

AF Sergeant Helps Break Up Drug Ring

PARIS (AP) — A U.S. Air Force sergeant at NATO headquarters near Brussels set narcotics agents on a trail that led

Frankfurt Tightens Security

FRANKFURT (AP) — Rifle-toting infantrymen and military police went on the alert Tuesday night at Army installations in the wake of the bombing of the Army's headquarters compound here last Thursday.

Military sources said soldiers and their families were warned to stay away from Army offices, the main Special Services library and at least one Army operated movie theater in Frankfurt because of possible bomb attacks.

Threats Reported

Army spokesmen could not be reached for official comment on threats. But Frankfurt police reported anonymous threats Tuesday caused officials to order evacuation of two theaters, a department store and a bank as searches were made downtown for bombs. None were found, police said.

Security at the Army installations and office buildings scattered around Frankfurt appeared tighter Tuesday night than at any time since the immediate postwar years.

At the bomb-shattered Terrace Club here, where an Army Lieutenant Colonel was killed in Thursday's bombing, all American officers wearing uniforms were still being required to show identification cards to gain entry.

Military sources said West German Defense Minister Helmut Schmidt made an unannounced visit to the headquarters compound Monday to assess damages. The buildings are the property of the West German government and have housed U.S. military personnel since the end of World War II.

OW Editor Resigns

FRANKFURT (S&S) — The Overseas Weekly underwent the latest in a string of editorial changes Friday when Eric Meskauskas quit as managing editor after less than a year in office.

James Morgan, formerly national editor, became the new managing editor, according to a statement released here Tuesday at the paper's European bureau.

The Overseas Weekly shifted its base of operations from Germany to Oakland, Calif., in August in a move to expand its U.S. coverage. Meskauskas was appointed managing editor in June.

The paper has had three managing editors since it was sold to an Oakland businessman in April 1970.

No official reason was given for Meskauskas' resignation.

to the seizure of 120 kilos — 264 pounds — of pure heroin worth about \$30 million, and arrests in Paris and New York, officials said Tuesday night.

The unnamed sergeant was approached in Paris three months ago by French garage operator Gilbert Ibarra, 35, who asked the sergeant if he would smuggle heroin to the United States, officials said.

The sergeant informed his superiors and an agent of the U.S. Bureau of Narcotics, posing as another sergeant, offered his services because he "flew to the U.S. more often."

Led to Arrests

The contact led to the drug haul in Brussels and the arrest of Ibarra and another man in Paris, and five men in New York — an American, Philip Veiuca, 34; two Frenchmen, Richard Bensadoun, 28, and Gilbert Bornstein, 40; a Cuban, Jesus Henriquez, 35, and a Mexican, Enrique Barrera, 39.

The pure heroin, when cut — diluted — many times by pushers, would be worth about

\$30 million on sale in the streets of New York.

It was the third largest seizure in Europe this year and another spectacular success of increased Franco-American efforts to hit the drug trade through the "French Connection." The actual heroin seizure was made last weekend by Belgian police on information from the Bureau of Narcotics and their French colleagues.

French narcotics squad detectives put Ibarra under constant watch, and he led them to Christian Frederick, 34, a known criminal, arrested in the case and alleged to be the leader of the ring.

The disguised bureau agent told Ibarra he could take a consignment to Washington on a NATO flight leaving Brussels last Sunday. Ibarra and Frederick went to Brussels and met the agent, taking him by hired car to a suburban villa, where they allegedly gave him five suitcases containing 240 packets of 500 grams of pure heroin.

Drug-Ring Details Emerge at 3 Sgts.' Trial

By MARY ANN REESE
London Bureau Chief

LONDON (S&S) — The anatomy of an international drug ring operated through the American military postal system (APO) and aided by immunity of official government mail bags emerged in British criminal courts Tuesday as the trial of three U.S. Air Force sergeants started.

Sgts. Enoch Strawder, 22, and Arthur Berry, 21, both stationed at South Ruislip, and Bernard W. Brown, 22, Alconbury, are on trial for six counts, including conspiracy to buy drugs in Thailand and sell them in Britain and the United States. Other counts involve possession of cannabis, opium, and other dangerous drugs. Conviction could carry seven- to 14-year prison sentences.

