

## Navy Squadrons Lead Pack Berlin Airlift Freight Mark Is Set

VR-6, BERLIN--This squadron was right on the heels of VR-8, the other Navy squadron in the Berlin Airlift, when efficiency marks were tabulated for February.

Eight led all Air Force and Navy squadrons with average efficiency utilization of aircraft at 120% and VR-6 was right behind with 117%. VR-6 carried 7,106 tons to Berlin during the month, averaging 24 tons a day for each assigned plane. The squadron carried 1,228 tons above its quota to the blockaded city.

On 26 February, the day the Airlift hauled a record 8,025 tons, VR-6 flew 32 round trips carrying a total of 338 tons.

Secretary of the Navy John L. Sullivan has congratulated the two Navy squadrons for their outstanding efficiency. The text of his message read:

"To the Commanding Officer, VR-6 and Commanding Officer VR-8:

"My heartiest congratulations to you and your men for the fine record set by your squadrons in *Operation Vittles* during February. Particularly I should like to compliment VR-8 for its outstanding achievement for the third successive month. Above all we watch with unceasing pride your exemplary cooperation as members of the unified team, the Combined Airlift Task Force, whose brilliant record of accomplishment in Berlin is an inspiration to this country and the world. Admiral Louis E. Denfeld joins with me in sending you this well done."

The infamous Rhein/Main fog that closed in on the field on the night of 18 February caught VR-6 with three out of four planes in the air flying with a prop feathered. Lt. (jg) G. P. Corrigan's plane was the only one with four engines in operation. Only one of the R5D's on three, piloted by LCdr J. B. Cannon and Cdr. H. P. Badger, squadron CO, was fortunate enough to squeeze into Rhein/Main just as the fog blanked out the field.

Lt. H. P. Buergey had to remain at Templehof. LCdr E. F. Williamson was diverted to Brussels, Belgium, where he stayed two days till weather cleared and he came home on three engines.