

155.73

The official records of Eddie Slovik show that Mrs. Slovik was notified by telegram on 24 February 1945 of the death of her husband. This was confirmed by letter on 27 February 1945. In addition a Catholic Chaplain wrote Mrs. Slovik on 1 March 1945 regarding her husband's execution.

Any benefits to which Mrs. Slovik would be entitled based on her husband's military service would be determined by the Veterans Administration as provided by the laws under which that agency operates.

I trust the above information will help you understand the case of Eddie Slovik.

Sincerely,

DAAG-TCZ-C
Slovik, Eddie

MEMO FOR RECORD:

All info contained in draft letter previously coordinated with TJAG, WHLO, OSD, CLL, Therefore, coordination on this case not necessary.

We have responded to over 20 previous WH cases in behalf of the President. It is not known what info has been furnished to Mr. Goszczynski by congress, and Senators.

VA has answered inquiries on benefits (the ofc of Dir of Pensions and Comp). Because of not in LOD, denied.



20117

11 FEB 1975

DAAG-TCZ-C Slovik, Eddie

Mr. Edwin Goszczynski
8642 Rockland Drive
Dearborn Heights, Michigan 48127

Dear Mr. Goszczynski:

On behalf of President Ford, I am replying to your letter of 11 January 1975 regarding Private Eddie Slovik.

In attempting to understand the circumstances surrounding the execution of Private Slovik, it should be noted that at the time when judgment was passed on him, this nation was engaged in an all-out war with a power which was dedicated to enslaving the world. The lives of thousands, both those on the battlefield as well as those in the infamous prisons of the Third Reich, depended upon the rapid prosecution and termination of the fighting. Shortly after his trial, American forces in Belgium were suffering heavy casualties in the Battle of the Bulge.

While the record of trial was under review, the very success of the Allied campaign in Europe was in doubt. This undoubtedly had an effect on the officials who reviewed the sentence of one who deserted in the face of the enemy. The review and subsequent approval of the sentence were made in full recognition that Private Slovik would be the first American soldier to be executed for desertion since the Civil War.

The feelings which prompted your request for a pardon are appreciated. However, a pardon cannot be granted posthumously since delivery and acceptance are prerequisite to the validity of a pardon.

The official records of Eddie Slovik show that Mrs. Slovik was notified by telegram on 24 February 1945 of the death of her husband. This was confirmed by letter on 27 February 1945. In addition, a Catholic Chaplain wrote Mrs. Slovik on 1 March 1945 regarding her husband's execution.



COMEBACK COPY DAAG-TCZ-C MH 4703

DAAG-TCZ-C Slovik, Eddie

Any benefits to which Mrs. Slovik would be entitled based on her husband's military service would be determined by the Veterans Administration as provided by the laws under which that agency operates.

I trust the above information will help you understand the case of Eddie Slovik.

Sincerely,

Verne L. Bowers

VERNE L. BOWERS
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General





Mr. Charles R. Newman
10091 Flanner Ave.
Garden Grove, California 92640



~~MAJOR GENERAL VERNE L. BOWERS
DEPT. OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310~~

AMARC

RE: DAAG-TCZ-Z Slovik, Eddie D.

Mr. Charles R. Newman
10091 Flanner Ave.
Garden Grove, Calif.
92640
May 8th, 1974

Major General Verne L. Bowers
Dept. of The Army
Office of the Adjutant General
Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear Major General Bowers;

Your reply to me dated April 29th 1974 came through all OK of my letter to Secretary of the Army Mr. Howard Callaway. I must say General Bowers that I am deeply upset over the fact that on a matter certainly in my view as important as this that Mr. Callaway would not and did not reply to this matter in a letter to me rather than having another source do it for him. I thoroughly respect your position in this matter without question and I want you to be fully aware of this fact on my behalf.

By the context of your letter and certainly within the accord of your rules and regulations that you have to abide by I can see where Mr. Callaway certainly did not see my letter and most likely never will. However, I shall now pursue this matter more vigorously than I had originally planned through State Senators, and a Governor that I know quite well in order to hopefully get this matter to the attention of the President directly, I felt however, that I should contact the Secretary of the Army Directly firstly to see what his answer would be prior to going over him in this manner for which I wanted to be totally fair to him, (Mr. Callaway).

I am totally committed in my mind to the welfare of Mrs. Slovik, and candidly this is where I stand, we have a great country here in the United States Of America, and I feel that with our freedom and the way our country is set up that eventually with persistence on my part that some justice to Mrs. Slovik will come as a result of same. I may in the near future have to fly to Detroit to speak with Mrs. Slovik directly concerning this matter. I am going to leave no stone unturned in this projected matter that I have set out to accomplish. The very dark fact that the then Army of 1945 did not notify Mrs. Slovik as to what actually happened to her husband until 7 years later in 1952 has me rather upset and certainly is not in my view a very honorable factor in this case on behalf of the then Army of 1945. I shall write to the address you provided to me regarding Mr. John Tankey whom was Slovik's buddy at that time etc. However, one other address I would appreciate your providing me is: the address to the Veterans Administration office that handles the insurance claims for the National Service Life Insurance Company. Please write me back and send me that information if you will Sir, and again, thanks for the help you have been able to give to me regarding this matter.

Sincerely,
Charles R. Newman
Charles R. Newman

DAAG-TCZ-C Slovik, Eddie D.

