

MSS 294 Hayes, Sgt. Gordon H.

Biography:

Gordon, Hayes. H. April 13, 1918 in Los Angeles. At the age of eight he took an interest in racing pigeons which was to become a life long endeavor. At 15 he started the Hiland Park Racing Club and two years later started a second larger club called the Lincoln Racing Pigeon Club. Gordon then became interested in exotic birds and became a breeder, but he still continued racing pigeons.

He attended Cal Poly University where he earned a bachelor degree in entomology. After graduation, he joined the county of Los Angeles and worked as an entomologist until he was drafted into the army in 1941. With the attack of Pearl Harbor on December 7th, his military service was extended. Initially he served under General George Patton, training in the deserts of California. Once the war was underway, he was transferred into the "pigeon corps" where his expertise with racing pigeons was recognized and he was placed in charge of a large group of new men with little experience in racing pigeons. His job was to train these soldiers.

The company started as the 829th Pigeon Platoon or the Africa Pigeon Corp. Later in South Italy, it was changed to the 6681st Signal Pigeon Co. (Prov). Lastly, the name was changed from the 6681st Signal Pigeon Co. to the 209th Signal Pigeon Co.

Hayes duties took him to the front lines of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Italy and France, where he worked closely with the U.S. and British intelligence services. Often in the dangerous front lines or in covert operations, he worked with such famous pigeons as "G.I. Joe," "Yank," "Rain in the Face," and many more.

When the war ended in Europe, Hayes finished his duty in the service as a Master Sergeant. He returned to Los Angeles in 1946, with his Italian war bride Sylvia. He began working for the city as a public health inspector. Continuing as a successful bird breeder, the epitome of his career was the breeding of an American dark green and cobalt Indian ring-necked parakeet. The first in the world; a new color mutation.

In 1981, Hayes self-published his book, *The Pigeons That Went To War* about his experiences in the army's pigeon corps. According to Hayes, all of the records relating to the Pigeon Corps have been lost or destroyed, making this a unique collection. The collection documents the use of racing homer pigeons during World War II to carry messages. Hayes organized some of the collection in display panels as an exhibit. The collection consists primarily of publications, photographs, and documents related to WWII and the use of racing pigeons. Also included are messages carried by the pigeons.

Box 1

WORLD WAR II

Folder 1 (Articles about Hayes):

- Audio cassette tape of personal interview given August 16, 1999 **[missing April 2019 –NG]**
- “Olde Tymer: Gordon Hayes and the American Cobalt Indian Ring-necked Parakeet” in The A.F.A Watchbird. Vol. 25, no. 3, May/June 1998, pp. 10-15.
- Newspaper clipping: Beck, Bob. News Pilot. “Book honors fine-feathered...” Wed. Nov. 7, 1990.

Folder 2 (Hayes, Personal Military Papers, Commendation (copies))

- Honorable Discharge, July 5, 1946
- Army of the United States Honorable Discharge Certificate awarded July 5, 1946
- Headquarters Fifth Army Commendation honoring Hayes’ “outstanding performance of duty”
(4 copies)
- Special Order Of The Day: May 2, 1945

Folder 3 (Pigeons That Went to War)

- The Pigeons That Went to War, by Gordon Hayes written in 1981 and signed by the author,
146 pp. (3 copies)

Folder 4 (BBC Production Correspondence)

- Inside Story; Animals in war (correspondence regarding program): April 17, 1999

Folder 5 (Corp Members Rosters)

- Roster Oct. 8, 1944

- Undated roster/ Signal Pigeon Company: signed D.C. Buscall

Folder 6 (Camp Young California, Desert Training)

- Notes on the tactical use of pigeons in the desert of California and Arizona
- Pigeons on maneuvers at Camp Young, California

Folder 7 (History of the Fourth Pigeon Platoon from the 280th Sig. Pigeon Co.)

- The History of the Fourth Pigeon Platoon From the 280th Sig.Pgn.Co.

Folder 8 (History of 209th)

- "A History of 280th Signal Pigeon Company," by Robert B. Folsom 1st Lt., Signal Corps,
32 pp.

Folder 9 (Training Manuals and Memorandum)

NOTE: [Army Pigeon Training Papers copied from Germans training papers WWI: are the only ones left]

- Pigeons for Straight Communication
- Sickness and Remedies
- S.O.—IN-C (Home Forces) Training Memorandum No. 23; Employment of racing pigeons in mobile warfare
- Extracts and Notes From German Pigeon Manual: "Arly Carrier Pigeons, 1925", May 1944
- Standing Operating Procedure for Signal Pigeon Company for Planning Purposes Only, July 1, 1944
- High Altitude Chamber Experiments with Homing Pigeons, January 15, 1945

Folder 10 (Orders and Messages from Commanding Officer; other documents)

