

[5.03]

KC

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MAY 4 12 49 PM '54
TAG EXEC MAIL CEN
ARMY

DISPATCHED

AGRC-SC 201 Slovik, Eddie
36 896 415 (3 May 54)

10 MAY 1954

Honorable Irving M. Ives
United States Senate

Dear Senator Ives:

I am referring to your recent expression of interest in behalf of Mr. Vincent Zebatto, 18 Monterey Place, Yonkers, New York, who communicated with you concerning the case of the late Eddie Slovik, service number 36 896 415.

This matter is receiving attention and further reply will be made at the earliest practicable date.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN A. KLEIN

JOHN A. KLEIN *CBS*
Major General, USA
Acting The Adjutant General *JK*

286
COPY FURNISHED:

Chief, Legislative Liaison, OCS
ATTN: Col, F. P. Carberry, Inf

(Ref Referral Slip CLL 201 Slovik
Pvt Eddie (28 Apr 54)



FILE IN MPRC
Burk/eg-Eorr Sec

44-30-00 201 Slovik,
Eddie (21 Apr 54)
Honorable Irving M. Ives

36896425

Typed: 17 May 54

pbw

I hope that the above information will assist you in replying to your constituent.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN A. KLEIN

2 Inclosures

- 1. Ltr 21 Apr 54
fr Vincent Zebatto
- 2. Cy ltr 21 Apr 54
fr Vincent Zebatto

JOHN A. KLEIN
Major General, USA
Acting The Adjutant General

Handwritten initials

COPY FOR: GLL re Referral Slip, 201 SLOVIK, Pvt Eddie (28 Apr 54)
3 May 54, subj: Execution of Deserters

M/R: Case discussed extensively with Lt Davis, JAG, Rm 3B336 and Mr. Walter, GI, Rm 2C740, both coordinated in reply. Based on Summary Sheet directed by Referral Slip, 4 May 54, fr COFS directing preparation of a draft reply for signature in the White House to a ltr fr Mrs. Antoinette Slovik, Based on para hb, AR 35-1030, which is based on Compt Gen's decisions as follows: 8 Comp Gen 234; 5 Comp Gen 194; 23 Comp Gen 44; 24 Co p Gen 880. Ref furn by Mr. Wickham, Pay Br., COFF, x71631, 10 May 54 to Mr. Acker.

SCREENED

Mrs. Crickenberger/pw



Compared w/ Carol Haller

MPRC

FILE IN
MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS SECTION
COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH

Init *pbw* Date *17 May 54*
Operations Br, TAGO

Typed: 17 May 51

248844

COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH
OPERATIONS SECTION
MAY 17 1951

I hope that the above information will assist you in resolving
your question.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN A. KLEIN

JOHN A. KLEIN
Major General, USA
Director, Operations Section
Communications Branch
Army Signal Corps

Enclosures

1. Ltr 21 Apr 51
fr Vincent Sabatto
2. Cv Ltr 21 Apr 51
fr Vincent Sabatto

COPY FOR: GIL re Referral Slip, 201 SLOVAK, Pvt Eddie (28 Apr 51)
1 May 51, subject: Execution of Orders

M/R: Case discussed extensively with Le Davis, JAG, RA8336 and Mr. Walter, of RA 20710, both coordinated in reply. Based on summary sheet directed by Referral Slip, 1 May 51, for COMS directing preparation of a draft reply for signature in the White House to a Ltr fr Mrs. Antoinette Slovik, Based on para 10, AR 37-1030, which is based on Compt Gen's decision as follows: 8 Comp Gen 231; 5 Comp Gen 191; 23 Comp Gen 11; 21 Comp Gen 880. Referral by Mr. Wickham, Pay Br., COMS, 21021, 10 May 51 to Mr. Baker.

Mrs. Grickeberger/pm



FILE IN MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS SECTION COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH

Date _____
Operations Br., TAGO

FORWARDED

Communications Branch
Operations Section

AGSO-CC 201 Slovik,
Eddie (21 Apr 54)

18 MAY 1954

Honorable Irving M. Ives
United States Senate

Dear Senator Ives:

This is in further reply to your recent expression of personal interest in behalf of Mr. Vincent Zebatto, 18 Monterey Place, Yonkers, New York, which was addressed to the Chief of Legislative Liaison.

When a member of the Army dies, a Final Statement is furnished the General Accounting Office by the Army, setting forth data pertinent to the deceased's pay account, for determination and payment of any amounts due. However, the General Accounting Office will not voluntarily process the payment of any amounts due deceased Army personnel until a claim has been submitted by the appropriate person.

