

20103

12 APR 1974

DAAG-TCZ-C Slovik, Eddie
(25 Mar 74)

Mr. Edward E. Plusdrak
American Polish Federation
2925 West Logan Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60647

Dear Mr. Plusdrak:

This is in reply to your letter regarding the court-martial and execution of Private Eddie D. Slovik.

Private Slovik was convicted by a General Court-Martial for desertion by absenting himself without proper leave from his organization to avoid hazardous duty and to shirk important service, to wit; action against the enemy. He was sentenced to be shot to death with musketry. 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, American forces in Belgium were suffering heavy casualties in the Battle of the Bulge.

When the Army Assistant Judge Advocate General transmitted the Board of Review's decision in this case to General Eisenhower, the then Commanding General, European Theater of Operations, for his consideration in determining whether to approve and order the sentence executed, the following points were made. Private Slovik had performed no front line duty and his conduct demonstrated a deliberate intent to avoid such hazardous service by obtaining incarceration in a safe place. The sentence adjudged was more severe than he had anticipated, but the imposition of a less severe punishment would only have accomplished the accused's purpose of obtaining freedom from those dangers which his comrades were required to face daily.

*For
[unclear]*

DAAG-TCZ-C Slovik, Eddie
(25 Mar 74)

Regarding your questions numbers 1 and 3, the Department has never maintained records of individuals by national origin and, therefore, I am unable to furnish you the statistics you request. With respect to question number 2, the number of Army deserters during the period in question is not available in compiled form. Although there were other executions during World War II, Private Slovik was the only Army member executed for desertion.

Sincerely,

Verne L. Bowers

VERNE L. BOWERS
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

RBB

Jm

Return to
DAAG-TCZ-C

[801,0]

DAAG-ZC

20 MAR 1974

Mr. Richard G. Beil, Sr.
2208 West 34th Street
Apartment 30
Houston, Texas

Dear Mr. Beil:

On behalf of President Nixon, I am replying to your telegram of 13 March 1974 requesting assistance for the widow of 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 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.

Sincerely,

RBB

Verne L. Bowers

VERNE L. BOWERS
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

(Signature)

CF: DACS-XSW(2)
WH case 3551

M/R: Concur - COL Johnson, WHLO
- Mr. Bland West, OGC
LtCol Kempf, OASD

MR Delay due to OASD concurrence, Freed from 19-26 March & could not get LtCol Kempf to look at case despite fact we had only 2 days to work case. (OASD required 5 days for coordination but insists on action ops meeting their suspense) Very discouraging!

19 Mar 74 | MURCHY, Hilda | FILE NUMBER 3687 | U | 9263
 DATE | NAME | WH/SUSPENSE NO. | CLASSIFICATION

WHITE HOUSE CASE | OCSA CASE | SMA CASE | SUSPENSE

SUMMARY Requests that PVT Slovik be cleared.
 OCSA COB 22 Mar 74
 OSA
 OSD

ROUTING						A-Action		I-Information		ACTION	
<input type="checkbox"/>	DCSOPS	<input type="checkbox"/>	ACSFOR	<input type="checkbox"/>	COE	<input type="checkbox"/>	CMH	<input type="checkbox"/>	CLL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DIRECT REPLY WITH <u>2</u> COPY(IES) TO <u>DACS-XSW</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	DCSPER	<input type="checkbox"/>	ACSI	<input type="checkbox"/>	TSG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A TAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	MILPERCEN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CITE WHITE HOUSE CONTROL NUMBER
<input type="checkbox"/>	DCSLOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	ACSC-E	<input type="checkbox"/>	TJAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	TPMG	<input type="checkbox"/>	CUSAA	<input type="checkbox"/>	PREPARE (DRAFT) (FINAL) REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	COA	<input type="checkbox"/>	CORC	<input type="checkbox"/>	CNGB	<input type="checkbox"/>	CAR	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	PROVIDE ASSISTANCE AS REQUIRED _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	CRD	<input type="checkbox"/>	TIG	<input type="checkbox"/>	CINFO	<input type="checkbox"/>	CCH	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	COORDINATE WITH _____

REMARKS

APPROPRIATE ACTION

BY DIRECTION OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
 WALTER W. PLUMMER
 Colonel, GS
 Deputy Secretary of the General Staff
 (Staff Services)
 X77425/70740

AGENCY ROUTING

1. <input type="checkbox"/>	2. <input type="checkbox"/>	3. <input type="checkbox"/>	4. <input type="checkbox"/>	5. <input type="checkbox"/>
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DAAG-ZC *copy* *2 copy*

WHITE HOUSE CASE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OCSA CASE <input type="checkbox"/>	SMA CASE <input type="checkbox"/>
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SUSPENSE

SUMMARY Requests that PVT Slovik be cleared.