14 MAY 1974

Mr. Charles R. Newman
10091 Flanner Avenue
Garden Grove, CA 92640

Dear Mr. Newman:

This is in response to your letter of 8 May 1974 regarding the address of the Veterans Administration office that handles insurance claims.

The information you request can be obtained from the Veterans Administration Central Office, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420.

Sincerely,

Verne L. Bowers

VERNE L. BOWERS
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

MFR: Mr. Newman wrote on 17 Apr re Mrs. Slovik. See our answer of 29 Apr. His current ltr of 8 May only asks for address of VA office handling insurance claims. Address of VA Central office given; since we do not know if the VA will handle here or send to Phila or St. Paul.

*Return to OMARC
Dallas*



President Richard Nixon
White House
Washington, D.C.

88
LA

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MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV
9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3

CHICAGO
FM
MAY 1974
903
[74]

25

Military Asst,
- G. P. P.

5931 N.W. Hwy.

Chicago, Illinois

May 12, 1974

FO DOD - FOR DIRECT REPLY
DATE MAY 17 1974

President Richard Nixon
White House
Washington, D.C.

Re, Lon Gordon Show
Channel 32; Sun: 9:30
Mrs. Spivak, widow
D.D. executed in France

Mr. President:

This letter is a two fold appeal:

- 1- To help the widow receive more benefits from the Federal Government. She is ill and unable to work.
- 2- To re-inter the body of Orivate Spivak's grave to 5 Cemetary in France to a grave in the United States.

We hope that this appeal is in the realm of possibilities.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mr. & Mrs J. Barr

A

WH 6576
RECEIVED

57.57
5731 H.W. H.W.
Chicago, Illinois
May 13, 1944

TO DOD - FOR DIRECT REPLY
MAY 11 1944
DATE

Mr. [unclear]
[unclear]

Richard Nixon
White House
Washington, D.C.

Re: [unclear]
[unclear]
Mrs. [unclear]
[unclear]

Mr. President:

This letter is a two-fold appeal:
1 - To help the widow receive more benefits from the Federal Government. She is ill and unable to work.

2 - To re-inter the body of Private [unclear]'s grave to [unclear] Cemetery in France to a grave in the United States.

We hope that this appeal is in the realm of possibilities.

Sincerely,
Thank you.

OFF SECY OF DEFENSE
MAY 16 1944
Mrs. [unclear]

RECEIVED
MAY 25 1944





[REDACTED]

Mr. Charles R. Newman
10091 Flanner Ave.
Garden Grove, California 92640

~~MAJOR GENERAL VERNE L. BOWERS
Dept. Of The Army
Office Of The Adjutant General
Washington, D.C. 20310~~

OMARC

1916

DAAG-TCZ-C Slovik, Eddie D.
(12 May 74)

20 MAY 1974

Mr. and Mrs. J. Barr
5931 N. W. Highway
Chicago, Illinois 60646

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Barr:

On behalf of President Nixon, I am replying to your letter of 12 May 1974 regarding Private Eddie D. Slovik.

As much as he would like to, the President cannot reply personally to every communication he receives. Therefore, he has asked the departments and agencies of the Federal Government to reply in his behalf in those instances where they have special knowledge or special authority under the law. For this reason, your correspondence was forwarded to officials of the Department of the Army.

Although I appreciate your interest in the welfare of Mrs. Slovik, the nature of the offense for which Private Slovik was convicted precludes the granting of benefits or assistance by the Department of the Army. Benefits or assistance, which may be available to her from other agencies of the Federal Government are determined by the specific agency involved.

The final disposition of the remains of the Dead of World War II was carried out under the provision of Public Law 383, 79th Congress and Public Law 368, 80th Congress which authorized the Secretary of War, upon application by the next of kin, to return such remains to the homeland of the decedent.

In the case of Eddie Slovik, there is no record that his next of kin requested return of his body and in the absence of such request, his remains were interred in Oise-Aisne Cemetery, France. A provision of the law specifically ended all authority to make further disposition of the remains on and after December 31, 1951.

Sincerely,

Verne L. Bowers

VERNE L. BOWERS
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

cc: DACS-XSW(2) WH Case 6576

RETURN TO OMARG,
TAGO Dallas

RE: SLOVIK, EDDIE D.
ASN 36896415

Mr. Charles R. Newman
10091 Flanner Ave.
Garden Grove, Calif.
92640
June 12th, 1974

Major General Verne L. Bowers
Dept. Of the Army
Office of the Adjutant General
Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear Major General Bowers;

Received your reply all OK of 14 May 1974 regarding the address to the V.A. office that handles all the Insurance claims for servicemen etc. and thanks again. I am gathering a maze of information in regards to the Slovik matter, and things are going rather well at this point. In reference to your communication to me of 29 April 1974 specifically the contents of paragraph two, I do feel that in regards to the directive titled "The Action of the Convening Authority is: Dated 27 November 1944 Headquarters 28th Infantry Division and the order being signed by General "Dutch" Norman Gota will of course make in my view and in many views your paragraph two of your letter dated to me 29 April 74 rather superfluous.

Fully, I realize that you are responding to me as you see fit in accordance with the U.S. Army rules and regulations and I must commend you fully for that view as that is as it should be. Merely, I am trying to point out some of the rather hazy points in the Slovik case here. My total goal is to help Mrs. Slovik to the uttermost. I am writing also this date the National Service Life Insurance Co as well. In other words it's full speed ahead all the way in this matter.