At the time of the Slovik case all pay and allowances due, at the date of desertion were forfeited by that act. It appears that under the laws, regulations, and decisions then in effect, a returned deserter did accrue pay and allowances from the time of his return to military control until the time of final disposition of the case. However, in view of the certain language in recent decision of the Comptroller General (31 Comp. Gen. 645), the issue is in doubt. As stated above, final determination rests with the General Accounting Office as to any amounts due.

The Veterans' Administration is the agency designated to administer insurance claims for payments on National Service Life Insurance. Therefore, any legislation introduced in behalf of Private Eddie Slovik's widow would have to be sponsored by that agency or initiated by the Congress. However, it is noted that under the provisions of Public Law 601, 76th Congress, dated October 1940 (U.S.C. 38:612), any person guilty of mutiny, treason, spying, or desertion, or who, because of conscientious objections, refuses to perform service in the land or naval forces of the United States or refuses to wear the uniform of such force, shall forfeit all rights to insurance.

September 8, 1958

290498

290498

Department of Defense
Military Division

Re: SLOVAK, Eddie D.
#36896415

I am a writer and am interested in the execution of Pvt. Eddie D. Slovik. I would like to read all that I can find on this matter and have assembled quite a bit of information. I would appreciate the below listed information and also supplemental information if you are able to supply me. I would also like to obtain appropriate photographs.

NAME: SLOVAK, Eddie D.
A.S. #36896415

Birthplace: Detroit, Michigan (Hamtramck)

Birthdate: 18 FEBRUARY 1920 -

Date of Induction: 31 JANUARY 1944 -

Date of Execution: 31 JANUARY 1945 -

Marital status: Married, Antoinette ^{w.} Slovik, (nee Wisniewski)

Place of Induction: ^{Detroit Mich, record for 24 Jan 44} Ft. Sheridan, Illinois 24 Jan 44

Basic training at: Camp Roberts, Texas (near Mineral Wells) -

Date of departure for Europe: 7 AUGUST 1944 -

Place of Departure: New Jersey ^{GN-900(a)-A}

Name of Ship: "Aquitania" -

Outfit: 109th Infantry Regiment, 28th Division -

Arrival: ^{Sto} Scotland, 14 AUGUST 1944 -

Arrival in Normandy: ^{France} 26 AUGUST 1944

Assignment: "C" Company, 109th Infantry ^{24 Aug 44}

Date of "First Desertion": About 9 OCTOBER 1944
Canadian Outfit for ^{separated from own outfit}
28th division headquarters
Belgium; 5 OCTOBER 1944

Chief, Finance

out 25 Aug 44

4 Oct

authorized to ans

File

CERTIFIED

P31 2683817

MAIL

1. Eddie D. Slovik, 36 896 415
2. Born at Detroit, Michigan
3. Date of birth 18 February 1920
4. Inducted 3 January 1944
5. Executed 31 January 1945
6. Name of wife Antoinette W. Slovik (maiden name not of record)
7. Inducted at Detroit, Michigan, transferred to ERC, reported for active duty 24 January 1944 at Fort Sheridan, Illinois
8. Completed basic training at Camp Wolters, Texas
9. Left United States 7 August 1944
10. Departed from New York Port of Embarkation
11. Name of ship USS Aquitania
12. Casual shipment no. GN-900 (a)--- A
13. Arrived in European Theater 14 August 1944 (place of arrival not shown)
14. Arrived in France 18 August 1944
15. Assigned to Company G, 109th Infantry Regiment, 28th Infantry Division
20 August 1944
16. Deserted 25 August 1944 at Elbeuf, France. Delivered by Canadian authorities to American military police 4 October 1944.
17. Deserted 8 October 1944 at Rocherath, Belgium
18. Returned to military control 9 October 1944
19. Transferred to Regimental Guardhouse 12 October 1944 and to Division Stockade 26 October 1944
20. Division Judge Advocate was Lieutenant Colonel Henry J. Sommer, 029 055 from Pennsylvania (name of town not available)

21. Tried by General Court Martial 11 November 1944
22. Charged with violation of 58th Article of War with two specifications.
See items 16 and 17.
23. Name of presiding officer not of record
24. Found guilty of both specifications and of the charge.
25. Sentenced to be dishonorably discharged from the service, to forfeit all pay and allowances due or to become due, and to be shot to death with musketry.
26. Only so much of sentence as imposed execution by musketry approved by reviewing authority, Major General Norman D. Cota.
27. Sentence confirmed by General Eisenhower.
28. Execution at Ste. Marie aux Mines, (Vosges) France.
29. Executed 31 January 1945
30. Provost Marshal Major William Fellman
31. Name of officer in charge of firing squad not of record
32. Site: 86 Rue de General Dourgeois
33. Catholic Chaplain: Fr. Carl Patrick Cummings
34. Attending physician: Dr. Rougelot
35. 2,864 Army personnel were tried for desertion with intent to avoid hazardous duty during the period from 1 January 1942 to 30 June 1948.