Pleaded Guilty

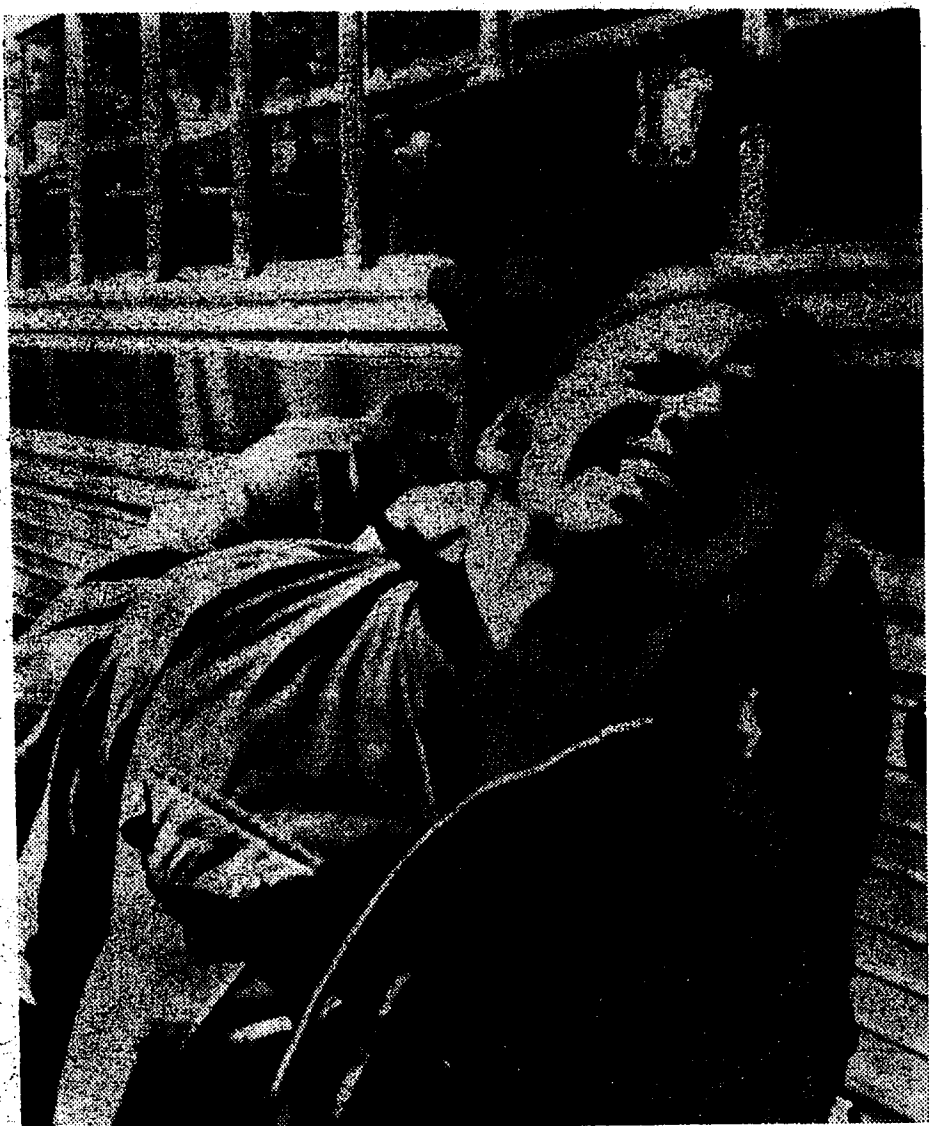
Berry and Strawder were former members of the USAF London Rockets basketball team. Berry was a top scorer in the Western Basketball Division before the arrest ended his game.

Berry pleaded guilty to possession of 50 pounds of cannabis, while Brown and Strawder said they were innocent. Berry and Brown both pleaded guilty to a charge of

possessing 9.52 grams of cannabis.