Another matter that bothers me in this case is the fact that Private Slovik is buried in a questionable plot where murderers and rapists are buried there in France at the Oise- Aisne American Cenetry at F'ere-en-Tardenois. Eddie D. Slovik was not a rapist nor a murderer, and he is buried in Plot E there General Bowers. Eddie D. Slovik is in Plot E, Row # 3, Grave no. 65.

Now, what information I would like to have from you at this point is this: to what agency or to whom do I contact regarding the possible movement of Eddie D? Slovik out of Plot E over there in France?? Also on Feb. 18th, 1944 Mrs. Antoinette Slovik bought her husband Eddie D. Slovik a Gruen Curvex wrist watch, she paid \$60.00 for it, she gave it to him of course when he was still living. On the back of the watch she had his name & date of birth engraved on it, she still wonders what ever happened to that watch?? Is there any way General Bowers through contacting the Grave detail records regarding the personal property that Private Slovik had on or about him at the time of his execution that we could or can possibly determine whatever happened to that watch?? I hope you will reply to me soon, I realize that this must be somewhat of

General Bowers letter 6/12/74

(2)

-a bother to you sir, but, in order for me to get the facts and the entire picture of this matter, I must as you can well realize obtain the facts as much as I can get them from different sources.

Enclosed in with this letter is a copy of the FINAL order for the execution of Private Slovik, In this final and binding order there is NOTHING which states that his kin should be denied pay and or allowances. Merely that he be shot to death with musketry, that order was as it was and as the record clearly stands regarding the execution in full, it was the final order from General Norman D. Cota. General Cota in 1953 stated that he had always assumed that the next of kin received insurance and the accumulated pay and allowances especially on this type of order that was made by him as the final order on 27 November, 1944.

Well, I guess this about concludes the communication for now General Bowers, I do hope sir that you will be able to answer to me in some format the questions that I have posed in the communication. Thank you again sir for your help in this matter.

cc/CRN.

Most Sincere,

Charles R. Newman
Mr. Charles R. Newman



20703

The Action of the convening Authority is:

HEADQUARTERS
28th Infantry Division
27 November 1944

In the foregoing case of Private Eddie D. Slovik, 36896415, Company G, 109th Infantry, only so much of the sentence as provides that the accused be shot to death with musketry is approved and the Record of Trial forwarded for action under Article of War 48.

Signed: Norman D. Cota

DAAG-TCZ-C Slovik, Eddie
(12 Jun 74)

28 JUN 1974

Mr. Charles R. Newman
10091 Flanner Avenue
Garden Grove, CA 92640

Dear Mr. Newman:

This is in response to your letter of 12 June 1974 regarding Private Eddie D. Slovik.

The final disposition of the remains of the Dead of World War II was carried out under the provision of Public Law 383, 79th Congress and Public Law 368, 80th Congress which authorized the Secretary of War, upon application by the next of kin, to return such remains to the homeland of the decedent.

In the case of Eddie Slovik, there is no record that his next of kin requested return of his body and in the absence of such request, his remains were interred in Oise-Aisne Cemetery, France. A provision of the law specifically ended all authority to make further disposition of the remains on and after December 31, 1951.

The personal effects of Private Slovik were shipped to his next of kin. If Mrs. Slovik has any questions concerning this matter they should be forwarded to this office, Attention: DAAG-ME.

Sincerely,

Verne L. Bowers

VERNE L. BOWERS
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

MFR: This is the 3d ltr from Mr. Newman. LTC Ryan, Memorial Affairs contacted, re personal effects. He said no record of a watch and that statute of limitations had run out. He had no objections to telling Mr. Newman that effects sent to NOK and if she had any questions she could contact DA. Paras re remains is standard and previously cleared for use. Prior ltrs attached.

(Lt Col. Fleet USMAA)

RETURN TO OMARC,
TAGO Dallacl

EDWARD W. BROOKE
MASSACHUSETTS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

June 21, 1974

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
BANKING, HOUSING AND
URBAN AFFAIRS
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
STANDARDS AND CONDUCT

JUN 21 1974 OFFICE
2003-F KENNEDY FEDERAL BLDG.
BOSTON, 02203
617-223-7240
SECRET 421 OLD SENATE OFFICE BLDG.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510
202-225-2742

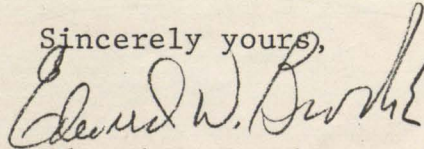
Mr. Howard H. Calloway
Secretary of the Army
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear Secretary Calloway:

In the wake of NBC's television production THE EXECUTION OF PRIVATE EDDIE SLOVICK, I have had some inquiries from concerned and thoughtful constituents who feel strongly that the Army has erred in not honoring Slovic's widow's request for payment of the private's \$10,000 G.I. Insurance policy.

I would appreciate if it you and your associates would review the merits of Mrs. Slovic's request in light of all the facts which are now available to the Army and the public about Private Slovic and the fate that befell him.

