

# Horsemen and Fliers Join In War Maneuvers Near Reno

## Supposed Crash of Bomber Is Problem For Reno Units of Civil Air Patrol

Local squadrons of the civil air patrol "fought the battle of Hunter Creek" yesterday, as three troops of uniformed horsemen maneuvered, scouted, and signalled over some one hundred square miles of rugged terrain, guided by four flights of planes overhead.

The joint maneuvers of mounted and air units were filmed by a battery of newsreel cameramen and magazine photographers, who pronounced the day's efforts as "the most impressive demonstration of civilian defense they had ever seen."

The problem presented by the maneuvers involved a supposed "bomber crash" on a high peak west of Reno. Saboteurs were supposed to be attempting to reach the wreckage, seeking a bomb-sight. Solution of the problem was to put planes in the air, locate the "wreckage," and then, using planes as guides, rush a strong mounted party into the area to secure the "bomb sight," give first aid to the "bomber crew" and capture the "saboteurs."

The problem started shortly after 8:00 a.m., when Harry Frost, commander of Squadron 961-1, (air) was notified of the "crash." He then assembled his staff, mobilized his flights, A, B, C and H, at the United airport, and ordered them into the air. A message center was established for the squadron at Stinson of Nevada school at the airport, and motorcycle courier service established with the mounted units, who stood to an alert.

The "bomber wreckage" was located in record time, and a patrol established in the air over the point, other planes reporting back at squadron headquarters. Their information was rushed to the mounted units and three groups of horsemen immediately moved into the area, with supplies, first aid equipment and armed guards.

A command post was established by Squadron 962-1 (mounted) on a foothill about two miles west of the golf course, with trailer park, message center and guard detail. The units in the field were controlled from this point by wig-wag signalling.

Guided by planes overhead, Troop C promptly located the "bomber wreckage," going through routine crash procedure involving first aid, guard mount and a report of the situation. Two platoons of Troop B staged a pincers movement between Hunter Creek and Evans Creek, capturing the "saboteurs" headquarters unit, but the balance of the group slipped through lines and out of reach.

Rations for all units were issued in the field, and at the conclusion of the problem, all units were called in to headquarters by air borne messages for a summary and critique of the day's problems. A brief review of mounted units was held by E. J. Questa, wing commander of CAP units in Nevada, and all organizations were praised for their snap and precision in carrying out their missions of the day.