AGPO-DI 201 Slovik,
Eddie D., 38 896 415 (27 Jul 60) Eddie D. Slovik, 38 896 415

TJAG
Attn: C-M Records Branch

TAG

8 August 1960
Mr. Chvala/ap/53330

1. Forwarded as a matter pertaining to your office.
2. Writer has not been advised of this reference.

FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL:

CR
CHARLES A. ROWAN

2 Incl

1. Post Card dtd 27 Jul 60
addr to the President
2. Ltr dtd 1 Aug 60 addr
to TAG

CHARLES A. ROWAN
Colonel, AGC
Acting Chief, Separations Branch, TAGO

MR:

Slovik was executed by a firing
squad in France in 1944 for desertion.
Allegedly only member of Army executed
by shooting since Revolutionary War.
Prior corres fm Mr. Menn re pay handled
by Operations Br, TAGO Jul 59.
Copy this DF & incl furn: Legislative &
Precedent Br, TAGO, Precedent & Public Info
Sec.

*Case accepted by Miss Minogue,
C-M Rec Br, SAB, 56865, for
further routing within SAB.*

REVIEW SHEET BR TAGO	
<input type="checkbox"/>	CH
<input type="checkbox"/>	ADM O
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SEC
<input type="checkbox"/>	UNIT
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~~SECRET~~ PERMANENT

File in Army Record Center
Date 12 Aug 60
Initials AP Em No. 10923
Initial ap Date 12 Aug 60

PERMANENT

RETURN TO: Ann
10923
IDENTITY & MIL. PRIS. UNIT
DISCIPLINARY SECTION
SEPARATIONS BRANCH

Thomas W. King
1016 maine
Long Beach, Cal. 90813



OFFICE OF PRESIDENT
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

3
Dear Mr. President

Defense
I've just finished a very moving
book about a soldier in the Second
World War. The title of the book is:

THE EXECUTION OF PRIVATE SLOVICK.
The author William Bradford Huie.
Dell Publishing Co. Inc.

750 Third ave.

New York, New York 10017

(A)

This is a real story. The man was
shot by firing squad. However he was not
a criminal. In fact his only crime was
omission. He didn't want to kill anyone,
guns scared him, he was highly nervous.
From time of his induction he was very
disturbed and wanted out especially in
duty that would involve him in mortal
combat.

To get to the point Sir his widow
~~now~~ should have a right to his insurance
and back pay as he was executed only as
an example to others who might follow his
course. The other 48 men during that
time who were sentenced to death
never were executed and are probably still

living with home, families, car,
recreation all the things Pvt. Slovick
wanted and who was singled out
to make an example and of course as you
can see was denied. It is not my purpose
to try to blacken anyone's military career
but I hope and sincerely wish that there
something you can do to help her receive
her rightful benefits. The author of this
book has been pretty close to this case
for years and I'm sure he could supply you
with needed information. Maybe our
country can pay back in some measure
to his widow the rightful due she has
coming and if possible you could help
to clear this man's name and memory of
especially for all of us who believe in human
dignity and love of fellow man.

Sir I feel we owe him and if
you do ~~it~~ please don't hesitate do what
you can. Help us show this man's widow and
his memory love and understanding which
is so rare and yet I pray can still be
found in the hearts of our people and
our leaders sincerely Thomas W. King

FOR REPLY

T. THOMAS KING

1016 MAINE

LONG BEACH, CAL. 90813

RECEIVED

2 FEB 12 10 01

OFF. SECY OF DEFENSE

AGUZ-SAD-SA Slovik, Eddie D.
36 896 415

16 FEB 1972

Mr. Thomas King
1016 Maine
Long Beach, CA 90813

Dear Mr. King:

This is in further reference to your letter to President Nixon regarding pension and other benefits for the widow of Private Slovik.

In compliance with the Department of the Army policy, the widow of Private Slovik was informed of his pay status at death, and the reasons for the decisions made regarding government insurance and pension.

I appreciate your interest in this matter and I regret that I am unable to be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Verne L. Bowers

VERNE L. BOWERS
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

CF
OCSA
WH #1374

ems

RTN TO RCPAC
Lewis/pf/SAD-SA

Schmitt

DAAG-ZC
(25 Jan 72)

Mr. Thomas W. King
1016 Maine Avenue
Long Beach, California 90813

Dear Mr. King:

On behalf of President Nixon, I am replying to your letter of 25 January 1972 regarding pension and other benefits for the widow of Private Slovik.

