

Navy Department,  
Library and Naval War Records,

Washington, D. C., June 6th, 1896.

Dear Capt. Taylor:

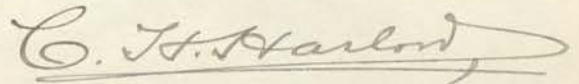
I beg to submit my plan for proving the efficiency of Homing Pigeons for war purposes through the medium of the War College as follows:

1. Have a committee of the Class take charge of the Tactical Board with their Fleet in Narragansett Bay and the location of the despatching boat or scout as their only information beyond the knowledge of hostilities and the expectation of the arrival of a hostile fleet on the coast.
2. Write out a series of messages in accordance with a predetermined movement of the hostile fleet. This information to be limited to you, your staff & the officer who may go out in charge of the birds.
3. Secure the services of the Stiletto or any suitable boat. Have her spend the night in the basin at Block Island & have her arrive at the point selected to begin operations from at such an hour in the morning as will enable the birds to be despatched to reach their Cote at about the <sup>time</sup> of assembling the Class.
4. Have the alarm bell put in the Tactical Board Room & also a telegraph key. The arrival of a bird will be noted by the bell. A wig-wagged message, telegraphed from the Cote, will represent the telegraph covering the field between headquarters & the fleet.

5. Let the hostile fleet be put on the Tactical Board & moved according to the messages. 1st-In the location given, perhaps, by smoke. <sup>Navy Department,</sup>  
2nd-By the number of stacks etc. <sup>Library and Naval War Records,</sup> 3rd-Classified by their armored tops etc. 4th-Possibly named, <sup>airily noted,</sup> certain <sup>Washington,</sup> 5th-Moved according to the messages & have the home fleet manoeuvred on the Tactical Board to meet them. All this by the Committee.
6. Another time consider the fleet in New York Harbor & the scout off that port & let another Committee work at it. Then at Boston, Key West, Norfolk etc.

It seems to me that this will demonstrate thoroughly a possible advantage to be gained by a Homing Pigeon Service.

Respectfully yours,



Lieut. U.S. Navy.

Capt. H.C. Taylor, U.S.N.,

President Naval War College,

Newport, R.I.



Huber Cir.

June 6-1896

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