OCSA	COB 22 Mar 74
OSA	
OSD	

ROUTING		A-Action		I-Information	
DCSOPS	ACSFOR	COE		CMH	CLL
DCSPER	ACSI	TSG	A	TAG	MILPERCEN
DCSLOG	ACSC-E	TJAG		IPMG	CUSAA
COA	CORC	CNGB		CAR	
CRD	TIG	CINFO		CCH	

ACTION

DIRECT REPLY WITH 2 COPY(IES) TO DACS-XSW

CITE WHITE HOUSE CONTROL NUMBER

PREPARE (DRAFT) (FINAL) REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF _____

PROVIDE ASSISTANCE AS REQUIRED _____

COORDINATE WITH _____

REMARKS

APPROPRIATE ACTION

BY DIRECTION OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF

AGENCY ROUTING

1. <input type="checkbox"/>	2. <input type="checkbox"/>	3. <input type="checkbox"/>	4. <input type="checkbox"/>	5. <input type="checkbox"/>
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DAAG-2C *2 copy*

[Handwritten Signature]

51
MGMWSHT HSB
2-034473E087 03/28/74
ICS IPMBNGZ CSP
6166743193 MGM TDBN LAWRENCE MI 100 03-28 0535P EDT
ZIP 20500

WU Mailgram
western union



*Mil Ass't
to Pres!*

► PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON
WHITE HOUSE DC 20500

TO DOD - FOR DIRECT REPLY
DATE APR 1 1974

DEAR MR PRESIDENT PLEASE HELP THE WIDOW OF PVT EDDIE SOLVIK
FOR YEARS SHE HAS SUFFERED HEARTACHE AND PAIN BOTH PHYSICALLY
AND MENTALLY I THINK YOU ARE A FAIR AND JUST MAN LET THE WORLD
KNOW WHEN WE AMERICANS MAKE A MISTAKE WE THOSE SAME AMERICANS
CAN ADMIT IT BY DOING SOMETHING TO CORRECT IT, MAY GOD BLESS
NOW AND ALWAYS

DOTTIE MUNS 545 BANGOR ROAD LAWRENCE MICHIGAN 49064

17:35 EST

MGMWSHT HSB

A

WH 4401

06, 113



Michigan State Police
LANSING, MICHIGAN

100 02-28 0222P EDT

5-0311
100 02-28 0222P EDT

PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON
WHITE HOUSE DC 20500

TO DOB - FOR DIRECT REPLY
DATE APR 1 1974

DEAR MR PRESIDENT PLEASE HELP THE MIND OF MY EDDIE SOLVIX
FOR YEARS SHE HAS SUFFERED HEARTACHE AND PAIN BOTH PHYSICALLY
AND MENTALLY I THINK YOU ARE A FAIR AND JUST MAN LET THE WORLD
KNOW WHEN WE AMERICANS MAKE A MISTAKE WE THOSE SAME AMERICANS
CAN ADMIT IT BY DOING SOMETHING TO CORRECT IT, MAY GOD BLESS
NOW AND ALWAYS

DOTTIE MURPHY BANGOR ROAD LAWRENCE MICHIGAN 49084

17:22 EST
MGMHMT HSR

OFF SECY OF DEFENSE

2 APR 24 10 23

MH #101

RECEIVED

X

DAAG-TCZ-C Slovik, Eddie

5 APR 1974

Ms. Dottie Muns
545 Bangor Road
Lawrence, Michigan 49064

Dear Ms. Muns:

On behalf of President Nixon, I am replying to your letter of 28 March 1974 regarding assistance for the widow of 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 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.

Sincerely,

Verne L. Bowers

RBB
VERNE L. BOWERS
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

WH 4401

RETURN TO OMARC,
TAGO. *Wallace*

Jones A. Seever

DISPOSITION FORM

For use of this form, see AR 340-15; the proponent agency is The Adjutant General's Office.