- Special Orders: July 10, 1942: Headquarters Fort Monmouth Red Bank, New Jersey
- Special Orders: September 1, 1942; 3rd Headquarters Special Troops Third Army Camp
Beauregard, La. (two originals and copy)
- Orders: January 19, 1943; Headquarter Atlantic Base Section A.P.O. #759
- Travel Orders: July 7, 1943; Allied Forces Headquarters APO 512
- Flying Lofts in Italy; December 30, 1943
- Company Order: February 8, 1944; 6681st Signal Pigeon Company (Prov) APO 464 U.S.
Army
- Company Order: E-T-R-A-C-T: April 19, 1944; 6681st Signal Pigeon Co., (Prov) APO 464
U.S. Army
- Report on Activities of the Pigeon Detachment from the 828th Signal Pigeon Replacement
Company on Special Duty with the Fourth Engineer Special Brigade Camp Gordon Johnston,
Florida: April 25, 1944
- Headquarters Fifth Army A.P.O. #464, U.S. Army; May, 1944 (copy)
- Weekly Pigeon Report: May 25, 1944; 6681st Signal Pigeon Co., (Prov)
- Two certificates titled: Headquarters Fifth Army Commendation; The 6681st Signal Pigeon
Company (Provisional) is hereby commended for outstanding performance of duty
- General Orders: E-T-R-A-C-T: July 10, 1944; Headquarters Fifth Army A.P.O. #464, U.S.
Army
- General Information Pigeon Communication; December 6, 1944
- Historical Highlights; [ca 1944]

- Memorandum: March 21, 1945; Headquarters Seventh US Army Office of the Signal Officer
APO 758 (three copies)
- Use of Pigeons: APO 92, U.S. Army, January 29, 1945; Headquarters 92d Infantry Division
Office of the Commanding General (three copies)
- Special Order of the Day: Allied Force Headquarters: May 2, 1945; "Soldiers, Sailors, and
Airmen of the Allied Forces in the Mediterranean Theatre" (two copies)
- Map titled "Italian Campaign Ends May 2, 1945" (two copies)
- Presidential Message: Headquarters 15th Army Group; May 3, 1945 (two copies)
- Headquarters 15th Army Group; To the Soldiers of the 15th Army Group; May 1945 (two
copies)
- Commendation: June 2, 1945; Headquarters Seventh Army APO 758 US Army (three copies)
- Special Orders: June 26, 1945; Headquarters 1st Signal Battalion APO 758 US Army
- Wendell D. Stratton, O-1634376; 2nd Lieut., 1st Lieut, 829 Sig, 6681Sig, 209 Sig
- Pigeon Activities in the China, Burma, India Theater [undated]
- Troop Berthing Diagram AP-116
- Notes on the Tactical use of Pigeons in the North African Operations (copy)
- Headquarters Fifth Army APO 464 US Army (five copies)
- To photo-copied pictures of Lieutenant General Mark W. Clark, Commanding General, Fifth
Army

Folder 11 (Newsletters: The Raider, Yankee Pigeonier, & Pigeon News & Views,)

- The Raider. Vol. 2 No. 1: Safi, Morocco, November 17, 1942

- The Yankee Pigeoneer (Italy). ca. April 1944
Edition No. 2 6681st Signal Pigeon Co., (Prov); May 10, 1944 (2 copies)
- Edition No.3 6681st Signal Pigeon Co., (Prov); June 2, 1944 (original and copy)
- Edition No.4, 209th Signal Pigeon Company; July 30, 1944 (2 originals and copy)
- Yankee Pigeoneer (Italy), Ed. No. 4, Signal Pigeon Company, July 30, 1944 (two originals and copy)
- "Pigeon News & Views": A Pigeon Paper for Pigeon Men 209th Signal Pigeon Company, edited in Italy: [ca April 1945] (copy)
- "Pigeon News & Views" [ca December 1945] (two originals)
- "Pigeon News & Views" [ca 1945]
- clippings from newsletters

Folder 12 (Press Bulletins)

- Press News Bulletin No. 157, Sunday, May 9, 1943; Allied Force Headquarters Signal Corps, News office of the Chief Signal Officer
- Press Bulletin No. 158, Monday, May 10, 1943; Allied Force HQ Signal Section News Office of the Chief Signal Officer

Folder 13 (Messages carried by pigeons)

- This is a message to the commanding officer, 2nd armd. All communication was out, pigeon communication saved the day.
- All pigeons not in use were required to carry a message when released, this is one of them.
- This is a message regarding a sick soldier that had passed out and needed transportation to

take

him to the rear.

- These two messages are regarding the central communication being cut by farmers working in

the fields.

- This message was to the commanding general, 5th Army, from war correspondent T. Brown.

- This is a very important message to the commanding general II corps., regarding infantry fighting and German infiltration on the south bank of the Arno River, Italy.

- Christmas greetings, December 25th, from the boys at the front.

- This is a message regarding a pigeon leg, which was found in a German bunker and turned out

to be one of our birds, captured from an American patrol.

- This message is asking for rations, for many different companies

- This message was sent by Lt. Charles Koester in Sardinia to C.O. PGN. Officer Tracy Prater in Bizerte, Tunisia. This meant that Lt. Koester & his men were ready to operate.

- This message was for Lt. Prater, C.O. 209th Pigeon Corps., regarding capture of German or French bird.

- The message was carried from vicinity of Gabes to Gafsa, a distance roughly 70 miles.

