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## Secret Pigeon Service Operation Columba Resistance And The Struggle To Liberate Europe

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Between 1941 and 1944, sixteen thousand plucky homing pigeons were dropped in an arc from Bordeaux to Copenhagen as part of 'Columba' – a secret British operation to bring back intelligence from those living under Nazi occupation.

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Between 1941 and 1944, British intelligence dropped sixteen thousand homing pigeons in an arc across Nazi-occupied Europe, from Bordeaux, France to Copenhagen, Denmark, as part of a spy operation code-named Columba. Returning to MI14, the secret government branch in charge of the "Special Pigeon Service," the birds carried messages that offered a glimpse of life under the Germans in rural France, Holland, and Belgium.

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The first experimental pigeon drops of Operation Columba took place at the end of 1940, and from early 1941 until September 1944 the service dropped 16,000 pigeons on small parachutes over occupied Europe, in an arc running from Copenhagen to Bordeaux. Attached to the pigeons was a questionnaire asking whoever found them to provide intelligence – on troop movements, the position of guns or radar arrays and ‘the extent to which people could hear BBC radio clearly and their views of the ...

## **Jon Day · Operation Columba: Pigeon Intelligence · LRB 4 ...**

In this new spy story set during the Second World War, Gordon Corera uses declassified documents and extensive original research to tell the story of the Secret Pigeon Service for the first time. Between 1941 and 1944, 16,000 pigeons were dropped in an arc from Bordeaux to Copenhagen as part of 'Columba' - a secret British operation to bring back intelligence from those living under Nazi occupation.

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## **Secret Pigeon Service: Operation Columba, Resistance and ...**

This was the unit in charge of the Secret Pigeon Service. Operation Columba got under way on the night of April 8, 1941. A Whitley crossed into Belgium near Zeebrugge then headed for the French...

## **The secret pigeons whose spy work left the Nazis flapping ...**

Operation Columba (the scientific word for a genus of pigeon) was set up in Great Britain in the early 1940s to send messages with homing pigeons. Over one thousand messages were transported by the birds that were donated by both British and American bird keepers until a breeding program started to produce a ready supply.

## **The Carrier Pigeon Corps of WWII - Operation Columba**

Operation Columba — The Secret Pigeon Service: The Untold Story Of World War II Resistance In Europe Corera, a Security Correspondent for BBC News, stumbled upon Operation Columba after covering a...

## **Operation Columba, Secret Pigeon Service: Untold Story Of ...**

In Operation Columba: The Secret Pigeon Service, author Gordon Corera dips into the secret files of Britain's MI14 for this fascinating account of pigeons, peasants, and patriots and how they aided the Allied war effort both from within and without Nazi-occupied territory in World War II. Where radios failed, pigeons prevailed.

## **Operation Columba—The Secret Pigeon Service: The Untold ...**

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Homing pigeons such as these served with the Confidential Pigeon Service. According to a 2007 newspaper report, Source Columba (Latin columba, "pigeon") was the code name for the Confidential Pigeon Service, an unconventional British intelligence gathering operation in World War II.

## **Source Columba - Wikipedia**

Operation Columba was one of the most secretive arms of British Intelligence during the second world war. Between April 1941 and September 1944, its agents made 16,554 drops over an area stretching...

## **On a wing and a prayer | 15 March 2018 | The Spectator**

Operation Columba, Resistance and the. Published by William Collins in 2018. Secret Pigeon Service. Weight 620g.

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