Information necessary to reply to your inquiry is being obtained. As soon as it is available, I will write you again. Should there be an appreciable delay, I shall keep you informed.

Sincerely,

VERNE L. BOWERS
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

CF: OCSA (2) WH 1374

✓ RCPAC w/incoming ltr

ECD: 11 Feb 72

DISPOSITION FORM

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

REFERENCE OR OFFICE SYMBOL

AGUZ-SAD-SA

SUBJECT

Request from Mr. King to President Nixon Regarding Pension and Other Benefits for the Widow of Private Eddie D. Slovik

TO			SIGNATURE	FROM	DATE	CMT 1
	XO, RCPAC	2	Signature	Action Officer <u>Lewis</u>	Suspense Date: 14 Feb 72	
	DCO, RCPAC		Approval	Telephone No. <u>7566</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> White House	<input type="checkbox"/> Congr
	CG, RCPAC		Information		<input type="checkbox"/> Complaint	<input type="checkbox"/> DOD
2	DAAG-ZA					
1	DAAG-ZC	1	Routing			

1. PURPOSE: To respond to Mr. King.

2. DISCUSSION:

a. Mr. King wrote to President Nixon regarding pension and benefits for the widow of Private Slovik (TAB B).

b. Records show that Private Slovik was executed by a firing squad in France in 1945 for desertion. He is allegedly the only member of the Army, executed by shooting since the Revolutionary War.

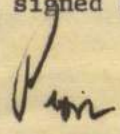
c. Mr. King is informed that in compliance with the Department of the Army policy, the widow was informed of her husband's pay status at time of his death and the reasons for the decisions made regarding government insurance and pension.

3. RECOMMENDATION: Letter to Mr. King be signed by TAG (TAB A).

2 Incl

TAB A - Reply to Mr. King

TAB B - Request from Mr. King


LOUIS J. PROST

Brigadier General, USA

Commanding

AGUZ O/P 57 (Sep 71)

20 D
B

Military

March 13, 1974

Vice-President Gerald Ford
Washington, D.C.

Judson W. Moore, Jr.
Barrington College
Barrington, R.I. 02806

Dear Sir:

I have just seen the NBC documentary, "The Execution of Eddie Slovik". It deeply saddened me and made me ashamed that such a thing could happen in our society as apparently did.

My main purpose in writing you is not to brood over the dead and/or persons having anything to do with his execution. However, his wife is still living and she has been reportedly denied benefits because of his court-martial. Could you use the power of your office to perhaps look into any discrepancies that could have arisen? Also, maybe the Department of Defense might realize they have made a mistake, and perhaps clear the record. Please attempt to do this while she is still alive.

Sincerely,

Judson W. Moore, Jr.



WH 4149

Jad-200

[8.02

Mil. 1242

March 13, 1974

Vice-President Gerald Ford
Washington, D.C.

Ludon W. Moore, Jr.
Barrington College
Barrington, R.I. 02806

Dear Sir:

I have just seen the NBC documentary, "The Execution of Eddie Slovik". It deeply saddened me and made me ashamed that such a thing could happen in our society as apparently did.

My main purpose in writing you is not to prod over the head and/or persons having anything to do with his execution. However, his wife is still living and she has been reportedly denied benefits because of his court-martial. Could you use the power of your office to perhaps look into any discrepancies that could have arisen? Also, maybe the Department of Defense might realize they have made a mistake, and perhaps clear the record. Please attempt to do this while she is still alive.

Sincerely,

Ludon W. Moore, Jr.



OFF SECY OF DEFENSE

20 MAR 74 10 33

RECEIVED

Job-900

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

Mr. Judson W. Moore, Jr.
Barrington College
Barrington, Rhode Island 02806

Dear Mr. Moore:

On behalf of Vice President Ford, I am replying to your letter of 13 March 1974 regarding the widow of Private Eddie Slovik.

Information necessary to reply to your inquiry is being obtained. As soon as it is available, I will write you again. Should there be an appreciable delay, I shall keep you informed.

Sincerely,

VERNE L. BOWERS
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

cc DACS-XSW (2)
WH Case 4149
EDC 10 Apr 74 (DOD #200)

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

8 APR 1974

Mr. Judson W. Moore, Jr.
Barrington College
Barrington, Rhode Island 02806

Dear Mr. Moore:

On behalf of Vice President Ford, I am replying to your letter of 13 March 1974 regarding the widow of Private Eddie Slovik.