- one not captioned message

Folder 14 (Pigeon Records, Pedigree from certificates of service)

- Blank certificate of service

- Certificate of Service awarded different homing pigeons with different band #'s, dated May 10,

1946 (nine certificates)

- four blank pedigree forms

Folder 15 (Re: Individual Pigeons)

- The Story of Lady Astor AU-42-STY-2249
- The Story of Wisconsin Box
- The Story of Captain Fulton
- Picture of G.I. Joe and page summary on G.I. Joe
- Newspaper clipping of picture and caption honoring GI Joe the highest English award for animals (original and copy)
- Newspaper clipping honoring four individual pigeons: "Jungle Joe", "Blackie Halligan", "Burma Queen," and "Captain Letterman"

Folder 16 (World War II sign)

- WWII sign reading: "Registered Homing Pigeon Loft with the U.S. Army; Pigeon Reserve Signal Corps-These Homing Pigeons Protected by Federal Laws"

Folder 17 (Propaganda (German))

- Eleven items of German propaganda

Folder 18 (Stratton Membership card for Pigeon Society of Casa Blanca)

- Membership card reading: "Some members of the Africa Pigeon Corps. were decorated by the French Military and many were made honorary members of the Pigeon Society of

Casablanca, Morocco.”

Box 2 Memorabilia and Non-World War II Pigeon history

Memorabilia

6 message capsules used for carrier pigeon

World War I

- Certificate of recognition from the President to David C. Buscall, appointing him captain in the

Signal Section on July 2, 1918

- Report of Activities of Pigeon Service, Signal Corps, A.E.F. from Nov. 2, 1917 to May 1919

- Moroccan stamp sheets (2)

- Certificate stating-Signal Pigeon Corps-Army Pigeon Service Agency War Pigeons, Certificate of Service Commemorating the AU 38 Buffalo 976 on Sept. 14, 1946 authorized by Otto Meyer

- Framed, caption reads: “This is the Commission given to the 1st Lt. David Buscall on Aug. 16, 1917. He was the first president of the American Pigeon Union.”

- Winged Mail: from Avallon to Bunker Hill [1894-1898], by Anne Marie Hagger in 1985, 46 pp.

- The Avalon Bay News, October 21, 1993-article “Catalina Carrier Pigeons Reenacted for Modern Day Television”.

- Video tape: “California Gold,” Episode #504 “Wings Over California” Length 29:05

Catalina Island pigeon messenger service, interview with Gordon Hayes.

- The Pigeon, by Wendell Mitchel Levi, A.B., J.D, 1941, 512 pp.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Box 3 Photographs

Pigeon Corp's Photographs

3 " X 4" photographs:

1. Feb. 14, 1943: 8 I 8th Barracks, Fort Meade Maryland.

Cpl. Myers of Stockton, California

2. April 1, 1943: Fort Geo Meade, Maryland: 828th Signal Pigeon Co. just a pile of logs

3. April 18, 1943: 828th camouflage lofts, Fort Geo Meade, Maryland

4. April 18, 1943: chow line of 828th, 5:30 evening, Fort Geo Meade, Maryland

5. May 4, 1943: 1). Ray Zimmerman 2). Boskind

Ft. Geo Meade, Maryland; breeding base, Hayes,

6. May 4, 1943: Pigeoneer Ray Zimmerman: This was my loft, 10 pair of Frank's,

Regan's, and my breeders from my loft in Ulmhurst, Illinois. Birds sent to me by my

father on May 18, 1943. Ft. Meade, Maryland USA

7. May 4, 1943: group of our 828th boys; we were just off of a Bive Wack from Abbey Hill.

Back at fort Meade, Maryland, Md. 4:00pm

8. Bradlo, E.

9. Bradlo, R.

10. Pvt. Budeo looks sad, he just lost his birds

11. Kyak, Casablanca

12. Turner
13. Pvt. Deverso, Italy
14. Steinhaus, Rousch, and Deverso
15. Steinhaus
16. Back Steinhaus, Gagnon, Rousch, Pvt. Ginnel, and Gregorash
17. Steinhaus
18. 1st Sgt. Steinhaus beside loft, hit at Cassino, Italy. Private, Stanley Langowski was in loft when it got hit, mortar holes in loft. Langowski received a Purple Heart, badly wounded.
19. Sgt. Fox
20. Carney, Fox, and Follick: Algiers
21. Fox
22. Lt. Alas Koester and his ratchet, Africa: Lt. Koester Pitt
23. Lt. Koester: These chickens belonged to Charlie, and he used to eat eggs everyday.
24. Cpl. Vincent Jorczyk holding "True Blue"- important and reliable message carrier.
25. Vincent Jorczyk: Italy, 1943
26. Vincent Jorczyk: Mount Abbey Cassino; stalemate, Italy 1943
27. Vincent Jorczyk and Geoffrey Nardone, French military lofts; Casablanca, Morocco
28. Vincent Jorczyk holding blue hen which carried many messages. French military lofts; Casablanca, Morocco, North Africa
29. Combat loft of Sgt. Hayes; Viareggio, Italy
30. Sgt. Hayes: when the stables carnal(?) in we got in before it was made by Germans.