Sincerely yours,



Edward W. Brooke

EWB:rwa

Reply: Room 2003-F, JFK Federal Bldg.
Boston, Massachusetts 02203

OSA
201 SLOVICK, EDWARD
6/21/74
FW: 3/14/64

June 21, 1974

Mr. Howard H. Calloway
Secretary of the Army
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear Secretary Calloway:

In the wake of NBC's television production THE EXECUTION OF PRIVATE EDDIE SLOVICK, I have had some inquiries from concerned and thoughtful constituents who feel strongly that the Army has erred in not honoring Slovic's widow's request for payment of the private's \$10,000 G.I. Insurance policy.

I would appreciate if it you and your associates would review the merits of Mrs. Slovic's request in light of all the facts which are now available to the Army and the public about Private Slovic and the fate that befell him.

Sincerely yours,

Edward W. Brooke

EWB: rwa

Reply: Room 2003-F, JFK Federal Bldg.
Boston, Massachusetts 02203

VA

DO NOT DETACH THIS SLIP

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

DATE 11 AUG 1975


TO:

- UNDER SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
- ASST. SEC. OF ARMY (FM)
- ASST. SEC. OF ARMY (I&L)
- ASST. SEC. OF ARMY (M&RA)
- ASST. SEC. OF ARMY (R&D)
- CHIEF OF PUBLIC INFO.
- CHIEF OF LEG. LIAISON
- GENERAL COUNSEL
- CHIEF OF STAFF
- COMPT. OF THE ARMY
- ADJUTANT GENERAL
- ENGINEERS, CHIEF OF
- JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL

FOR:

- APPROPRIATE ACTION
- DIRECT REPLY
- PREPARATION OF REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF ~~SECRETARY OF ARMY~~ ASA/M&RA
- USE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY PERSONAL LETTERHEAD WITH NAME ONLY AT SIGNATURE BLOCK.
- PREPARATION OF REPLY FOR SIG. OF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
- INFORMATION ON WHICH TO BASE REPLY
- FOR COMMENT, RECOMMENDATION OR INITIAL
- INFORMATION
- NOTE AND RETURN
- FILE
- MARK "PERSONAL ATTENTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT"
- FURNISH COPY OF REPLY TO ASG, OSA FOR OSD/af.

REMARKS:

INFO CC: S/A
 C/S 
 USA
 ASA/FM
 G/C
 CINFO

OSA SUSPENSE: AUGUST 25, 1975

OSD SUSPENSE: _____

BY DIRECTION OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

CM 52092

John G. Connell, Jr.
Administrative Assistant

4717

DO NOT DETACH THIS SLIP

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

DATE 11 AUG 1975

- TO: _____ UNDER SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
- _____ ASST. SEC. OF ARMY (FM)
- _____ ASST. SEC. OF ARMY (AG)
- _____ ASST. SEC. OF ARMY (M&A)
- _____ ASST. SEC. OF ARMY (I&D)
- _____ ASST. SEC. OF ARMY (P&S)
- _____ CHIEF OF PUBLIC INFO.
- _____ CHIEF OF LEG. LIAISON
- _____ GENERAL COUNSEL

- FOR: _____ APPROPRIATE ACTION
- _____ DIRECT REPLY
- _____ PREPARATION OF REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF SECRETARY/ASSTANT
- _____ USE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY PERSONAL LETTERHEAD WITH NAME ONLY AT SIGNATURE BLOCK.
- _____ PREPARATION OF REPLY FOR SIG. INFORMATION ON WHICH TO BASE FOR COMMENT, RECOMMENDATION INFORMATION
- _____ NOTE AND RETURN
- _____ FILE
- _____ MARK *PERSONAL ATTENTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT*
- _____ FURNISH COPY OF REPLY TO ASSTANT

RECEIVED
 11 AUG 75 16 17
 OFFICE, CHIEF OF STAFF,
 UNITED STATES ARMY

CINPO
 G/C
 ASA/PM
 USA
 C/S
 S/A

02A SUSPENSE: AUGUST 25, 1975

030 SUSPENSE:

BY DIRECTION OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

John G. Connelley, Jr.
 Administrative Assistant

02A FORM 39 (REVISED)

MAY 1975

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
REFERRAL SLIP

(Will remain with correspondence)

FILE NUMBER

DATE

17 Jul 74

ROUTING A-Action I-Information

	A-Action	I-Information
OSA	ACSI	CINFO
CLL	CNGB	CMH
DCSOPS	<u>I</u> TAG	CAR
DCSPER	COE	OCSA (CAR)
DCSLOG	TSG	OCSA (MISD)
DCSRDA	CCH	OCSA (PA&ED)
COA	<u>I</u> TJAG	OCSA (ESO)
MILPERCEN	TIG	OCSA (MD)
CUSAAA	USACIDC	SMA
ARFPC	BMDPM	

ATTN:

- Prepare reply for CofS signature
- Direct reply to _____
- Furnish copy of reply to _____
- Information (_____ has action)
- Provide assistance, as required _____
- Appropriate action
- Advance copy
- Coordinate with _____

REMARKS

G. R. Iverson

BY DIRECTION OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF:
G. R. IVERSON
LTC, GS
Assistant to Director
of the Army Staff



Telegram

NO. WDS.—CL. OF SVC.	PD. OR COLL.	CASH NO.	CHARGE TO THE ACCOUNT OF	<input type="checkbox"/> OVER NIGHT TELEGRAM UNLESS BOX ABOVE IS CHECKED THIS MESSAGE WILL BE SENT AS A TELEGRAM

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

September 5

1974

TO President Gerald R. Ford

CARE OF
OR APT. NO.

