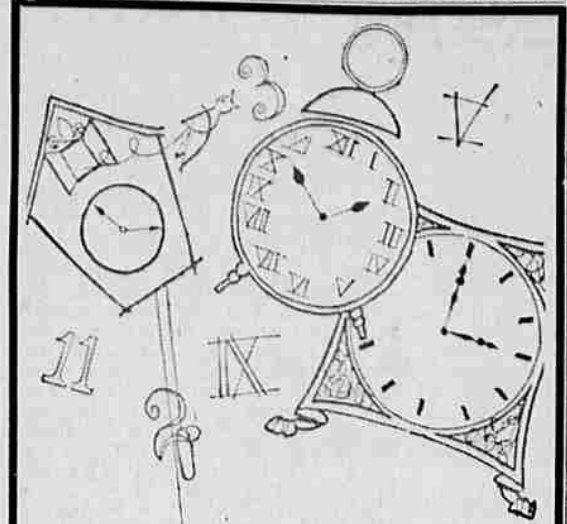


Viet Nam To Get Johnson Assurance On Withdrawal Of Remaining Troops

SAIGON (UPI) — Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara has a message from President Johnson to Vietnamese junta leaders designed to reassure them on U.S. troop withdrawal plans, informed U. S. sources said today.

The message was believed to effect to erase the previous 1965 target date for withdrawal of most of the 15,500 U.S. service-



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Fri., Dec., 20, 1963 — The News-Review, Page 5

Two Found Guilty In Barracks Death

EVREUX, France (UPI)—A U.S. Army court martial today found two Negro American soldiers guilty of the unpremeditated murder of a white U.S. airman in a barracks brawl here Sept. 6.

A third defendant—a white soldier—was convicted of the lesser charge of involuntary manslaughter in the same case.

The court then retired to consider sentences in the case arising from the death of Airman IC. Robert Padgett, 23, Woodlawn, Va., who died in a hospital shortly after the fight.

The two Negro defendants

Calapooia Methodists Schedule Program

The Calapooia Free Methodist Church will hold its annual Christmas program at 7 p.m. this Sunday. The program will consist of recitations by the Sunday School pupils and special musical numbers including solos and duets. Relatives of the church pastor, the Rev. C. O. Tremain, will be here from their homes in Seattle and Tacoma to take part in the musical portion of the program.

Treats will be presented to the children at the conclusion of the program. The church is located four miles west of Sutherlin off the Umpqua road.

The public is invited to the program Sunday.

are Pvt. Richard L. Parker Jr., Eckman, V. Va., and Pfc. Edward Spears, New York. They faced a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

The white defendant was Pfc. Allen L. Gernard, New York. Three years is the maximum penalty for involuntary manslaughter.

The military court was composed of six whites and two Negroes.

U.S. officials have denied the brawl was the culmination of racial hostility between white and Negro servicemen and have attributed the fight to traditional interservice rivalry.

The defendants claim the fight broke out after some airman shouted racial insults at them.

A total of six soldiers were charged with Padgett's murder. Pfc. Raymond Bost Jr., Pittsburgh, and Pfc. Robert Burrell, of Philadelphia, both Negroes, were convicted by an all-white court Nov. 9 and sentenced to 15 and 12 years, respectively, at hard labor in Leavenworth federal prison.

A sixth defendant, Negro soldier Franklin D. Waddell, 18, Philadelphia, faces trial later.

The prosecution charges that the defendants entered the Air Force barracks and launched an unprovoked attack with steel bunk supports, killing Padgett and injuring other airmen.

Gen. Walker Says Oswald Was Killed To Erase A Marxist-Communist Plot

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (UPI)—Former Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker said Thursday Lee Harvey Oswald, accused of assassinating President Kennedy, was slain "to erase a Marxist-Communist conspiracy."

Walker told newsmen "many things" led him to his opinion about why Oswald died.

But Walker, to support his claim would point out only that Oswald was about three blocks from the home of nightclub operator Jack Ruby minutes after the assassination. Ruby shot Oswald to death two days after Kennedy was killed.

Walker, who was relieved of his division command in Germany because of alleged political indoctrination of troops, said he thought it was Oswald who fired a shot at him through the window of his Dallas home earlier this year.

An FBI report given to Dallas police concluded it was ballistically impossible to tell if the same rifle was used to fire at Walker and the President.

"What it says is that the bullet could or could not have been fired from the same rifle," Dallas Detective Chief M. W. Stevenson said Thursday night. "In other words, it's inconclusive."

The bullet fired into Walker's home was badly distorted, having smashed through a window frame and into a wall.

It was reported that Oswald's widow, Marina, told federal officers that her husband boasted to her that he was the sniper who fired on Walker.

"The (Walker) case is still

open," Dallas Detective Captain the shot. Walker said no federal investigators had contacted him about the shot fired at him, Walker said. "I would say it is about Kennedy's assassination conclusive" that Oswald fired or about Oswald or Ruby.

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