31. Bizerte, home of Sgt. Gordon Hayes under this tree was a 6-ft hole in the ground as we
were
bombed every night.
32. Combat mobile loft of Sgt. Hayes, near old olive tree- Bizerte
32. Scurti, Mort, Sgt. Martinovich, the loft that Yank flew to: Wendell D. Stratton, 1st Lt. Signal
Corps, Pigeon Officer
33. Lt. Holmes, Martinovich, Moert, "Yank Loft" Wendell D. Stratton, 1st Lt. Signal Corps,
Pigeon Officer
35. Capt. Dave Buscall enjoyed having a few friendly drinks with the men.
36. Capt. Buscall, Lt. Hunt
37. Haid
38. Nardone
39. Lt. Mc Nally, Bizerte
40. Gene Caletti, the company carpenter, he spent the war
making combat pigeon lofts or repairing them after they got shot up.
41. Landow, Germany, Lt. Hunt
42. Combat loft, Anso, Italy; Lt. Soskey, Cleveland a real good pigeon man.
43. Lt. Sunshine, 1st Ranger taking first pigeons to the front, Tebessa: Wendell D. Stratton, 1st
Signal Corps, Pigeon Officer
44. Lt. Stratton
45. Cerney

46. Tagert
47. Shak
48. Lt. Soskey
49. Shields
50. Pacquin
51. Martinovich
52. Lifonti
53. Belhumer
54. Sevagion
55. Karnopp
56. St. Stratton, Algiers
57. Goldsten, Tebessa, Africa
58. Ginnel, Anzio
59. Ginnel, Algiers
60. Michaelletti, Algiers
61. Rousch
62. Coferneo, Italy
63. MSgt Tagert, N. Italy Alps
64. Shalt
65. Cashman
66. Mort

67. Scurti
68. Sgt. Sobecke Banding, 2 naming pigeons, Italy
69. Camp in Florence after the war was over, waiting to go home
70. San Prisco, Italy: breeding base for Italian war. We reared over 4,000 babies here.
71. Cassino Monastery, before bombing
72. direct hit, Italy
73. Cassino Monastery. We bombed it out of existence.
74. Saw mill and house (Dright) Bardoloni- Appennines Mts., Italy
75. Basilica at G
76. Ostia from B25
77. Pigeon in combat loft, Italian Alps
78. Half Track, North Italy
79. Moresca, the Alps
80. German Bunker, Via Regio, Italy
81. Combat lofts; Terracino, Italy. I shot a deer in the field and we had a big feast.
82. Bad place for a combat loft to be, Bizerte, Africa
83. Capri
84. Vesuvius erupted and ashes all over breeding base, San Prisco, Italy
85. Naples, Italy
86. Grape Vineyard: Naples, Italy
87. Lst. Htiuto, Italy

88. Casablanca- breeding base. Wendell D. Statton, 1st Lt. Signal Corps
89. Casablanca- breeding base. Wendell D. Statton, 1st Lt. Signal Corps
90. Algiers from S.L. Biar
91. Flying loft in Africa before we build mobile lofts
92. Anzio, after a shell hit
93. Arabs, Youks-ler-boin, Africa
94. Algiers from E.L. Biar
95. North Africa
96. Algiers from E.L. Biar
97. Algiers from E.L. Biar
98. Santa Maria after the big wind
99. Cork oak tree Algeria-good protection from Stuka Bombers
100. Vesuvius from Castler Aware
101. Vesuvius from Sorrento
102. We were held in this spot for 3 months as German held the hilltops and we dug in. lots of
Americans died here: Futa Pass
103. My loft in the old olive grove. Biserte; every night we were bombed by the Germans JU
88.
104. Going airborne, Italy
105. Vesuvius
106. Lava flows, Vesuvius

107. German field graves; the ones with no markings are Italians
108. Vesuvius erupting. Breeding base covered with soot, etc.
109. Catigliano, Italy
110. San Prisco, Italy; breeding base in vineyard
111. Breeding base San Prisco, Italy; this was our main breeding base
112. Rusty Hemsath at loft before Bolonio, Italy
113. Combat loft near Florence, Italy
114. Combat loft in Italian garden
115. Combat loft; Algeria, North Africa
116. My home under this olive tree. Bizerte, North Africa. Every night all Hell would come as the Germans JU 88 would be bombing and strafing. We in turn, set off smoke bombs for coverage.
117. We had a combat loft next to this when artillery hit it.
118. 6681 Sig. Pigeon Co. 209th lofts
119. Casablanca breeding lofts
120. Combat mobile loft at Cassino, Italy. This loft was hit by artillery fire. Pioneers received Purple Hearts.
121. School house and pigeon lofts, Campo
122. Pigeon lofts, Campo Tizzarro
123. German ammunition pouches, Tunisia

124. White bird hawk bait, Italy
125. B.B. Algiers (bulletin board)
126. Tebessa Algiers Express
127. B25-Pisa, fly transportation to Naples. First leg on the way home.
128. B25: this plane used to carry troops to Italy B25-Naples
129. German field grave
130. Inside combat pigeon loft
131. Italian mobile loft, Tunisia
132. Italian mobile loft, Tunisia
133. Inside of British mobile loft, Carthage
134. Our first mobile loft, Algiers
135. Breeding base Algiers, North Africa
136. Sorting pigeon feed
137. British mobile loft, Carthage
138. French mobile loft, Algiers
139. If this would have exploded these pigeoneers and lofts would be no more, Anzio
(referring to missile)
140. Mobile loft along Italian front
141. Mobile loft, Italy
142. French, British pigeon lofts, 12th century fort, Algiers
143. B24 Liberator, carried pigeons into Burina

