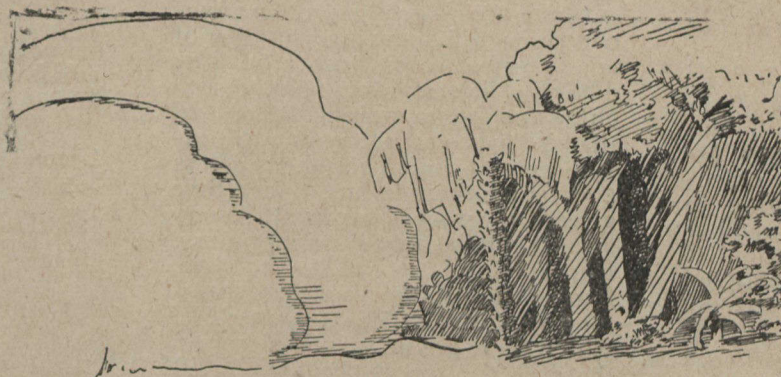
When the pigeons are very young (say ten or fifteen minutes) they are fed on powdered gramophone records. In the course of time, these record-granules gradually come together again and form a record which revolves rapidly within the bird due to the resultant of a large number of forces of which we have little or no data.

When a very important message has to be got thru, the bird is taken to a quiet secluded spot and the message is

Feathered Telegrams

would be reversed when it arrived at its destination. Thus if the message read "We are short of ammunition send us some bully beef tins," — if the right ear were used the receiving station would receive it "We are short of bully beef — send us some ammunition". This frequently causes confusion. After the message has been firmly ingrained on the cylinder, the bird is wound up. This is done by twisting the head counter-clockwise. If wound the other way the bird travels backwards which greatly impedes its speed. A small sighting vane is mounted on

the bird's head by means of which one aims at the distant station. When the pigeon is wound and sighted the tail is given a slight twist which releases the pressel switch and the bird starts off at immense speed. While in transit the motion in the air affects the rotary motion of the cylinder and forces it into its throat. On arrival the bird gives a sharp sneeze and the record is ejected and can easily be read by means of a small periscope and a hand microphone.



—The Garland.

The First Field Ambulance

particular portion of space mentioned in the menu card. When he is released he loses no time in reaching such a desirable haven of eatables.

In this manner the righteous are deceived and thus does man prey upon the foibles of the feathered folk in order to reach his own ulterior and ignoble ends.

—D.F.M.