STREET & NO. The White House

TELEPHONE

CITY & STATE Washington, D.C.

ZIP CODE

Opposed to any amnesty for Vietnam. Unless same consideration given World War I and II. Including Grover C. Burgdoll, Philadelphia and Pvt. Eddie D. Slovik, Detroit, the only deserter executed since Civil War.

Edward P. Woods
Army Defense Council for Pvt. Slovik

SENDER'S TEL. NO.

NAME & ADDRESS

Edward P. Woods, Army Defense Council for
Pvt. Slovik
c/o Robert DeFinis, 523 Edgemont Avenue, Lansdale, Pa.

EDWARD W. BROOKE
MASSACHUSETTS

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

RECEIVED
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT
GROUP

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
BANKING, HOUSING AND
URBAN AFFAIRS
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
STANDARDS AND CONDUCT

OFFICES:
2003-H KENNEDY FEDERAL BLDG.
BOSTON, 02203
617-223-7240
421 OLD SENATE OFFICE BLDG.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510
202-225-2742

October 7, 1974

1974 OCT 10 AM 11 34

OFFICE
SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

The Honorable Howard H. Calloway
Secretary of the Army
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear Secretary *Bo* Calloway:

I know how mail can pile up and how difficult it is to keep abreast.

But I would appreciate it if I could have a reply to my letter to you of June 21, 1974, a copy of which is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

EWB
Edward W. Brooke

EWB:rwa
Reply: Room 2003-F, JFK Federal Bldg.
Boston, Mass. 02203

OSA 201 SIOVIA, EDWARD 10/7/74 FM: 3/14/74

50
2912 Riverview Boulevard
Silver Lake, Ohio 44224
January 6, 1975

*Military Asst.
to Pres.*
President Gerald R. Ford
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20515

TO DOD - FOR DIRECT REPLY
DATE 9 JAN 1975

Dear President Ford:

I am writing in connection with the execution of Private Eddie Slovik in 1945.

encl
His widow, Antoinette Slovik, has said that at the time of his death she was told that he had "died in action" and that she was entitled to apply for a Widow's Pension. At that time she was employed and had no need of the benefits. Three years later she did apply and was informed that she was NOT eligible to a pension due to the circumstances surrounding her husband's death.

Admittedly, Eddie Slovik WAS a deserter. A deserter, however, who willingly turned himself in with no thought of running, or trying to hide. Private Slovik paid an incredibly high price for purging himself -- the loss of his life before a firing squad. Supposedly, Eddie Slovik was executed as an "EXAMPLE" to other deserters or, would be deserters. Why then, in fact, was it kept a secret -- or, did the Government realize what a horribly tragic mistake it had committed?

Mrs. Slovik did NOT learn that her husband had been executed until nine years later when author William Bradford Huie contacted her. Together, they went to Washington to obtain "Eddie Slovik's File" which Mr. Huie had previously tried unsuccessfully to secure on his own.

Regardless of the motives behind the execution, the entire situation was badly handled. Mrs. Slovik had a RIGHT to know that her husband had been executed and the reason WHY. This right, however, was denied her.

I fully realize, sir, that this matter should have been channeled through Antoinette Slovik's Representative -- but, over the past nine months, my letters have produced few results and I did not know whom to contact. Congressman John F. Seiberling was, however, able to secure from the Government an Information Sheet on Private Slovik. A copy, of which, I have enclosed.

I am also very much aware that conceivably this could be an explosive issue because there were many distinguished Americans who unhesitatingly served in World War II; and, others who gave their lives -- or, a part of themselves to protect this, "The land of the free and the home of the brave."

WH 0897

A

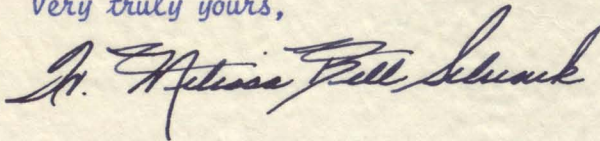
President Gerald R. Ford
Page 2
January 6, 1975

Mistakes, nevertheless, have been made -- both by Eddie Slovik and the Government. And, if a pension for Mrs. Slovik is indeed NOT possible, could not his body, at least, be brought back to the United States for a decent burial? At the present time, his remains are in France -- in a part of the cemetery reserved for murderers and robbers. I truly feel he does NOT deserve this final blow.

Since you have shown compassion for Vietnam draft evaders and deserters -- I would appreciate your checking into the events leading up to this execution to determine IF it would be possible to return Eddie Slovik's body to this country where it rightfully belongs.

Thank you, sir.

