

WHAT are pigeons doing on the front of an RSA brochure?

Well, it's just our way of paying homage to a very special pigeon named Cher Ami.

Cher Ami was a registered Black Check Cock carrier pigeon, one of 600 birds owned and flown by the U.S. Army Signal Corps in France during World War I. Carrier pigeons like Cher Ami were often the only means of secure communications available to forces actively engaged at the front lines in Verdun, France.



On his last mission, Cher Ami was shot through the breast by enemy fire, but still managed to return to his loft. Dangling from the ligaments of one of his legs, also shattered by enemy fire, was his last message capsule.

It was from Major Whittlesey's "Lost Battalion" of the 77th Infantry Division. They had been cutoff, and desperately required assistance. The message initiated a rescue operation, and just a few hours later, 194 survivors of the battalion were safe behind American lines.

Cher Ami was awarded the French Croix de Guerre with Palm for his heroic service between the Allied forts of Verdun. He died in 1919 from his wounds, and was later inducted into the Racing Pigeon Hall of Fame in 1931.

So what do carrier pigeons and RSA have in common? Well, we just wanted to illustrate a point about the importance of secure communications. Just like Cher Ami, encryption and authentication technologies from RSA can "save the day" for you and your business. In today's battlefield of global electronic commerce, transaction security is essential. You need someone you can depend on. And nobody has the experience, the spirit or the drive of RSA.