REFERENCE OR OFFICE SYMBOL

JAAJ-CC (CM 290498)

SUBJECT

General Court-Martial Eddie Slovik, ASN 36896415

TO DAAG-ZC

FROM JAAJ-CC

DATE 28 Mar 74

CMT 1

CPT Anthony/pwc/756-1193

1. In accordance with your request (DF to DAJA, dated 20 Mar 74), the inclosed suggested reply is forwarded for your use in replying to letters concerning the trial and execution of Private Slovik.

2. Also inclosed, for your use, is a copy of the opinion of Board of Review No. 1, Branch Office of The Judge Advocate General, ETO, dated 6 Jan 45, and a copy of the 1st Indorsement thereto, dated 6 Jan 45, in Private Slovik's case.

FOR THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL:

3 Incl
as

Abraham Nemrow
ABRAHAM NEMROW
Clerk of Court

4



11137

James A. ...

DISPOSITION FORM

Form of this type is used to report the disposition of a case to the Adjutant General's Office.

TO: DAAG-3C	FROM: JAAL-3C
SYMBOL: JAAL-3C (M 290498)	SUBJECT: General Court-Martial Eddie Slovik, ASN 38896415

DATE: 28 Mar 74
 CMT: CPT Anthony/pw/736-1193

1. In accordance with your request (DF to DAJA, dated 20 Mar 74), the enclosed suggested reply is forwarded for your use in replying to letters concerning the trial and execution of Private Slovik.

2. Also enclosed for your use is a copy of the opinion of Board of Review No. 1, Branch Office of the Judge Advocate General, ETO, dated 6 Jan 65, and a copy of the last indorsement thereon, dated 6 Jan 65, in Private Slovik's case.

FOR THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL:

Abraham Hendon
 ABRAHAM HENDON
 Clerk of Court

3 Incl
as



C. Dalzell
3 Jappon zu In
Longwood, Fla 32750



Major General Verne L. Bauers
Dept of the Army
office of the adjutant General
Washington, D.C. 20310

26/1143

16



Refer
DAAG-2C Slovic, Eddie

3/28/74
3 Jayson Jee Jr
Longwood, Fla
32750

Dear General Bowers,

Received your letter
March 27, 1974. Thank you for answering
my letter but -

I still don't understand why
this man was executed, when
3,000 soldiers were tried for desertion
and 49 sentenced to death during
World War II? also the fact that
it was so near the end of the
war, what was the real
reason? I'd like these questions
answered.

What is the government going
to do with the men in Canada?
Let them go free, when so many
men were killed in Vietnam.
my husband had a good
suggestion - Let the men in
Canada decide their own pen-
ishment - I think that would

be interesting -

I would also like to know, why Mrs. Slovick can't be compensated for some of her grief and wrong doing.

Also is there any way to have her address, as I would like to let her know, there is someone that cares enough. I don't think we really think about caring for people any more. I'm just thankful my child wasn't forced to go to World War II. He might have been Eddie Slovick.

Sincerely

Mr. C. C. Dalzell, Jr
3 Joppa 3rd Lane
Longwood, Fla. 32750

suwA 3713

5 APR 1974

DAAG-TCZ-C Slovik, Eddie

Mrs. C. C. Dalzell, Jr.
3 Tappan Zee Lane
Longwood, Florida 32750

Dear Mrs. Dalzell:

This is in reply to your letter of 28 March 1974 regarding the courtmartial and execution of Private Eddie D. Slovik.

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, American forces in Belgium were suffering heavy casualties in the Battle of the Bulge.

When the Army Assistant Judge Advocate General transmitted the Board of Review's decision in this case to General Eisenhower, the then Commanding General, European Theater of Operations, for his consideration in determining whether to approve and order the sentence executed, the following points were made. Private Slovik had performed no front line duty and his conduct demonstrated a deliberate intent to avoid such hazardous service by obtaining incarceration in a safe place. The sentence adjudged was more severe than he had anticipated, but the imposition of a less severe punishment would only have accomplished the accused's purpose of obtaining freedom from those dangers which his comrades were required to face daily.

All of the above factors should be remembered when attempting to understand Private Slovik's case.

The current address of Mrs. Slovik is not of record in this office.

I trust that this provides the information you desire.

Sincerely,

Verne L. Bowers

RBB

VERNE L. BOWERS
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

RETURN TO OMARG,
TAGO *Dallace*

cc [unclear]
[unclear]

OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

MEMO / Apr 74

Jack Miller
JOMARC

Here is the first one
in response to your
reply!