Information necessary to reply to your inquiry is being obtained. As soon as it is available, I will write you again. Should there be an appreciable delay, I shall keep you informed.

Sincerely,

Vern L. Bowers

VERNE L. BOWERS
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General *JB*

cc DACS-XSW (2)
WH Case 4149
EDC 10 Apr 74 (DOD #200)

Mr Usual Slovik inquiry

JB

RETURN TO OMARC,
TAGO

12 APR 1974

Mr. Jackson W. Moore, Jr.
Barrington College
Barrington, Rhode Island 02806

Dear Mr. Moore:

This is in further reply to your letter to Vice President Ford regarding Private Eddie Slovik and Mrs. Slovik.

I appreciate your concern for the welfare of Mrs. Slovik, however, the nature of the offense for which her husband was convicted precludes the granting of benefits or assistance by the Department of the Army. The granting of benefits administered by other agencies of the Federal Government is determined by the specific agencies involved and the Department of the Army's responsibility in such matters is to furnish information from Army records which may be used as a basis for determining the granting or denial of benefits by these agencies.

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

DAAG-TCZ-C

Mr. Jackson W. Moore, Jr.

accused's purpose of obtaining freedom from those dangers which his comrades were required to face daily.

I trust the above information will help you understand the Department of the Army's position in this matter.

Sincerely,

Verne L. Bowers

VERNE L. BOWERS
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

RBB

cc DACS-XSW (2)
WH Case

MIA report furnished by TDB 6 who feels because of lack of specific information to answer his rather general thoughts a response as above is appropriate.

(This type of response has been used on similar White House cases).

Qu

Coord WHLO, LTC Johnson 4/11/74

" OSD, LTC Kempf, 4/12/74

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MIL ASST
TO ~~TRIS~~

TO DOD - FOR APPROPRIATE HANDLING

DATE MAR 15 1974

The White House
Washington



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WHB017(2304)(2-042767E072)PD 03/13/74 2304

1974 MAR 13 PM 10 58

5 ICS IPMBNGZ CSP

6 7136813816 TDBN HOUSTON TX 20 03-13 1104P EDT

8 PMS PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON

9 WHITE HOUSE DC

10 11 CAN YOU DO ANYTHING FOR PRIVATE SLOVIK'S WIDOW PLEASE CONFIRM

12 BACK TO ME

13 14 RICHARD G BEIL SR 2208 WEST 34 APT 30 HOUSTON TX

15 NNNN

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WH 3551

FORM 0805 PRINTED BY THE STANDARD REGISTER COMPANY, U. S. A.

15/73

RECEIVED FOR AIR MAIL HANDLING

MAR 1 1974

MILITARY MAIL

15 MAR 74 10 54

WH017(2304) (2-00272602) 02-03-73 1104P EDT

ICS IPMANGZ CSR

713681816 TBN HOUSTON TX 28 03-13 1104P EDT

PMS PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON

WHITE HOUSE DC

CAN YOU DO ANYTHING FOR PRIVATE SLOVAK'S WIDOWPLEASE CONFIRM

BACK TO ME

RICHARD G BELL SR 2208 WEST 34 APT 38 HOUSTON TX

NNNN

WH 3551

Military
to the President

Hon. Richard M. Nixon, Pres.
1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVE.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

MAR. 13, 1974

TO DOD - FOR APPROPRIATE HANDLING
DATE MAR 18 1974

DEAR President Nixon,

After reading the book & seeing the movie, "The Execution of Private Slovik," I can't fully express my shock, horror & disgust! To think of such reulision perpetrated under the guise of deterrence upon a fellow American & human being, makes one hang his head in shame. This is indeed a blot upon civilized Americans for all time.

Honestly, President Nixon, this makes one hate the military and all it stands for! I spent 6 yrs. in the Armed Forces but never again! My children will never serve as "Cannon Fodder" for some self-serving militarist & Hon Gen. Eisenhower could allow such an atrocity shows the moral fiber he was made from. To think he was President!

2.

How about the possibility
you helping get the Government
to pay Private Slovik's Life Insurance
Policy to his widow? I'm sure
out of \$ 80 Billion DOLLARS the
Dept. of Defense could find \$10,000.⁰⁰
If we can talk of amnesty for
Draft Dodgers then this is the ver
least America can do for this
poor soul!

Sincerely

Mr. / Mrs. W. R. Kreiser
Mr + Mrs. David R. Kreiser
Mrs. Arnold R. Kreiser
419 E. Pine Street
Lebanon, PA. 17042



Department of Defense
Washington, D. C.

[6110]

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AND P
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March 13, 1974

Dear Sir,

I just watched "The Execution of Private Slovik" and I would like to know why he was executed, and what happened to the other 49 men that were sentenced to death because of desertion? Thank You.

