

Name: _____



The Historic Flight of Cher Ami

By Lisa Hart

It was the fall of 1918 when a troop of American soldiers ran into trouble in France. A group of men from the 77th Division

The enemy knew this too, making the birds a popular target. The skies above the Argonne Forest proved as



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holding their ground, the assault on the 77th got worse. They were under attack from their own artillery! The Americans had no idea their own men were in the line of fire. Beyond radio range, the 77th turned to the homing pigeon to report their position.

Soldiers of the First World War knew the value of the pigeon as a quick way to send a message.

last bird—Cher Ami. As one of hundreds of pigeons used by the U.S. Army Signal Corp in France, his track record was strong. Cher Ami had twelve deliveries to his credit.

A heroic Cher Ami took flight only to be struck in the chest with a bullet. The soldiers watched in horror as their last hope hit the ground—but perhaps hope was not lost.

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Against all odds, Cher Ami got up. Wounded but alive, he took off again, charging through the gunfire toward home.

Cher Ami covered 25 miles (40 kilometers) in roughly 30 minutes that day. He arrived at the base, badly wounded but still alive. His right leg with the message capsule dangled from his battered body.

save Cher Ami, men worked to change the line of fire and save their fellow soldiers. The Lost Battalion had started out with about 550 men. Thanks to a faithful homing pigeon, 194 of those soldiers made it back to safety.

His historic flight earned Cher Ami many awards and honors. He died from his war wounds in



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The Historic Flight of Cher Ami



1. Based on the information in the article, describe the soldiers' attitude toward pigeons.

2. Using details from the article, explain how the 77th Division ran into trouble.



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4. Based on the information in the article, which of the following is most likely the author's point of view?

- a. The 77th Division made a poor decision when they trekked into the woods.
- b. The 77th Division would have survived even if Cher Ami didn't deliver the message to the base.
- c. Cher Ami saved the 77th Division and should be considered a hero.
- d. Cher Ami did not deserve the awards and honors he received.

5. In the fourth paragraph, what does the phrase "tension ran high" suggest?

- a. The soldiers were very excited to send the pigeons.
- b. The soldiers were on edge and nervous watching the pigeons.
- c. The soldiers wanted to get back to the base.
- d. The soldiers were not nervous because they knew their plan would work.

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The Historic Flight of Cher Ami



Match each vocabulary word from the article with the correct definition.

1. _____ trekked
 2. _____ assault
- a. badly injured
 - b. a small container



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6. _____ dangled
 7. _____ battered
 8. _____ medics
 9. _____ historic
 10. _____ faithful
- f. traveled on a difficult trip or journey
 - g. famous or important in history
 - h. hung down loosely
 - i. weapons used in war
 - j. having or showing great courage

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The Historic Flight of Cher Ami



In the article, "The Historic Flight of Cher Ami," you learned about a pigeon who saved the 77th Division during the First World War. The article states, "His historic flight earned Cher Ami many awards and honors."

On the lines below, describe why Cher Ami earned many awards and honors. In your answer be sure to explain what was significant about Cher Ami's flight and why his flight is considered historic. Include details from the text to support your answer.



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ANSWER KEY

The Historic Flight of Cher Ami



1. Based on the information in the article, describe the soldiers' attitude toward pigeons.

Answers will vary.

An example is: The soldiers thought that pigeons were valuable



5. In the fourth paragraph, what does the phrase "tension ran high" suggest?
 - a. The soldiers were very excited to send the pigeons.
 - b. The soldiers were on edge and nervous watching the pigeons.**
 - c. The soldiers wanted to get back to the base.
 - d. The soldiers were not nervous because they knew their plan would work.

ANSWER KEY

The Historic Flight of Cher Ami



Match each vocabulary word from the article with the correct definition.

1. f trekked

a. badly injured



10. e faithful

j. having or showing great courage