J

OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

MEMO 1 Apr 74

Mr Jack Miller
OMARC

This is a good one! Seems to me, this involves a lot more than we have had to date on Slawik and it goes way beyond his case. What source should we tap for data re Polish descent etc?

Dick



EISENHOWER • USA



2c
U.S. POSTAGE

Major General Vera L. Bowers
Adjutant General
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

261203

Mrs. Robert J. Mutch, Sr.
10 Bell Avenue
Fords, New Jersey 08863

Mrs. Robert J. Mutch, Sr.
10 Bell Avenue
Fords, New Jersey 08863

Dear Sir,

After having watched the story of the execution of Private Eddie Slovic and reading statistics on the number of men in the Army that were tried for the same offense and found guilty and also sentenced to death, could you please explain to me why only one such sentence was carried out. Why only one man's sentence was actually carried through?

Thanking you in advance for your cooperation in answering my question.

Yours truly,

Beverly Mutch

26
DAAG-FA

3 APR 1974

Mrs. Robert J. Mutch, Sr.
10 Bell Avenue
Fords, New Jersey 08863

Dear Mrs. Mutch:

This is in reply to your letter regarding the court-martial and execution of Private Eddie D. Slovik.

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, American forces in Belgium were suffering heavy casualties in the Battle of the Bulge.

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All of the above factors should be remembered when attempting to understand Private Slovik's case.

I trust that this provides the information you desire.

Sincerely yours,

Verne L. Bowers

VERNE L. BOWERS
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

M/R Based on TJAG input.

DAAG-TCZ-C

SUBJECT: Court-Martial of Eddie Slovik, ASN 36896415

TO: JAAJ-CC

FROM: DAAG

DATE: 5 APR 1974

CMT NO 2

Mr. Miller/70922/be

1. Reference is made to DF from this office dated 20 March 1974 (Inclosure 1) which inclosed a letter to the President from Mr. and Mrs. Jim Leever. (Inclosure 2)
2. During coordination with the White House Liaison Office our reply based on input from your office, was not accepted because the specific points mentioned in the Leever's letter were not addressed from a legal standpoint. Colonel Plummer, White House Liaison Officer, directed this office to obtain legal consideration of these points.
3. Attached as Inclosure 3 is another case received by this office which requires coordination with the White House Liaison Officer and addresses specific points which no doubt will have to be answered.
4. In view of the above, request information which can be used in responding to the issues raised in these two letters.

FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL:

3 Incls
wd incl 1, 2, and 3
Added 3 incls
as

for *R. B. Belnap*
THOMAS E. MINIX
LTC, AGC
Executive Officer

R. B. Belnap
Special Adviser
To The Adjutant General



DAAG-TCC-C

SUBJECT: Court-Martial of Eddie Slovik, ASN 3886415

TO: JAAL-CC FROM: DAAG DATE: 5 APR 1974
Mr. Miller/10922/pe CMT NO 2

1. Reference is made to DT from this office dated 20 March 1974 (Inclosure 1) which inclosed a letter to the President from Mr. and Mrs. Jim Leaver. (Inclosure 2)

2. During coordination with the White House Liaison Office our reply based on input from your office, was not accepted because the specific points mentioned in the Leaver's letter were not addressed from a legal standpoint. Colonel Plummer, White House Liaison Officer, directed this office to obtain legal consideration of these points.

3. Attached as Inclosure 3 is another case received by this office which requires coordination with the White House Liaison Officer and addresses specific points which no doubt will have to be answered.

4. In view of the above, request information which can be used in responding to the issues raised in these two letters.

FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL:

H. E. Belang
Special Advisor
To The Adjutant General

THOMAS E. MINIX
LTC, AGC
Executive Officer

3 Incls
w/ Incls 1, 2, and 3
Added 3 Incls
as





Department of the Army
Office of the Adjutant General
Washington D.C. 203010

Atten: Major General Bowers

101174

Mrs. Robert J. Mutch, Sr.
10 Bell Avenue
Fords, New Jersey 08863

Mrs. Robert J. Mutch, Sr.
10 Bell Avenue
Fords, New Jersey 08863

April 7, 1974

Dear Major General Bowers,

I would like very much to thank you for the letter you sent in response to my inquiries on Private Slovik. You helped me to understand what was going on around Private Slovik at the time and so ultimately why the decision was made and carried out.

I sincerely want to thank you again and wish you and yours a very happy Easter.