144. German junk yard, Motauro, North Africa
145. Breeding base trucks, Santa Maria, Italy
146. Lt. Ericson at Tebessa loft, "yank loft." Wendell D. Stratton, 1st Lt. Signal Corps, Pigeon Officer.
147. Breeding base, Algiers
148. We called this the long Tom Gun.
149. A mobile loft, English mobile was useless, couldn't go over rough roads, etc.
150. German helmet
151. 88mm German shell
152. Italian, German, French, American ammunition (left to right)
153. German telephone, Tunisia
154. German spiral foer
155. Terracino, Italy; Sgt. Hayes section
156. The invasion of Italy, Izzie and I are somewhere on this landing craft. We landed at Salerno, Italy below Naples.
157. Invasion of Italy
158. Invasion of North Africa
159. All combat lofts at Verona, Italy. We killed all pigeons except 16 famous ones. This was the last meeting, the war's over, next stop was Florence then home.
160. Guns we lived with them, Italy
161. Field decoration 209th Pigeon by Gen. Moran, chief signal officer, Italy: Terracino

162. Gen. Moran, Terracino, Italy; field decoration
163. Combat loft, Verona, Italy: notice the cot you always slept away from the loft, due to artillery fire
164. Getting cold in the Futa Pass, Italy
165. Training young birds to combat loft, this was very important; in about 2 weeks they will be carrying messages at the front
166. Buying pigeon corn from Arabs
167. Mail call, North Africa
168. Pigeoneers and combat lofts on their way to Germany, but first into France.
169. Pigeoneers were armed with sub machine guns, carbine rifles and a 12 gauge shotgun, plus a hand gun
170. Pigeoneers also had a lot of guns, etc.
171. British Pigeoneers, Carthage
172. All pigeoneers in Italy after the war in Italy. We're decorated for combat deeds.
173. English Pigeoneer
174. English Pigeoneer
175. English Pigeoneer Officer, Capt. Smith
176. English Pigeoneer
177. French Pigeoneer, Algiers
178. French Pigeoneers, Algiers
179. Time out, We always had dogs, they would follow the war; the only ones that had food.

180. Pigeoneers drying out: Bizerte, North Africa

181. A pigeon called bright eyes was responsible for delivering info. that knocked out this
German artillery gun.

182. Pigeon, three legs and two anuses

183. Arabs

2 X 3 photographs:

184. Ft. Geo Meade, Maryland. Breeding base, baby birds will be shipped overseas for work.
Sgt. Hayes plenty cold.

185. Casablanca

186. Looking at a weary B-24, W. Chmiola and J. Binder; birds put into plane

187. Gen. Clark and Ike, Casa Blanca

188. French pigeon loft, Algiers 1943

189. Constantine, Steinhaus, Roush, Michelette

190. After this photo was taken these 3 trucks were almost captured by the Germans: Scurti,

Cooper, Jenner: Tebessa, Italy

191. Pigeon temple in Korachi, India

192. French pigeon officer and Sgt. Tagert

193. Last round up; Verona, Italy

194. Our company received a token, Gen. Mark Clark, Gen. Eisenhower

195. /post-card size/ To: Gordon Hayes, 3626 So. Meyler Street, San Pedro, Calif, 37066

READ: Sgt. Gordon Hayes on the left, Cpl Leonard Olechna on the right. Florence, Italy this was on the invasion of Florence and the Italians all locked inside their houses. They were told Americans would kill them.

196. /post-card size/ Sgt. Hayes, Cpl. Olechna, Italy: No Italians out as the Germans told them the Americans would kill them.

197-209. (14) photos without captions

8 x 10's

- G.I. Joe photograph and page summary. 8" by 10"
- Sgt. Fox holding "The Doll Baby" along with a brief summary of her accomplishments, also mentions the flights of "Corn Willy"
- Pigeons, "Yank" and "Lady Astor" (8 X 10) with description
- Tank on its side taken on the road to Rome from Anzio (8 x 10)

From Poster Panel

- Buried loft, Monte Cassino.
- Camouflaged loft, Algeria, North Africa.
- This is the Italian villa, where all the pigeoneers assigned to the breeding base were housed.
The breeding lofts were in a grape vineyard, behind the villa, San Prisco, Italy.
- This is the Italian villa, where all the pigeoneers assigned to the breeding base were housed.
The breeding lofts were in a grape vineyard, behind the villa, San Prisco, Italy.
- There were beautiful locations. This one was above Florence, Italy
- Sgt. Sobecke & Fox, picking and selecting youngsters for their combat lofts.