Very truly yours,



H. Melissa Bell Schenck

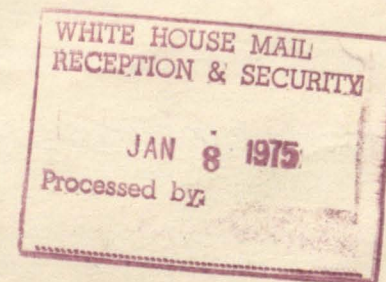
HMBS/

Enclosure

H. Melissa Bell Schenck
2912 Riverview Boulevard
Silver Lake, Ohio 44224



President Gerald R. Ford
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20515



Edward P. Woods
c/o Robert DeFinis
523 Edgemont Avenue
Lansdale, Pa. 19446

*mail
just*



**RETURN RECEIPT
REQUESTED**

JAN 17 1975

**REGISTERED
NO.**

President Gerald R. Ford
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20260

00954

LANSDALE, PA
JAN 16 1975
USPO

LANSDALE, PA
JAN 16 1975
USPO

LANSDALE, PA
JAN 16 1975
USPO

LANSDALE, PA
JAN 16 1975
USPO

WASHINGTON, DC
JAN 17 1975
USPO

122123

27R
1/17
M. Wood

Edward P. Woods
c/o Robert DeFinis
523 Edgemont Avenue
Lansdale, Pennsylvania 19446
January 15, 1975

President Gerald R. Ford
The White House
Washington, D.C.

TO DOD - FOR APPROPRIATE HANDLING

DATE JAN 22 1975

Dear Mr. President:

January 31, 1975 your clemency and amnesty program comes to an end.

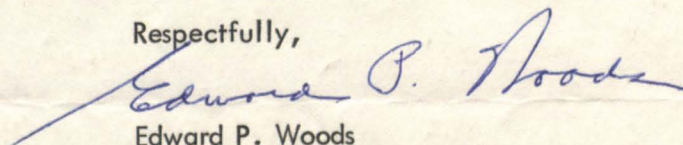
On September 5, 1974 I sent you a telegram requesting amnesty and clemency for Grover Cleveland Bergdoll, World War I draft-dodger, and Pvt. Eddie D. Slovik (36896415), the only deserter shot during World War II ("actually since the Civil War"). It is an ironic coincidence that January 31 of this year marks thirty years since Pvt. Slovik was executed at St. Marie Aux Mines, France.

My deep concern here is that your forgiveness program applies only to Vietnam draft-dodgers and deserters. Should not mercy be given to all for it to be an act of mercy?

Mr. President, in order to make your program a just and humane one, I ask you to search your heart and forgive this soldier, give him the opportunity to be buried in the United States of America.

I will personally go to Europe and escort the body back home for a decent Christian burial. I will anxiously await your decision.

Respectfully,



Edward P. Woods
Defense Counsel for:
Eddie D. Slovik
November 11, 1944
Rotgen, Germany

Encl. (Telegram)

WH 2740

A

No record of Prev 174 175
OSD WH Sect

DAAG-TCZ-C Slovik, Eddie
(15 Jan 75)

29 JAN 1975

Mr. Edward F. Woods
c/o Robert DeFinis
523 Edgemont Avenue
Lansdale, PA 19446

Dear Mr. Woods:

On behalf of President Ford, I am replying to your letter of 15 January 1975 regarding Private Eddie Slovik.

As much as he would like to, the President cannot reply personally to every communication he receives. Therefore, he has asked the departments and agencies of the Federal Government to reply in his behalf in those instances where they have special knowledge or special authority under the law. For this reason, your correspondence was forwarded to officials of the Department of Defense.

Your feelings which prompted your letter are understandable, but I regret to advise that the interment of Private Slovik, as well as other World War II deceased personnel in cemeteries overseas is considered final. There has been no change in the Government's policy for further disposition of remains of the War Dead, since the law permitting such action expired in 1951.

Sincerely,

Vern L. Bowers

VERNE L. BOWERS
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

MFR: Reply confined to 4th para of his ltr. Rer with no mention made of his prev req (no rec of receipt of this in OSD). Last para of our ltr coord with mem. aff. on file. ~~Handwritten signature~~
GD

COMEBACK COPY DAAG-TCZ-C WH 2740

DAAG-TCZ-C Slovik, Eddie
(6 Jan 75)

1 6 JAN 1975

Ms H. Melissa Bell Schenck
2912 Riverview Boulevard
Silver Lake, Ohio 44224

Dear Ms Schenck:

On behalf of President Ford, I am replying to your letter of
6 January 1975 regarding Private Eddie Slovik.

As much as he would like to, the President cannot reply personally
to every communication he receives. Therefore, he has asked the
departments and agencies of the Federal Government to reply in his
behalf in those instances where they have special knowledge or special
authority under the law. For this reason, your correspondence was
forwarded to officials of the Department of Defense.

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Sincerely,

Verne L. Bowers

VERNE L. BOWERS
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

Coordination with Memorial Affairs

Dir., Mr. Womack.

Ms Schenck has info that we gave to OCLL to prepare info sheet. Notif
and pension covered therein. Chap notif. NOK of execution in his ltr.

COMEBACK COPY DAAG-TCZ-C MH 0897

INFORMATION SHEET

EDDIE D. SLOVIK

Private Slovik was convicted by a General Court-Martial for absenting himself without proper leave from his organization to avoid hazardous duty and to shirk important service, that is, action against the enemy. He was sentenced to be shot to death with musketry. Although there were other executions during World War II, Private Slovik was the only individual executed for desertion.

When judgment was passed on Private Slovik, this nation was engaged in an all-out war with a power which was dedicated to enslaving the world. The lives of thousands, both those on the battlefield as well as those in the infamous prisons of the Third Reich, depended upon the rapid prosecution and termination of the fighting. Shortly after Private Slovik's trial, forces in Belgium became engaged in what became known as the Battle of the Bulge. Heavy American casualties were being sustained while the record of trial was under review; indeed the success of the Allied campaign was uncertain at the time. This undoubtedly had an effect on the officials who reviewed the sentence of one who refused to fight in the face of the enemy.