Yours truly,

Benny Mutch

JAAJ-CC (CM 290498)

SUBJECT: General Court-Martial Eddie Slovik, ASN 36896415

TO: DAAG

FROM: JAAJ-CC

DATE: 9 Apr 74

GMT 3

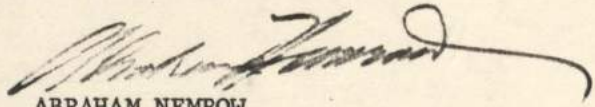
Mr Nemrow/pwc/756-1888

1. A review of the allied papers accompanying the record of trial in the subject case indicates limited information available to answer the general queries set forth in the inclosed letters.

2. It is our view that the questions pertaining to benefits to survivors of members of the Armed Forces should be answered by officials of the Veterans Administration. We note that the statute pertaining to NSLI payments provides: "No insurance shall be payable for death inflicted...for military...offenses."

3. The Pardon Attorney, Department of Justice, opined in a letter, dated 9 September 1960, that the President is without authority to grant a posthumous pardon, as delivery and acceptance are prerequisite to the validity of a pardon.

FOR THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL:



ABRAHAM NEMROW
Clerk of Court

3 Incl
nc

*The guidance in para 3 is still
valid according to Mr. Stephenson,
Deputy Pardon Attorney.*

*Thomas C. Lane
CPT, FA6C
DATA-CL
23 Nov 76*



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

**RETURN RECEIPT
REQUESTED**



(VIA-AIR-MAIL)

CERTIFIED
No. 503085
MAIL

MR. HOWARD S. CALLAWAY
SECRETARY OF THE U.S. ARMY
THE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

AIR MAIL

(VIA-AIR-MAIL)



Clair 1203

OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

MEMO 11 April 74

Mr Jack Miller
OWACE

Returned with thanks.

Gen Bowers took attached
to the DCSPER meeting
this morning to let
them be aware of responses
we are getting.

Dick

Certified Letter # (503085)

RECEIVED
ADMINISTRATIVE
GROUP

APR 22 12 35

OFFICE
SECRETARY OF

Mr. Howard S. Callaway
Secretary Of Th Army
The Pentagon
Washington D.C. 20310

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

April 17th, 1974

Dear Mr. Secretary,

On Wed. evening March 13th, 1974 I saw and watched completely the TV Program which of course showed in min-ute detail the Execution of Private Eddie D. Slovik which took place in France at the near close of World War Two on Jan. 31st, 1945. I must say Mr. Secretary that as the events unfolded regarding this matter, I became deeply concerned regarding it.

As you are probably well aware sir, during World War Two 49 men were signed up for execution, of the 49 men, Private Eddie D. Slovik was the only service man to have this sentence completely carried out as History records it etc.

My main concern right now is for Mrs. Antoinette Slovik. It is certain that we cannot undo what was done to Private Slovik himself way back there on Jan. 31st, 1945. However, Mrs. Slovik is still living as you may or may not be so aware of. I certinly feel (in my opinion) that she (Mrs. Slovik) deserves something from our Government in return for the years of suffering she has had to ensure over this terrible mistake. To me, this was and is a total disgrace to the then Army of 1945.

If I recall right Private Slovik was executed near St. Marie Aux Mines, France on Jan. 31st, 1945. This took place by a 12 man firing squad in deep snow at that time. I would like you to look up in old Army records there and see if you may be able to locate John Tankey who is still living and now 59 years of age, and let me have his last known address. I must also confess Mr. Secretary that I was quite angered at the time I saw this documentary and read articles about it in the papers. Therefore, I have waited until now, to try to write a sensible and understanding and intelligent message to you regarding this matter.

John Takney, (mentioned above) was one of Private Slovik's old Army buddies, hence, the reason for my wanting to contact him as well. What I am striving for regarding this matter simply is this, firstly, Mrs. Slovik lives near Detroit, Michigan now and is aged near 60 now, she also lives on only about \$160.00 a month Social Security payments, she has never re-married. These reports I have been able to derive from the newspapers. Now, I feel personally that the U.S. Army owes Mrs. Slovik the \$10,000 insurance money that she should have had way back when, as Private Slovik was never AWOL, also she should be given a pension, on a monthly basis of some sort for sure in my opinion.

