

P/RP/115

20. 6. 1960.

d 685

100
miles
highest altitude
350-400

12,000 PIGEONS RACE FOR HOME

- AND GLORY

15000

At 8 a.m. on Saturday, June 25th, more than 12,000 sleek racing pigeons will wheel away in a living cloud from Berwick-on-Tweed Station at the start of "The People" Yearling Race.

Birds from lofts all over the country, many as far distant as Devon and Cornwall, will be competing in this leading British Pigeon race but if the weather is kind and they escape the beady eyes of the falcon all should be safely home before nightfall.

Interest in this country in pigeon racing, which is the national sport of Belgium, has grown steadily since the war to reach an all-time peak in the last few years with over 100,000 registered fanciers.

British Railways estimate that their revenue from transporting racing pigeons to races during 1960 will exceed £2,000,000.

Carefully bred for speed and stamina, modern racing pigeons weigh around 16 oz and have been known to reach speeds up to 97 miles per hour during races.

Training, which begins when the pigeon is only a few months old, has become almost an exact science and in a race small fortunes often hinge on a bird beating another by as little as 1,000 part of a yard per minute.

With the Compliments of the Press Relations Office

THE PEOPLE NATIONAL SHOW OF RACING PIGEONS

Press Office: 96, Long Acre, London, W.C.2.
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John Ingham -
Berwick 6471
Tide Castle
to Station.

x-FPSPO1

ODHAMS PRESS LIMITED
96 LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.2

Telephone Temple Bar 2468 (100 lines)
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Miss Grace Field,
Pathe News,
Film House,
Wardour Street,
London, W.1.

27th May, 1960.

Dear Miss Field,

The annual Yearling Pigeon Race from Berwick-on-Tweed to home lofts, sponsored by "The People" will take place on Saturday, June 25th.

This is the premier pigeon race of the year and between 12,000 and 15,000 birds from lofts all over the country, some as far away as Devon and Cornwall, will be taking part.

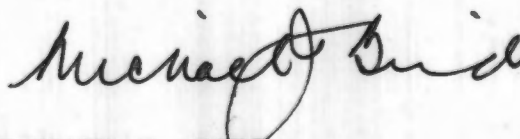
The mass release of the pigeons, in itself a unique spectacle, will be made from Berwick Station between 8 am and 9 am on the Saturday morning, weather permitting. The birds then wheel away and, following a fairly predictable course, race for home.

The interest in pigeon breeding and racing in Britain, which has always been considerable, has grown to an all-time peak in the last few years. British Railways estimate that their revenue from transporting racing pigeons to races during 1960 will exceed £2,000,000.

Should you be interested in covering this out of the ordinary event in any way I should be only too happy to provide you with further information and any facilities you may require.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



MICHAEL J. BIRD
Press Officer

June 25. X-FHSPD)

GF/TB

Michael J. Bird, Esq.,
Press Officer,
Messrs. Odhams Press, Limited,
96, Long Acree,
London, W.C.2a

31st May, 1960

Dear Mr. Bird,

Many thanks indeed for your letter of May 27th,
regarding the Annual Yearling Pigeon Race from Berwick-on-Tweed.
June 5th is a little too far ahead for us to give a definite
decision, but we have diaried the date and if our commitments
permit we will be glad to contact you well in advance of the date.

Yours sincerely,
ASSOCIATED BRITISH-PATHE LIMITED.

GRACE FIELD
NEWS EDITOR
PATHE NEWS