The specific reasons for approval of the sentence for Private Slovik are given in the attached indorsement signed on 6 January 1945 when the Army Assistant Judge Advocate General transmitted the Board of Review's decision in this case to General Eisenhower, who was then the Commanding General of the European Theater of Operations, for his consideration. The review and the subsequent approval of the sentence were made in full recognition that Private Slovik would be the first American soldier to be executed for desertion since the Civil War.

Private Slovik and several others who were executed overseas for serious crimes committed during World War II were buried in an isolated area which was available in the Oise-Aisne American Cemetery. To ensure anonymity, the graves were identified only by small, individually numbered grave markers. In an effort to protect the privacy of the relatives and friends of those buried there, a policy was established to restrict any publicity or visits to the plot. Periodically, this policy is reviewed, to date it has not been changed.

Because of the nature of the offense for which Private Slovik was convicted, Mrs. Slovik is not eligible for any benefits administered by the Department of the Army. Any benefits or assistance, which may be available to her from other agencies of the Federal Government, are determined by the specific agency involved.

(162)

1st Ind.

War Department, Branch Office of The Judge Advocate General with the
European Theater of Operations. 6 JAN 1945 TO: Commanding
General, European Theater of Operations, APO 837, U.S. Army.

1. In the case of Private EDDIE D. SLOVAK (36896415), Company G, 109th Infantry, attention is invited to the foregoing holding by the Board of Review that the record of trial is legally sufficient to support the sentence, which holding is hereby approved. Under the provisions of Article of War 50², you now have authority to order execution of the sentence.

2. This is the first death sentence for desertion which has reached me for examination. It is probably the first of the kind in the American Army for over eighty years, - there were none in World War I. In this case, the extreme penalty of death appears warranted. This soldier had performed no front line duty. He did not intend to. He deserted from his group of fifteen when about to join the infantry company to which he had been assigned. His subsequent conduct shows a deliberate plan to secure trial and incarceration in a safe place. The sentence adjudged was more severe than he had anticipated, but the imposition of a less severe sentence would only have accomplished the accused's purpose of securing his incarceration and consequent freedom from the dangers which so many of our armed forces are required to face daily. His unfavorable civilian record indicates that he is not a worthy subject of clemency.

3. When copies of the published order are forwarded to this office, they should be accompanied by the foregoing holding, this indorsement and the record of trial which is delivered to you herewith. The file number of the record in this office is CM ETO 5555. For convenience of reference please place that number in brackets at the end of the order: (CM ETO 5555).

4. Should the sentence as imposed by the court and confirmed by you be carried into execution, it is requested that a full copy of the proceedings be forwarded to this office in order that its files may be complete.

H. C. McNEILL,
Brigadier General, United States Army,
Assistant Judge Advocate General.

1 incl:
Record of Trial

(Sentence ordered executed. GCMD 27, ETO, 23 Jan 1945)

555

The final disposition of the remains of the Dead of World War II was carried out under the provision of Public Law 383, 79th Congress and Public Law 368, 80th Congress which authorized the Secretary of War, upon application by the next of kin, to return such remains to the homeland of the decedent. In the case of Eddie Slovik, there is no record that his next of kin requested return of his body. A provision of the law specifically ended all authority to make further disposition of the remains on and after 31 December 1951.

RECEIVED

11 JAN 75 10 49
OFF SECY OF DEFENSE

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7
more imp. pardon

POLISH
NATIONAL
ALLIANCE of the U.S. of N.A. COUNCIL No. 54

DOM POLSKI - 3426 JUNCTION AVENUE DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48210 PHONE: TA 5-9310

ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT

ADDRESS OF SECRETARY

JF-1

January 11, 1975

Honorable Gerald R. Ford
President of the United States of America
Washington, D. C.

Mr. President:

The Polish National Alliance is a Fraternal organization of National scope.

Council 54 of the Alliance is a Detroit chapter composed of 22 lodges, with a membership of 3500.

At the January 5, 1975 meeting of the Council a motion was supported and carried that we make the following appeal to you.

It was after your appointment as Vice President of the United States, that the story entitled "The Execution of Pvt. Slowik" was shown on local television. The story and the circumstances surrounding it had a very shocking affect on the Polish population in the City of Detroit, and the State of Michigan, as Pvt. Slowik was a Dearborn, Michigan resident.

Immediate appeals in writing, were made to all senators and representatives in Washington, to investigate and endeavor to secure a pardon from the War Department. Their interests and attempts were gratifying, however the War Department refused to consider their requests.

Therefore, Mr. President we are making this appeal to you, as President, and Commander in Chief of our armed forces we ask you to investigate and seriously consider the circumstances and the results of this incident.

Pvt. Slowik answered his call to duty to defend his country, however upon reaching the battle lines he could not find it in his heart to kill, he made several requests to be transferred to a non combat unit, these requests were denied, whereby he surrendered his firearm to his commanding officer, for this act he was executed by a firing squad, to set an example.

Mr. President you know, as well as we all know that there were thousands of other deserters during World War II, during the Korean conflict, as well as the Vietnamese war, however the example was not followed up, there were no other executions for desertion, not even those who fled the country, because they refused to answer the call to arms.