As I well recall, it was approximately 7 years after the actual execution of Private Slovik until the U.S. Army at that time finally told Mrs. Slovik as to what had actually happened to her husband, Private Eddie D. Slovik! Prior to that time and immediately after the execution, Mrs. Slovik was told that her Husband died under strange circumstances. This indeed to me would appear to be a way to sidestep the matter at hand at that time and certainly is not really in keeping with the general policies of our way of life in this great Country of ours including of course the policies and regulations of the Military as well, here in this case, the United States Army of course.

I do not know, nor have never met or corresponded with Mrs. Slovik, and am totally hopping into this matter of my own valition, this matter has bothered me since I firstly became aware of it on March 13th, 1974. I beleive that a great injustice was done regarding this matter back then, and that now, Mrs. Slovik can be taken care of and should be taken care of by all means by our Government for the terrible misjustice that has nonethless been done to her over the years.

Surely I shall hope to hear from you personally as to what you can or will actually do regarding this matter. I fully intend to strive to see that Mrs. Slovik is given something from our Government for her suffering all these years. I am personally aquainted with one of the Governor's of one of our Great States here in the United States, however, prior to writing to him and having him to intercede directly with the President, I wanted to firstly write to you and see what you personally will do regarding this matter before proceeding further up the line etc.

So, if you will write me soon and let me kbow what your intentions will be regarding this matter, I shall greatly appreciate it Mr. Secretary. I realize fully that you have a terribly busy schedule, however, I feel certainly that this matter deserves the utmost attention in that Mrs. Slovik has certainly suffered enough in my view over the years for this rather tragic mistake that was made by the then U.S. Army of 1945. Awaiting your reply I remain,

cc/ Three Copies Complete.

Very Truly Yours,
Mr. Charles R. Newman
Mr. Charles R. Newman

CRN

Susan Smith
132 Via Undine
Newport Beach
California 92660



Richard M. Nixon
The President of the United States of America
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20501

1974 1974 1974 1974 1974 1974 1974
SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY

3031 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 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

001131

Ms. Susan Smith
132 Via Undine
Newport Beach
California 92660

April 17, 1974

Mr. Richard M. Nixon
President of the United States of America
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear Mr. President:

I have just finished reading the Execution of Private Slovik. As a member of the generation whose sons and brothers died in the Viet Nam conflict I was sicked by what I read. It seems to me that the United States Military Complex made a terrible mistake.

Although I realize there are many important issues confronting you at this time I pray you can do something to compensate Mrs. Slovik for her loss and suffering. At a time when we are attempting to heal deep wounds of this most recent war, perhaps we can also find time to close this scar on our past.

I understand the magnitude of the man's supposed transgression. I do however feel that there is no correctness in the logic that a man's inability to serve in the front lines makes him undeserving of the right to life. This is a problem which we confronted in the 1960's; men willing to serve in some sort of non-combative role yet refusing front-line duty. Would we have been correct to have shot every man in Southeast Asia or at home who refused to fire his rifle? I doubt that the American people would have stood for that, and it is quite obvious that had they known about the pending execution of Private Slovik that they would have not have condoned the Army's action in that matter.

In a time when the question of amnesty is becoming more controversial with each day, should not amnesty begin with Eddie D. Slovik? Perhaps we (the people of the United States) asked more of this man than he was capable of giving.

I hope we can now in retrospect acknowledge our mistake and atleast pay Mrs. Slovik both the insurance and the other benefits she so obviously deserves.

Sincerely:

Susan Smith

Susan Smith

TO DOD - FOR DIRECT REPLY
DATE APR 22 1974

WH 5472

A

Ms. Susan Smith
132 Via Undine
Newport Beach
California 92660

April 17, 1974

Mr. Richard M. Nixon
President of the United States of America
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear Mr. President:

I have just finished reading the Execution of Private Slovik. As a member of the generation whose sons and brothers died in the Viet Nam conflict I was shocked by what I read. It seems to me that the United States Military Complex made a terrible mistake.

Although I realize there are many important issues confronting you at this time I pray you can do something to compensate Mrs. Slovik for her loss and suffering. At a time when we are attempting to heal deep wounds of this most recent war, perhaps we can also find time to close this scar on our past.

I understand the magnitude of the man's supposed transgression. I do however feel that there is no correctness in the logic that a man's inability to serve in the front lines makes him undeserving of the right to life. This is a problem which we confronted in the 1960's; men willing to serve in some sort of non-combat role yet refusing front-line duty. Would we have been correct to have shot every man in Southeast Asia or at home who refused to fire his rifle? I doubt that the American people would have stood for that, and it is quite obvious that had they known about the pending execution of Private Slovik that they would have not have condoned the Army's action in that matter.

