



A Message From The Editor

It was in 1898, on Wednesday April 20th the very first issue No 1 Vol 1 appeared on sale for the price of One old Penny. At the sports height in the eighties over 80,000 copies per week were sold.

First Editor – A H Osman. The founding editor was A H Osman later to become Lieutenant Colonel Osman, one of the doyens of our sport. It was the enthusiasm for pigeons and pigeon racing that led him to abandon his career as a lawyers Clerk and embark on the very risky business of founding and editing a journal devoted entirely to the sport of pigeon racing, which to this day was known as The Racing Pigeon.

The Racing Pigeon was by no means the first in its field, but it proved the most successful. Prior to founding The Racing Pigeon, A H Osman wrote notes for the Fanciers Gazette, using the now world-famous pen name of Squills.

At the start of the First World War, A H Osman was appointed Lieutenant Colonel, in charge of the pigeon service. This came about because of his knowledge of pigeons and pigeon fanciers. The Racing Pigeon played a great part as a means of obtaining volunteers and birds. A H Osman accepted the rank as honorary and without pay and was appointed to organise and command the first Carrier Pigeon Service in the British Army. From the day Lt Col A H Osman accepted the commission until the completion of the war he worked on those terms. Indeed, one of his pigeons, 'Little Hope' made 153 trips in three years of war service in all types of weather without a mistake.

With the end of the war in 1918, normality began to return, and Lt Col A H Osman was able to again concentrate of The RP and his pigeons. In 1920 he organised a pigeon show in aid of the London Hospital, where there was a reunion of members of the Army Carrier Pigeon Services. This was held at the Hotel Russell, in Russell Square, just a short walk from Doughty Street, the headquarters of The Racing Pigeon. As a result of that reunion the show became known as 'The Old Comrades', the first being held in 1928, The show now known as The Racing Pigeon Show is held at Doncaster Racecourse. It is also worth remembering that A H Osman was the first Secretary of the National Flying Club, and a founder of the Royal Pigeon Racing Association.

- Lee Fribbins

Editors

1898 – Lt Col A H Osman

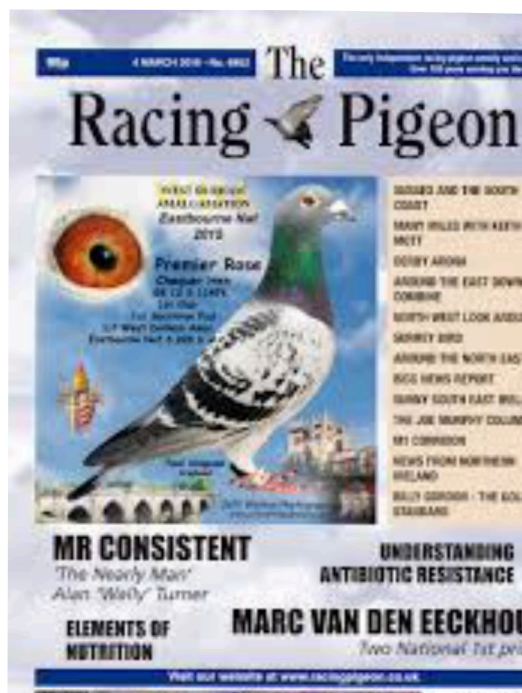
1930 – Major W H Osman

1960 – C A E Osman

1990 - Mr Rick Osman

1995 – Mr Steve Dunn

2007 – Mr Lee R J Fribbins



Timeline

1898 – The very first issue of The RP appeared on Wednesday 20th April from the headquarters at Temple Chambers, Victoria Embankment

1920 – The RP organised a pigeon show in aid of the London Hospital, as a result there was a reunion of members of the Army Carrier Pigeon Service.

Also, because of that reunion, the show became known as the Old Comrades Show.

1928 – 22nd & 23rd November 1928, the first Official Old Comrades Show was held at The Drill Hall, Handel Street, London WC1.

1930 – March 30th Lieutenant Colonel Alfred H Osman OBE died, laid to rest at Manor Park Cemetery on April 3rd

1930 – All pigeons of Lt Col A H Osman were sold on the instruction of the executors, on 11th October 1930. The Auctioneer was L Gilbert, who became NFC Secretary and Assistant Secretary was F W S Frank Hall of London Auctions fame.