- Left to right: Pvt. Li Fonti, Sgt. Hayes and Cpl. Olechna at Florence, Italy. We had two (2) lofts, 5 miles from No Man's Land.
- Father and mother of "G.I. Joe," Au 38 Hudson Country 1944, white with red spot-on wing, Au 40 WMC 2040 Blue Check Hen.
- This loft was hit and destroyed by artillery fire.
- Moving a breeding loft in the rain and mud. It had been blown over in a storm.
- Breeding base, Fort Geo. Meade, Maryland. -Three camouflaged lofts in Italian Garden.
- The day before at Anzio, with Jim Ginnel.
- Sgt. Tagert with pigeon friends.
- Equipment trucks ETC. were always buried to prevent getting hit by artillery fire.
- "Rain in the face," a great war pigeon read "The pigeon that went to war."
- Freezing American soldier, wishing he was home. (Sgt. Hayes)
- The blue check in center of photo is "The Doll Baby." Far left the Grizzle Cock named "Corn Willy." "The pigeons that went to war."
- Sgt. Hayes location Viareggio, Italy.
- Pvts. Pomianowski and Jablonowski preparing 4 bird carriers for infantry patrol. Viareggio, Italy.
- Artillery casualties.
- German railroad gun called Anzio Express, pigeons helped to eliminate this gun.

Pigeon Corps Negatives

Sgt. Gordon H. Hayes Collection of WWII Pigeoneer Pictures

(Description of photos supplied by Hayes on computer disk)

1. Mark VI German Tiger Tank – Morocco
2. German planes shot down over Tunisia
3. German plane shot down over Tunisia
4. British assault gun on road to Algeria
5. British assault gun on road to Algeria
6. Anti-aircraft / anti-tank gun (German)
7. Pigeon Breeding base for in Algeria to produce babies for combat losses
8. same as #7
9. Harbor and city of Algiers
10. Tommy Hisback and Don Houis with Arab Children
11. “Well dressed Arabs in Algeria”
12. “Berbers heading into Sahara Desert”
13. LT. Ericson and LT. Buscall at Tebessa, Morocco
14. “French pigeon loft, Casablanca, Morocco”
15. “British pigeons in Carthage, Tunisia (most British pigeons taken from Italians)”
16. “Camels heading into Sahara Desert”
17. “Mark VI German Tiger tank knocked out by British gun.”
18. “French pigeon officers, Algeria”

19. Inside pigeon breeding loft of French in Algeria
20. French pigeons trapping in with messages
21. French pigeons in Morocco
22. Commander of Italian military pigeoneers captured in Genoa, Italy.
23. B-24 bombers used to carry pigeons over Burma hump. Picture shows area where pigeons kept
24. Entering Tunis
25. Spitfire, the best plan in No. Africa
26. G.I. Joe
27. Gen. Eisenhower and Gen. Mark Clark reviewing troops in Casablanca
28. Field burial of Germans in Algeria. Unmarked graves are Italians.
29. Anti-aircraft bursting in air, Tunisia
30. same as #29
31. Tracers, every sixth was a tracer bullet over our lofts in Tunisia
32. Moroccan town surrenders to pigeoneers
33. The last of Il Duce Mussolini
34. This Italian girl getting her hair cut off by partisans, because she was a friend with German Soldier
35. Mobile pigeon loft in Italy
36. This photo taken off dead German soldier appears to be Hitler and Goering
37. Pvt. Horn releasing pigeon in Bizerte, Tunisia

38. Sidney Ober loads a 4-bird carrier, which contained rice paper, map paper, message pad, and message capsules, no food or water.
39. Pvt. Williams with wounded pigeon in Algeria
40. Pioneers and pigeon lofts on ship to invade Salerno, Italy
41. The flyers of "Yank". Left to right: Ernie Scurti, Cletus Mort, and Dan Martinovich, near Beja, North Africa.
42. 1SG. Steinhaus in front of this combat loft. It was hit by German artillery at Anzio. Pvt. Langowski was severely wounded inside during the attack. Notice the amount of holes in the loft.
43. Rusty Hemsath in Futa Pass, notice snow. When loft got hit pigeons badly wounded
44. Godfrey Nardone with his jeep and pigeon loft northern Algeria
45. Joe Urocola combat mobile loft, San Prisco Italy
46. A group of pioneers celebrating hearing the war is over
47. Pvt. Haid and Nardone (rear left) with French pioneers in Casablanca
48. Sgt. Dick Martin and Sgt. Belhomer at the loft that flew famous pigeon "Monkey Face"
49. Sgt. Hayes feeding birds at Via Reggio, Italy. "Hawk Baid", first pigeon in photo read "the pigeon that went to war".
50. Msg. Tagert, at the kind of fox hole you needed to escape bombs and artillery fire-Viareggio, Italy
51. This combat loft was well camouflaged, but a week after this picture the loft was destroyed by German artillery fire (Cassino Front).