The three pleaded not guilty to the remaining charges, including one against just Berry and Brown for possession of 301 grams of prepared opium and against all three for possession of 3,365 Mandrax tablets.

A 12-foot table at the head of the courtroom was required to hold the prosecution's 40 exhibits, including two large cardboard boxes, each stuffed with 25 pounds of cannabis, scales, injection needles and other



PROTEST—A policeman holds a woman demonstrator who was arrested during antiwar protests at Princeton University in New Jersey. The arrests brought to 190 the number of those taken into custody on the Princeton campus since nationwide protests began last week. —Associated Press Photo

paraphernalia the prosecution alleges shows conspiracy to sell drugs.

The most damning evidence for the conspiracy charge, the prosecution said, is contained in a dozen letters found in homes of the three at the time of their arrest last Dec. 2. The defense tried unsuccessfully to have them declared inadmissible.

The letters come from at least four friends of the three, with postmarks in Thailand; Jamaica, N.Y.; Miami, Fla., and Monroe, La. They outline

elaborate plans to fly to Thailand and buy cannabis to be mailed in official government mailbags through the APO directly to London.

From the letters indicated the bulk of some 200 pounds of cannabis was to be forwarded to the U.S. — again through the APO.

The defendants, handcuffed on their way to and from the Royal Courts of Justice on the Strand in downtown London, have been in prison since their arrest nearly six months ago.

Out Halt Affects NG, Reserve

HEIDELBERG (Army) — Some 225 soldiers who have early releases to join the National Guard and Army Reserve and those who have early outs of more than 90 days also are affected by the Defense Department suspension announced Tuesday if their adjusted release date is in the May 18 to June 20 period.

USAREUR Hq said soldiers who had been approved for early release to NG and USAR units with early-out dates in the May 18 to June 30 period will be extended the minimum 90 days

but will be given the option of remaining assigned to the NG or USAR unit or remaining on active duty until their original ETS date.

If they accept the latter, officials said their assignment to a specific NG or Reserve unit will be canceled. However, they will retain any Reserve obligation they have.

The suspension of the early-out program will be discussed on AFN Wednesday night by Brig. Gen. Sidney Gritz, USAREUR adjutant general. Gritz will appear at 6:45 p.m. on the "On the Scene" show.

Officials said that soldiers who previously applied for an early out of more than 90 days under the "six months employment release" program of last September also are affected. The six-month program is canceled.

If such a soldier's early-release date is within the period mentioned above, he has lost his six-month early out, but he may reapply for a 90-day early release for employment or school under AR 635-200, officials said.

In another group, 250 "retirement eligible personnel" in USAREUR scheduled for mandatory early release by June 30 may, if their retirement appli-

cation was earlier submitted or has already been approved, request their application be withdrawn so they can serve until their normal ETS.

Gen. Hayes to Be J4 Deputy Chief At EUCOM Hq

WASHINGTON (S&S) — Brig. Gen. William R. Hayes, presently assistant for logistics planning on the Air Force staff here, is being transferred to EUCOM next month, the Air Force announced.

Hayes will become deputy director for J4. He replaces Brig. Gen. Donald A. Gaylord, who will take command of the Pacific exchange system in Honolulu.

A previous announcement said Hayes would succeed Brig. Gen. Brian S. Gunderson, USAF chief of staff since July 1969.

Gunderson has been named Air Force chief of history in Washington, D.C., effective June 30, to replace Maj. Gen. Robert N. Ginsburgh, who becomes Air Force director of information.

The new USAF chief of staff has not been announced.

EES Holding Sale For AF Birthday

MUNICH (Special) — The European Exchange Service (EES) is observing the Air Force's 25th anniversary with a sale that runs through June 3 at all shopping centers and stores.

The sale, which began Monday, will feature household goods such as irons, clocks, toasters, mixers, dinnerware and other specially marked items.

EES said the birthday sale will be accompanied by the beginning of a "raincheck" program in which a sale item out of stock will be sold to a raincheck holder at the sale price when the stock is replenished.