Mrs Robert Wheeler
7309 F Illinois Dr.
Plattsburg AFB
New York 12903

DAAG-ZA

3 APR 1974

Mrs. Robert Wheeler
7309F Illinois Drive
Plattsburg Air Force Base
Plattsburg, NY 12903

Dear Mrs. Wheeler:

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.

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.

I trust that this provides the information you desire.

Sincerely yours,

Verne L. Bowers

VERNE L. BOWERS
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

Loving
R.R. 2
Normal, Ill.
61761



President
Richard M. Nixon
The White House
1200 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C.

REPLY REQUESTED!

16193

1974

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

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2
MIL. ASST. TO
PRES

A

TO DOD - FOR APPROPRIATE HANDLING
DATE MAR 18 1974

March 13, 1974

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in regard to the late Private Eddie Slovak. Number one, why wasn't his wife, Antoinette Slovak, told about her husband's execution for nine years? Just exactly why was he executed? Was ^{it} for what he did, or for what he believed in? Why was he the only one shot? Because he was polish or what? I expect a reply within ten days. Is the president going to do something about it? Of course you probably don't ^{have} any answers to my questions. You know, the records were on tape and they are probably missing or erased. Expect to hear from you within ten days, as said before. Please be sure to read the newspaper clipping enclosed. The whole damn article.

Thank You,
Gregory C. Loring
R.R. 2 (Barnes)
Normal, Illinois 61761

A

RECEIVED
MAR 18 1974

WH 3675
RECEIVED

Please read carefully. Please don't miss a word. Do not fold, spindle, or mutilate

Pantagraph C-7

Bloomington-Normal, Ill.

Wed., Mar. 13, 1974

'Nothing but hell' for Eddie Slovik's widow

DETROIT (AP) — The widow of the only American soldier shot for desertion since the Civil War is living here under an assumed name and trying to forget, a Detroit newspaper reports.

Antoinette Slovik, wife of Pvt. Eddie Slovik, who was executed during World War II, had been presumed dead for nearly a decade by all who knew her, except a few close relatives. She and Slovik had no children.

But obscurity may become more difficult for Mrs. Slovik, now 60.

NBC Television is scheduled to air a movie-length documentary tonight on the life of Eddie Slovik, whose execution was kept secret from even the Detroit GI's wife for nine years.

Based on a book by William Bradford Huie, the movie traces Slovik's path to an anonymous grave in France reserved for GIs convicted of violent crimes.

"If it hadn't been for the incident (Slovik's execution), my life would have been different," Mrs. Slovik told the

Detroit News in a copyrighted story. "But since then, it's been nothing but hell."

"They took a sick man," she said of Eddie, who had been granted a deferment because of a prison record but was then reclassified and drafted.

"He had bad legs and really wasn't fit for combat," she said.

An Army buddy, John Tankey of Dearborn Heights, recalled that in the fall of 1944 he and Slovik were lost in France after a German machine gunnest wiped out nine of 12 men in their squad.

After 45 days with a Canadian unit, they finally caught up with their unit in Elsenborn, Belgium.

Tankey recalled: "I reported to a captain first and was in there about 45 minutes. He told me, 'You're a rifleman now, but you're going to be a machine gunner.'"

"Then Eddie went in. He was in there a long time and soon I could here

snouting coming through the door.

"Eddie came out real fast, brushing by me and he didn't have his rifle. The captain told me, 'You'd better stop your buddy. He's going to get into a lot of trouble.'"

"I asked Eddie, what are you doing? But he jerked his arm away from me and said, 'John, leave me alone. I know what I'm doing.' That was the last time I saw him, walking down a hill."

That was Oct. 8, 1944. The next day Slovik gave himself up and signed a paper saying he refused to carry a rifle.

Slovik was sentenced to death by an Army court-martial, and two days before Christmas of that year, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the execution order. The order was carried out on Jan. 31,

1945.

Both Mrs. Slovik and Tankey told the News they did not hear of the execution until Huie contacted her while researching the Slovik case.

"Huie and I had to go to Washington to get Eddie's file released," said Mrs. Slovik, who lives on a \$160-a-month

Social Security pension. "They treated us like dirt."

"I tried to see Eisenhower, who was then president, but he refused to answer my letter and see me."

"Eddie wasn't a coward. He just hated violence. They never should have put him in a combat role."



Detroit (AP)— Eddie Slovik, the only American soldier shot for desertion in World War II, is shown with his wife, Antoinette, left, on their wedding day in 1942. Mrs. Slovik, right, now 60-years-old, who didn't know of her husband's execution for nine years, lives alone in Detroit trying to forget the past. NBC television is scheduled to air a movie-length documentary tonight on the life of Eddie Slovik.