52. A platoon of the 209th, moving to the front for service.
 53. Ready to move, winter was hard on the men and pigeon.
 54. Yank, famous war pigeon
 55. SFC Harold Tagert releases a pigeon in the Italian Alps at Futa Pass
 56. Sgt. Hayes, photo taken in Florence Italy after the war
 57. All combat lofts had medicine cabinets to patch pigeons up
 58. Group of pigeoneers waiting for the invasion of Italy
 59. This was an Italian military loft in Genova, Italy. We captured this loft with over 400 Italian and German war pigeons.
 60. Breeding base for replacing war casualty birds, San Prisco, Italy
 61. The combat loft of Rusty Hemsath in Futa Pass, Italy. The winter was starting with a light snowfall.
 62. Buying Garbanzo beans from the Arabs for pigeon feed.
 63. Pigeons coming into loft, Caserta, Italy
 64. Sgt. Hayes, Florence, Italy
 65. Checking out lofts for movement to new location
 66. Ssg. Sobecki preparing pigeons and parachute for spy drop
 67. Gen. Patton decorating pigeoneer Dave Buscall for bravery
 68. Lt. Sunshine, ranger battalion taking first birds used in No. African campaign Pigeoneers
- WW1, 3rd Army Pigeon service. This is the company that flew all the pigeon heroes of WW1
 - Mobile pigeon lofts at end of war, Verona, Italy

- The Breeding base of the 209th Signal Pigeon Corps. San Prisco, Italy. Thousands of babies were raised at this base and sent as replacements to the combat mobile lofts at the front.
- Leonard Kernop holding "The Freak" a three legged pigeon
- These pigeoneers chased the Germans into Landau, Germany
- Pigeon loft in U.S., Ft. Mammoth, N.J.
- French pigeon loft, cat walk on top
- Breaking young pigeons in at mobile combat loft
- Lt. McNally cooking his clothes to kill lice. Bizerte, North Africa
- All baby pigeons were banded at approx. 10 days old
- Pvt. Vince Li Fonti and his stationary base breeding loft
- "Jim Jenner on guard, as Arabs would steal pigeons"
- Sgt. Hayes and Pvt. Olechna entering Florence, Italy artillery fire bursting when picture taken
- Mobile loft, Caserta, Italy
- Pigeoneers all had jeeps that had been stolen; jeep stealing a common practice
- Inside stationery breeding loft, from such lofts young were transferred to combat lofts
- Dan Martinovich, on guard in No. Africa
- Red Bronson and mobile lofts above Bologna, Italy
- Breeding base, Ft. Mead, Md., all birds ready to go overseas
- War correspondent Price Day of the Baltimore Sun, using one of my pigeons at the Cassino Front.
- Lt. McNally, pigeon officer, Tunisia

- Charlie Kester, receiving youngsters from breeding base.
- Sgt. Tagert at breeding base
- Pigeoneers packing young pigeons to go to combat/mobile lofts at front
- Combat loft at Anzio, Italy. This loft hit 3X by artillery fire; third time completely destroyed
- PVT. Eugene Coletti, Company carpenter was kept busy building and repairing combat lofts.
- A French mobile combat loft. The Germans could see lofts 10 miles away and blasted them like sitting ducks
- British mobile loft virtually useless as could not traverse rough roads
- Italian loft we captured in Tunisia, was used by Germans and was a converted truck
- Sgt. Cerney collecting youngsters to be sent to the mobile lofts as replacements.
- British pigeoneers in Tunis, Tunisia.
- French pigeoneers, Casablanca, Morocco
- Our company was decorated many times, this was one of them

Box 4 Negative photo books (red)

BOOK #1 (includes):103 individual negatives

USA 1942: Africa to Capri 42-43:

1. Clarborne, Morrow
2. Ted Johnson at Biz RCC, Biz Blouvae, Jo at Biz
3. Myself in Tunisia
4. Biz oils
5. Invasion: escart at Biz, comes in tanks(?)

6. Jo, Bizerte
7. Carthage 5,6,7; Gerrie(?) 149 cape Bon
8. German equip tanks
9. Salerno landing
10. Jo, Gallagher, LST to Salerno
11. mobile to Salerno
12. LST Biz to Salerno
13. Pompeii
14. views in Pompeii
15. Vesuvius by air B26
16. views of Pompeii (2)
17. Capri (3)

BOOK #2 (includes): 32 individual negatives

Maples to Anzio 43-44:

1. Haid at Maples & ox art
2. Maples area
3. Maples harbor from orange def
4. Palace in Asenta, spinning hemp
5. Statues & views of Palace Caserta
6. Bon boats from LST at Nisida
7. Hunt Koerts

8. Liles 8 half
9. Buscall
10. Capt. Buscall
11. Capt Buscall addressing Co. and dog
12. Sgt, Steinhouse, Capt Buscall- addressing Co.
13. Coizzio & Voltimo
14. Cassino (2)
15. Haid
16. Beach at Prombeno, Elba in barb yard
17. Fly over, factory and collie hills, Anzio
18. Anzio and Ne Huno vood junction and collie mts.
19. Am. bombed Gerry train at Anzio- the factory
20. tanks at Anzio
21. Anzio showing what left of tent after bomb hit
22. Anzio views

BOOK #3 (includes): 140 individual negatives

Anzio to Rome 44:

1. My tent Anzio Radio Gang Marblow
2. Capt. Gang at Anzio fox hole
3. Kelly fixing bird food in fire at Anzio, Ginnell and Anzio loft
4. Pontine Maples and tank MVI

