

## Captain Lederman – An Unsung Hero Pigeon

Always in search of information on Army communications programs, CECOM Historians recently discovered an article reprinted in the 1 December 1998 edition of *The Racing Pigeon Digest* (originally published January 1946 in the *Racing Pigeon Review* under the title “Army Pigeons: Hall of Fame”) that provides biographical information for some pigeon hero’s of WWII, including a pigeon named “Captain Lederman.” The Army’s Signal Corps used pigeons for communications from WWI, and into the Korean War; to this end, the Pigeon Service was active at Fort Monmouth until its discontinuance in 1957.

“Captain Lederman” a blue check cock carried Serial Number USA 44 SC 10957. “Captain Lederman” was hatched in Burma in September 1944; he faced his first mission in December of the same year. The mission location was on the Burma front. The mission was to carry message from a patrol that was operating 120 miles behind the Japanese lines.

To carry out the mission, “Captain Lederman”, between January and March 1945, “was dropped by parachute or was taken by bamboo jump containers to patrols operating along or behind the enemy lines.” Each message he carried was extremely valuable, and included troop movements, heavy gun placements, and so on.

Of his trips, four of them were 175, 225, 375 and 320 miles. He made all of his trips in the same day “in excellent time.” This was the case even though he was flying over “some of the highest and most rugged mountains in Burma.”

It is because of the efforts of “Captain Lederman” and also other Signal Corps pigeons serving in Burma that Allied troops were materially aided.