In a time when the question of amnesty is becoming more controversial with each day, would not amnesty begin with Eddie G. Slovick? Perhaps we (the people of the United States) asked more of this man than he was capable of giving.

I hope we can now in retrospect acknowledge our mistake and atleast pay Mrs. Slovik both the insurance and the other benefits she so obviously deserves.

Sincerely,

Susan Smith

U.S. DEPT. OF DEFENSE

24 APR 74 0 4 46

WH 5472

RECEIVED

TO DOD - FOR DIRECT REPLY
DATE APR 23 1974

[261,4]

26481 Via Gorrion
Mission Viejo, California 92675



THE PRESIDENT

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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MILITARY ASST: TO PRES: A

26481 Via Gorrion
Mission Viejo, California 92675
April 19, 1974

TO DOD - FOR APPROPRIATE HANDLING

DATE APR 24 1974

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Mr. President:

Hopefully, you are aware of the recent notoriety lended to the television film entitled: "THE EXECUTION OF PRIVATE SLOVIK." After the film was aired, I was compelled to read the book to ascertain similarity of fact. The book, in my opinion, more vividly details the atrocity committed against Mr. Slovik than the film.

I feel that it is imperative that some degree of restitution be afforded Mrs. Slovik. Certainly, she should receive Pvt. Slovik's insurance monies. This is such a small token when compared to the injustice done to both of them. Further, every effort should be made to have Eddie rest besides the other men who gave their lives for their country.

When apprised of the facts, it is inconceivable to me how one could judge the man a coward. He simply stated his limitations and made no secret of the fact that he would go to any means not to have to fight. Hasn't it been said that a wise man knows his limitations? Assuredly, he did not steal away in the dark of the night as is the way of a true coward. His sentence did not befit the crime!

Mr. Huie, the author of the book, states that this execution caused considerable embarrassment to many men in esteemed positions. However, too much time has passed and embarrassments should be asided so the entrinsic values our men died for can be upheld.

Purportedly the execution was done as a deterrent to future deserters, yet no one knew it [the execution] had taken place save for those few involved. Surely, this in itself is some admission of guilt on the powers that be.

Being a compansionate man, and one who also has been unjustly accused, I pray you will use the influence of your Office to take whatever measures necessary to see that some form of justice is carried forth.

Respectfully yours,

Patricia G. Smith

WH 5577

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CP 1123

Handwritten notes and stamps at the top right, including "MILITARY" and "APR 21 1974".

Mission Viejo, California 92682
26481 Via Gordon
April 19, 1974

NO BOD - FOR APPROPRIATE HANDLING

DATE APR 21 1974

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Mr. President:

Hopefully, you are aware of the recent notoriety landed to the television film entitled: "THE EXECUTION OF PRIVATE SLOVAK." After the film was aired, I was compelled to read the book to ascertain similarity of fact. The book, in my opinion, more vividly details the atrocity committed against Mr. Slovik than the film.

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Purportedly the execution was done as a deterrent to future deserters. Yet no one knew if [the execution] had taken place save for those few involved. Surely, this in itself is some admission of guilt on the power that be.

Being a compassionate man, and one who also has been unjustly accused, I pray you will use the influence of your Office to take whatever measures necessary to see that some form of justice is carried forth.

Respectfully yours,

Robert A. Smith

DEF SECY OF DEFENSE
26 APR 24 0 30
WH 5211
RECEIVED

A

DAAG-TCZ-C Slovik, Eddie D.
(19 Apr 74)

29 APR 1974

Ms. Patricia G. Smith
26481 Via Gorrion
Mission Viejo, CA 92675

Dear Ms. Smith:

On behalf of President Nixon, I am replying to your letter of 19 April 1974 regarding benefits for the widow of 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.

Sincerely,

Verne L. Bowers

RJB
VERNE L. BOWERS
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

cc DACS-XSW (2)
WH Case 5577

RETURN TO OMARC,
TAGO *Dallas*



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

24 APR 1974

Honorable Lucien N. Nedzi
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Nedzi:

This is in further reply to your letters to the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Army regarding the court-martial and execution of Private 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.