Tries to forget

DAAG-ZC

Mr. Gregory C. Loving
R.R. 2 (Barnes)
Normal, Illinois 61761

Dear Mr. Loving:

On behalf of President Nixon, I am replying to your letter of 13 March 1974 regarding Private Eddie Slovik.

Information necessary to reply to your inquiry is being obtained. As soon as it is available, I will write you again. Should there be an appreciable delay, I shall keep you informed.

Sincerely,

VERNE L. BOWERS
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

DAAG-ZC

21 MAR 1974

Mr. Gregory C. Loving
R.R. 2 (Barnes)
Normal, Illinois 61761

Dear Mr. Loving:

On behalf of President Nixon, I am replying to your letter of 13 March 1974 regarding Private Eddie Slovik.

Information necessary to reply to your inquiry is being obtained. As soon as it is available, I will write you again. Should there be an appreciable delay, I shall keep you informed.

Sincerely,

Vernon L. Bowers

CF:
DACS-XSW(2)
WH Case 3675
EDC 10 Apr 74

VERNE L. BOWERS
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

RDD

MR wants to know why that? Why he was only one,
separate action on similar cases being sent to
TJAG for info on what to base reply. This & similar
cases will be held here until TJAG responds.

DAAG-ZA

3 APR 1974

Mr. Gregory C. Loving
RR 2 (Barnes)
Normal, Illinois 61761

Dear Mr. Loving:

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

1- 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.

2- 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.

The official military personnel records of Private Slovik show that Mrs. Slovik was notified by telegram on 24 February 1945 of the death of her husband. This was confirmed by letter from The Adjutant General dated 27 February 1945.

22222

DAAG-ZA

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 Info from TJAG.

Wt 3675



U.S. Dept. of the Army
Washington, D.C.

460267



Wilmington
43
1974
Hatcher Street
Hollywood, Florida
33020

March 13, 1974

Department of the Army
Washington, D.C.

AMP

Dear Person:

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter to NBC regarding the program televised on March 13, 1974 - "The Execution of Pvt. Slovick."

I order you (me being a tax-paying citizen and you being in my employ) to respond to the questions!

Whatever abominable maniac felt he could shoot a man (who, obviously needed emotional support) is the one that does not deserve to

(1)

live & serve my country. I hope
every Army "upper" is hanging his
head in shame & praying to
God for forgiveness. ~~Off~~ Even
though those directly responsible for
Slovik's death are hopefully
rotting in hell, all of the military
establishment should repent
for their organization's crime.

I demand a response to
these ~~inquiries~~ inquiries sent to
NBC. You, my dear Military
Maniac, are no more than a human
group - who must face reality. Come
down from your Ivory Tower. I
sure don't worship you!

Sincerely,
M. Ellington

Wednesday, March 13
11:20 P.M.

Dear Sir

I must sound-off about this evening's production of "The Execution of Pvt. Slovik". I find the whole thing a despicable travesty. I really feel a follow-up is necessary.

I'm not complaining, you understand. I think it was an excellent journalistic documentary. I just cannot believe that it happened. My God, please tell me the difference between Pvt. Slovik's execution and Josef Stalin's purges! There is none. How on earth could any human being partake in such an act?

Were the characters ^{names} authentic or fictional? I imagine the real parties truly preferred to remain anonymous - for their own protection. However, can anyone discover their present feelings about their past crime? What about the major? The Lieutenant that led the firing squad? They must feel pathetic - they must beg for public forgiveness. Can't you investigate further? Can't you discover their true feelings?

I also find an amazing parallel ^{parallel} (excuse the spelling - I'm outraged & irrational right now!) between the fact that

those men on the firing squad were under orders and COULD NOT refute them. It seems that this ~~exact~~ reason is why Lt. William Calley has been under such stern criticism. Some say he should have had the rationality to refute his superiors' orders at Mai Lai. Yet, these 12 men who murdered # one of their own were unable to use their own moral convictions to refute an order. Please, I beg you, force our military establishment to explain the continuity in their dictates. I'm at a loss - I don't understand. One man serves a 3 year + prison sentence because he did not use his moral convictions to guide him and 12 men are told to neglect their moral convictions! It's outrageous.

I also would like to know why Mrs. Slavic was not informed of her husband's fate for eight years! What right (or justice) is there in a government who rips a man away from his family - unfairly - and then refuses to notify that family of the man's experiences? What's the difference between that and the Gestapo of Hitler's reign?

I really feel that ~~you~~ we, as the public, deserve answers to these atrocities.

