

- 15290 (K 2500)  
Na 6 uur 24652 (K 2500)
- POLYGOON HAARLEM

Redactie

Haarlem,  
POSTBOX 510

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**PERSONS CALLED....**  
**60,000 pigeons participate in National Derby Orleans-Holland.**

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Length: 154 M.  
Date of event:  
22-25 Aug. 1957.

The National Derby, the annual flight from carrier-pigeons from Orleans (France) to Holland, is the great event of the year.

½ day before the start, there was much to-do at the rooms where each pigeon receives a rubber-ring with a number.

In great baskets the pigeons were transported to Maastricht, the central-place, from where totally 2400 baskets went by train, via Belgium, to Orleans. Several conveyors accompany the pigeons, who were rather restless by the noise in the train.

Pigeons: French frontier.. customs' control.  
For hours the express was riding through France.  
The conveyors are busy giving food and water to the pigeons.

Meanwhile thousands of pigeon-fanciers in Holland had set the clocks at the time-signal of the wireless. (Sound)

In the early morning the baskets were unloaded in Orleans.  
The chief-conveyor gave the start-signal and then 2400 little doors had to be opened as fast as possible.  
Guided by their instinct, 60,000 pigeons chose their way back.

The wireless announced the start: (Sound: The pigeons have been discharged at half past 7)

At the rate of about 100 K.M. per hour, the pigeons flew homeward.

Some hours later many pigeon-fanciers were on the look-out.  
Immediately after their arrival the pigeons were stripped of their rubber-ring. This ring is put in the clock, which is clocked in at the time of arrival.  
In the afternoon the pigeon-fanciers assembled once more in the club-rooms, in order to hand in their clocks.

On the fillet of paper is indicated the exact time of arrival.  
All these fillets are sent in to the national committee, whose task it is to calculate which are the winning pigeons.  
Finally it was found out that a pigeon from Oos (South-Holland) had won this national derby.

This pigeon had flown the distance of 502 K.M. in about ½ hours, at an average speed of 100,2 K.M. per hour.  
His master had earned an amount of 6000 Dutch guilders.

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