17,201

Handwritten notes at the top of the page.



POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE

of the U.S.A.

COUNCIL NO. 24

WHITE HOUSE MAIL ROOM

DOM POLSKI - 2422 JUNCTION AVENUE - DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48210

10 3 PM 15 JAN 1972

ADDRESS OF SECRETARY

ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT

January 11, 1972

27-1

Honorable Gerald R. Ford
President of the United States of America
Washington, D. C.

Mr. President:

The Polish National Alliance is a fraternal organization of National scope. Council 24 of the Alliance is a Detroit chapter composed of 22 lodges, with a membership of 2500. At the January 5, 1972 meeting of the Council a motion was supported and carried that we make the following appeal to you.

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We feel that the execution of Pvt. Slowik, to set an example, was a miscarriage of justice, and today it certainly is just that.

The fact that his wife was not notified of what happened to her husband, and not learning of the facts until many years later when the book was being written certainly added to her grief. Today she is living in seclusion, and sustaining herself on her meager Social Security income, and gifts and donations of friends and sympathizers.

As our last resort, we make this appeal to you Mr. President, to review the incident and grant Pvt. Slowik a pardon, and grant his wife full benefits as a war widow, so as to enable her to live her remaining days in peace and self support.

Thanking you for your time in reading this appeal, any, and all consideration you may give to it, and hoping to receive a favorable answer, I remain

Sincerely yours

Edwin Goszczyński

Edwin Goszczyński, Pres.
8642 Rockland Dr.
Dearborn Heights, Michigan 48127

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 22, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR

Honorable Howard H. Callaway
Secretary of the Army

I would appreciate having your comments about the enclosed letter. As a matter of policy, the President does not grant posthumous pardons; however, there may be some other action warranted in this case.

If no action is appropriate, I would appreciate receiving a suggested reply from you for my signature.

P.W.B.

Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Enclosure

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RECEIVED WH 3063

[0517]

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 22, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR

Honorable Howard H. Callaway
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P.W.B.
Phillip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Enclosure

OFF SECY OF DEFENSE
27 JAN 75 16 39

RECEIVED

WH 8068

D R A F T

Dear Mr. Goszczynski:

on behalf of President Ford,

I am replying to your letter of 11 January 1975 to ~~the President~~ regarding Private Eddie Slovik.

In attempting to understand the circumstances surrounding the execution of Private Slovik, it should be noted that at the time when judgment was passed on him, this nation was engaged in an all-out war with a power which was dedicated to enslaving the world. The lives of thousands, both those on the battlefield as well as those in the infamous prisons of the Third Reich, depended upon the rapid prosecution and termination of the fighting. Shortly after his trial, American forces in Belgium were suffering heavy casualties in the Battle of the Bulge.

While the record of trial was under review, the very success of the Allied campaign in Europe was in doubt. This undoubtedly had an effect on the officials who reviewed the sentence of one who deserted in the face of the enemy. The review and subsequent approval of the sentence were made in full recognition that Private Slovik would be the first American soldier to be executed for desertion since the Civil War.

The feelings which prompted your request for a pardon are appreciated. However, a pardon cannot be granted posthumously since delivery and acceptance are prerequisite to the validity of a pardon.

68173

The official records of Eddie Slovik show that Mrs. Slovik was notified by telegram on 24 February 1945 of the death of her husband. This was confirmed by letter on 27 February 1945. In addition a Catholic Chaplain wrote Mrs. Slovik on 1 March 1945 regarding her husband's execution.

Any benefits to which Mrs. Slovik would be entitled based on her husband's military service would be determined by the Veterans Administration as provided by the laws under which that agency operates.

I trust the above information will help you understand the case of Eddie Slovik.

Sincerely,

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 22, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR

Honorable Howard H. Callaway
Secretary of the Army

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Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Enclosure

*OK
B*

WH 3063



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

31 JAN 1975

MEMORANDUM THRU MAJOR GENERAL RICHARD L. LAWSON
MILITARY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

FOR MR. PHILIP W. BUCHEN, COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Letter from Mr. Edwin Goszczynski re Private Eddie Slovik

In response to your memorandum of 22 January 1975, inclosing a letter from Mr. Edwin Goszczynski (Tab B), attached at Tab A is a draft reply to Mr. Goszczynski.

The Department of the Army has responded to numerous inquiries on the execution of Private Eddie Slovik. These inquiries concern restoration to duty, pardon, burial, notification, return of remains, benefits, and other items. We have responded on behalf of the President, members of Congress, and the general public after careful consideration and coordination within the Department of Defense.

In view of the above, it is recommended this action be returned to the Department of Defense for direct reply.

Enclosures

Kenneth Bailey
for Thomas K. Latimer Col, USA

THRU: White House Liaison Officer

31 JAN 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR Thomas K. Latimer

Pursuant to your request, attached is a MEMORANDUM to
OSD White House case number WH 3063.

Verne L. Bowers

VERNE L. BOWERS
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

Attachment

COMEBACK COPY DAAG-TCZ-C WH 3063



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

31 JAN 1975

MEMORANDUM THRU MAJOR GENERAL RICHARD L. LAWSON
MILITARY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

FOR MR. PHILIP W. BUCHEN, COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Letter from Mr. Edwin Goszczynski re Private Eddie Slovik

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for Thomas K. Latimer Col, USA

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