(2)

The bell with Mai Lai. Let's not point the finger until we can explain our own actions. Furthermore, I feel that you, as the media, must insist upon these answers from the military hierarchy. What right have they to be above the law, moral codes, and God? ☹

I truly hope and pray that you receive sufficient public demand to follow-up on the program. I have felt for several years now that the military echelon is a "Do as I say, not as I do" establishment and has NO place in what I feel is Americanism. How about making them answer our charges for a change instead of their dictating to us what ^{we} will do, when we shall have morals and ethical convictions, when there is a time to kill, who we shall honor and how we shall live.

Sincerely yours,
Marjorie Billington
1418 Fletcher Street
Hollywood, Florida 33020

C O P Y

18 Monterey Pl.
Yonkers, N.Y.
April 21, 1954

Hon. Irving M. Ives
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Attached you will find a copy of a letter which I have sent to President Eisenhower regarding the Private Eddie Slovik affair.

I am sure that any legislation you help to have enacted in behalf of Mrs. Slovik will be greatly appreciated by every fair-minded American.

May I thank you in advance for your serious consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,

S/Vincent Zebatto

Inc: 1 copy

C O P Y

DATE

031.1

095

Zebatto, Vincent.

INDEX:

201

Slovik, Eddie

ASN 36896415 WW II.

251.2

TO:

The President.

21 Apr. 54.

FROM:

Vincent Zebatto

Regarding case of Pvt Eddie Slovik, executed as a deserter.

SUMMARY:

SCREENED

FILED:

AG 247

INDEXER:

mgs 15 Jun 54.

REMARKS:

FROM CRIST PREC AND HIST BR

ON EDDIE D SLOVIK 36876415 RECORDS RETD MPRC ATTN MISS HAGER ABOUT 22
OCT 53 NDMSG IF ANY SVC PRIOR TO 24 JAN 44 IF SO UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES
IF FOR SHORT PERIOD OR NATL GUARD

MPRC REC'D OCT 30 '53 2:50 P.M. Msg 67

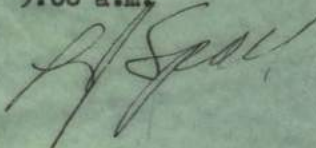
FOR CRIST PREC AND HIST BR

URMSG 67-30 OCT ON EDDIE D SLOVIK 36873415 EM INDUCTED 3 JAN 44 NO RECORD OF
PRIOR SVC TRFD TO ERC ON DATE OF INDUCTION ENTERED ACTIVE DUTY 24 JAN 44

ROUTINE

JOHNSTON-Spec
2 Nov 53
9:00 a.m.

SIGNATURE:



FILE:
Johnston-Spec
Refile

OFFICE, CHIEF OF LEGISLATIVE LIAISON, CSUSA
REFERRAL SLIP

RC

DO NOT DETACH THIS SLIP

DATE 3 May 54

TO TAG

SUBJECT execution of deserters

CLL 201 SLOVIK, Pvt Eddie
 (28 Apr 54)

FOR

PREPARATION OF REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF

RETURN TO CLL FOR DISPATCH

DIRECT REPLY AND COPY FOR CLL

INFORMATION ON WHICH TO BASE A REPLY

DRAFT OF APPROPRIATE REPLY

REMARKS

RECOMMENDATION

CONCURRENCE

NECESSARY ACTION

FORWARD

NOTE

FILE

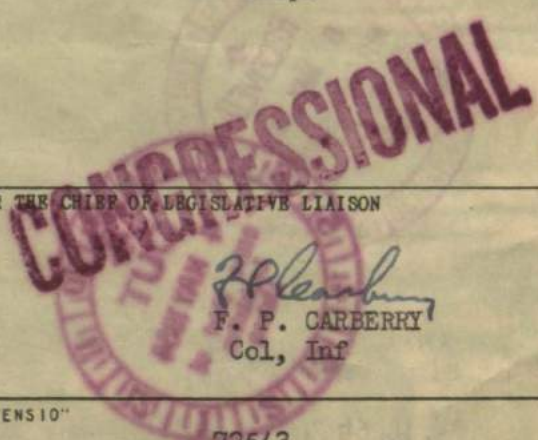
REMARKS

Case not ack'd by this office.

Pls retn const's ltrs to MC w/
 your reply.

Case referred to this office on
 MC's referral slip.

FOR THE CHIEF OF LEGISLATIVE LIAISON



F. P. Carberry
 F. P. CARBERRY
 Col, Inf

EXTENSION

72543

INCLOSURE

Mr. Zebatto's ltr to MC
 Mr. Zebatto's ltr to President