CF:
SGS

24 APR 1974

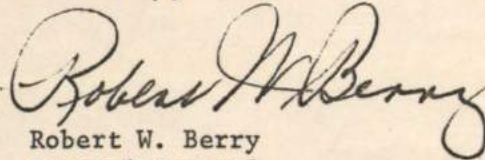
Honorable Lucien N. Nedzi

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. Accordingly, I would recommend that you refer your question on life insurance to the Administrator of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Administration, Washington, D. C. 20420.

I hope this information, which represents the position of the Department of the Army now, as well as during the 1950's, will be useful to you.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Berry
General Counsel

DAAG-TCZ-C Slovik, Eddie D.
(17 Apr 74)

26 APR 1974

Ms. Susan Smith
132 Via Undine
Newport Beach, CA 92660

Dear Ms. Smith:

On behalf of President Nixon, I am replying to your letter of 17 April 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.

Sincerely,

Verne L. Bowers

VERNE L. BOWERS
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

WH 5472

Return to OMARC
Wallace

DAAG-TCZ-C Slovik, Eddie D.
(17 Apr 74)

29 APR 1974

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

Dear Mr. Newman:

This is in reference to your letter of 17 April 1974 to the Secretary of the Army regarding Private Eddie D. Slovik, which has been referred to me for reply.

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. The Veterans Administration is the agency designated to administer insurance claims for payment on National Service Life Insurance.

The Freedom of Information Act, Title 5, United States Code, Section 552 and Department of Defense Instruction 1344.11, Preservation of Personal Privacy of Members of the Armed Forces, govern policies and procedures for release or withholding, outside the Department of the Army, of information contained in the Army records. Among kinds of information that may not be released without the individual's written consent is information of a personal nature. Information specifically concerning release of addresses would be governed by such policy.

Procedures are in effect which provide that correspondence from a third party may be forwarded to the latest address of record of former members of the Army. Should the third party desire such service, he should forward his request with identifying data and his letter in a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Commander, U. S. Army Reserve Components Personnel and Administration Center, 9700 Page Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63132 Attention: AGUZ-SID-S. When received, an attempt will be made to locate the former service members records. Upon identification, the correspondence will then be forwarded to the former service member for reply at his discretion.

Sincerely,

Vern L. Bowers

VERNE L. BOWERS
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

RETURN TO OMARC
TAGO Wallace

AMERICAN POLISH FEDERATION

2925 W. LOGAN BLVD.
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60647

RECEIVED
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT
GROUP
MAR 29 12 53 PM '74
OFFICE
SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

March 25, 1974

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Secretary

Honorable Howard H. Calloway
Secretary of the Army
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
N. W. Washington, D. C., 20500

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Last week's televising of NBC's film presentation of "The Execution of Pvt. Slovik", based on a book of the same name by William Bradford Huie, revived many unanswered, troublesome questions about this sad historical incident.

The book professes to be a documentary based, to a large extent, on the records of the U. S. Army. When it was published twenty years ago, we wrote to the then Secretary of the Army, the Honorable Robert T. Stevens, for an official report of the incident, but received none.

Since public commentaries on the film and the book underscore the Polish racial background of the subject, Americans of Polish descent have more than a passing interest in the matter.

To answer unwarranted aspersions, we should like to have the Army's official account of the execution of Pvt. Eddie D. Slovik.

We should also be pleased to know:

- 1) The number or percentage of Americans of Polish descent who have served in the U. S. Army during the First and Second World War.
- 2) The number of U. S. Army deserters during that period, and the number who were executed.
- 3) The number or percentage of those Americans of Polish descent who died in action, those who had been wounded in action, and those who had received

OSA 201-SLOVICK, EDWARD

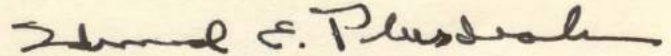
3/25/74

Fw: 3/14/74

an honorable discharge.

Awaiting your kind consideration of this request, I remain

Yours very truly,



Edward E. Plusdrak
President

EEP:mda

P.S. Please address me at:
2711 West Logan Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois, 60647

RECEIVED
JAN 14 1964
DEPT. OF JUSTICE
CHIEF OF BUREAU

RECEIVED
29 MAR 74 14 36
OFFICE, CHIEF OF STAFF
UNITED STATES ARMY

Служба: Инженерная служба
Заместитель начальника
В.С. Вязовский адрес по ст:

В.С. Вязовский

Вязовский
Владимир В. Вязовский

Вязовский В. В.

Холмак Анна Владимировна

Холмак

Уважаемый Александр Владимирович, в связи с тем, что...

с уважением,
Анна Владимировна Холмак