5. Veletine Mark 6
6. Gerry tank hit near Formia
7. Lake Brachino
8. Gerrie Glyder near Sezza, speedy blue sign on Colosseum
9. lofts Rome (2)
10. views of Rome
11. St. Peters
12. Roman ruins
13. Roman forum and Arch of Triumph
14. Ext and views of Pantheon
15. Dog and fly over
16. Olympian Stadium, Rome
17. Tiber from Castle of Angles
18. Catapult on castle of Angles and view of Vatican
19. Olympic Stadium, guns at Castle of Angles
20. Monument on top of Castle of Angles and popes walk
21. McNally and friend
22. Colosseum
23. Obelisk and people 99
24. Co. group in Rome Biovac
25. Name plate on Colosseum, front steps on biovac in Rome

26. Haid, St. Peters
27. Myself in front of St. Peters
28. Popes audience
29. Pope, St. Peters
30. Colosseum and monument to Vit Emanuel
31. Gieueliton Pragoni Rome
32. Rome from Vatican
33. St. Pets dome and we Popes coal(?) of arms
34. St. Peters dome, Sign front of St. Pets
35. Gateway to Rome view appian way and pyramid
36. Church, St. Sebastine, Pete and Paul
37. Old Appin way entrance to Rome
38. Spanish steps, home of Shelly and Keats
39. Excellison Hotel and Vatican guards
40. Vatican guards from dome
41. St. Pete from dome, Rome

loose captions:

42. Mosaic work at Muso's World Olympic Games
43. Moonantto, obelisk in Roman Forum, Vitonio, Eunonuo III (?)
44. Moses sticking rocks for water
45. St. Peters and fountain

46. Beach Head, MVI at corachetto (?) factory, myself and Gen. Bomb, Anzio
47. Anzio loft and dog on Jeep
48. Old Roman acqueduct, Jeep mine unerbed(?), Anzio
49. Medics and ?, Anzio
50. Olympic statue and Roman Forum and Palatine Hill
51. Monument to Vit Emanuel, Rome Musolini Balcony
52. St. Peters, Paul Swanson
53. Pantheon views(2)
54. German scout car in Rome and Italian training ship Rome
55. Vatican Radio and St. Peters dome
56. Fountain in Rome, arrow catapult in Castle of Angles in Rome
57. Tiber River, Apt houses in Rome
58. Arch of Coustine Sandboard, Arch of Titus and Roman Forum
59. Anzio biovac views
60. Mock German 109, Bennie Statue Rome
61. Statue at top of St. Pets
62. Anzio loft and Ginell
63. Two MVI at Anzio 15 Evac
64. Capri tank, Medics ? pigeon
65. Jeep at Anzio, Capt Pearson
66. My fox hole Anzio , the gang at Anzio

67. A tank Anzio, fly over, factory and Collie Mts.
68. Camouflaged lofts at Anzio
69. Haid, My jeep at Anzio
70. Loft at Anzio showing bomb crater and damage of roof and landing baurd
71. Bomb boater 500lb next to tent German Forestry
72. Anzio bomb fragments on pine tree
73. Forestry at Anzio
74. The fly over and the factory Anzio
75. German Forestry, Caplan at Anzio

BOOK #4(includes): 136 individual negatives

Rockeshada to Pisa 44-45:

1. Viterbo Airfield(2)
2. A.R.C. Tosciana
3. Sgt. Steinhaus
4. Baseball
5. Mort and I
5. Gen Morgan, Capt Manion and Co. Award
6. Sgt. Rush Milwaukie and 88M
7. Tagert, Bodner, Steinhaus
8. Steinhaus, Tagert, Koester, Bodner, and Me
9. 105 horn crew

10. Sky Seina dogs, gals
11. Sky Seina
12. Beach at Cecina Hauvett, Richer Deccio shoppe to war
13. Bernienie Fantom Rome, Yellow Pine Checina
14. Beautiful Cecina, yellow pine
15. Joe Lovis (3)
16. Joe Lovis, Gen Clark
17. Gen Clark Solarno day Joe L.
18. Joe Lovis, Salarno Day
19. Villa Florence
20. Statues Villa Florence
21. coats of arms, Florence
22. Mageny Beppi Garb, Florence
23. Abetoni, Florence
24. Pisa

loose captions (no longer connected to photographs):

25. Ponte Vechio Dowero
26. Christmas Florence 44 Cinelli
27. Ponte Vechio and Tvinita
28. Cinellies
29. Giuiliona

30. my jeep, coats of arms Florence
31. Villa Granduago, Florence
32. Doumo
33. Christmas Florence, Steinhaus, Boskind Coletti
34. Florence

BOOK #5 (includes): 78 individual negatives

Pistaria to Home

1. Gieulium, tank at Pistoia
2. Road sign N. Pistoia, Giulie
3. My jeep
4. Sheperdess Borga, Power plant
5. Hwy 12, Barga
6. 8 cent castle, Hwy 12
7. Baily Labina Hwy 12, Abetone
8. Labina Bridge, Lt. Sosky
9. Charcoal waking, Abetone
10. German bridge
11. German bridge at Pontepetui
12. Mt. San Merrillo
13. Arms on GLS and Baily
14. Comp Tizzon Church and bridge

15. Lt. Sosky, Zitek, Please, Reyman, 92 Viaveggio
16. German Demolitions on power plant Bogni DiLucca
17. Redwood at San Morcallo
18. Redwood