

INFORMATION SUMMARY

2JUNE91 TO 23NOV91

CHARLES L. ADKINS, MIA 2FEB68, 1ST CALVARY DIVISION-RVN

On 2JUNE91, this office, as trustees of Ohio Valley Rolling Thunder Motorcycle Protest Rally, was present at ceremonies at the completion of Ohio Valley Rolling Thunder II at VFW Post 437, Moundsville, West Virginia. Our Press Relations Officer, Robert McCloud, introduced the father, Mr. Charles Adkins, and his daughters to the participants of O.V.R.T. II.

The Adkins family appeared on their own accord at this function. At this time I met with the family briefly, and Mr. McCloud established communication for the future with them with an exchange of phone numbers.

Communication was made by Mr. McCloud from June through July, and I contacted the Adkins Family in late July to invite them to Ohio Valley Rolling Thunder III scheduled for August 10, 1991, as well as to pass on information concerning the establishment of Senate Resolution 82 and The U.S. Policy Examination of POW/MIAS from the Senate Minority Republican Staff, along with other materials of family member interest.

On August 10, O.V.R.T. III occurred and the Adkins family was in attendance at ceremonies held at LZ Brush Run Vietnam Veterans Reunion in St. Clairsville, Ohio. During the arrival of motorcyclists and opening ceremonies of LZ Brush Run, both Mr. McCloud and I were pulled in many directions by Support Office staff, LZ

DN#1

Brush Run coordinators, and several television reporters, newspaper reporters, and a live FM radio team. During these events Mr. McCloud scheduled interviews with members of the Adkins family for reporters. Again, the opportunity to speak with this family eluded me.

On August 11, 1991, a quote by Mrs Elaine Devine, sister of the MIA, appeared in The Wheeling News Register. Mrs. Devine stated, "Army Officers have visited us before and have reason to believe Bud (SFC Adkins) is alive. . ." This statement drew my interest to look at the history of her story that now took on a flair of the possibility that the family was given pertinent information at one time.

Through phone contact it was established that the family was visited by an Army Officer in the early 1970's and that an 8 MM film was shown to the family (along with other photos) that was described as "classified" to them.

The enclosed photo is a "frame" taken from the 8 MM film by The Department of the Army and given to Mr. Adkins, after he had identified his son in the film. The original frame, or photo, of the enclosed copy is secure at this time. (DN #28)

During the Ohio State Pumpkin Festival in Barnesville, Ohio, I requested that the family produce the photo so that I could see for myself what the family had previously described as "Bud as a POW". On 28SEPT91, Mr. Adkins brought the original photo to me and pointed to the man on the far right saying "That is my son".

Not only did the photo depict SFC Adkins, but also seven other caucasians in the photo appearing as POWS. It is of interest to note at this time, the absolute innocence of this father and family in taking the Department of the Army statements given to them as "gospel" for all these years, accepting reports or decisions by the Department of Defense although they have always doubted that SFC Adkins is actually dead.

To briefly summarize events from 28SEPT91 is unjustified in this matter.

On 1OCT91 by registered U.S. mail, I sent a copy of the original family-based photo to Senator Bob Smith (NH) and to E.B. MCDaniel of the American Defense Institute via their representatives (Carluccio and Genow, respectively) with my interpretation of information gathered about this case, as of 1OCT91. (DN #27A,B,C) (DN #28)

On 10OCT91 at 2:38 EST, I received a phone call from a man identifying himself as Dino Carluccio of Senator Smith's office. I was informed by Mr. Carluccio that my packet containing the photo "was reviewed by the Select Committee" and "has been turned over by the committee to their investigators." I then asked Mr. Carluccio if the photo should be released to the press. Mr. Carluccio replied, "No, it would be better to let the investigators handle this without the press."

I contacted E.B. McDaniel's office 10OCT91 and informed Ms. Leslie

Genow that I was contacted by Mr. Carluccio. Ms. Genow stated that Mr. McDaniel had not reviewed the photo as of yet, since he was not presently in Washington D.C., but would do so shortly upon his return. On 9NOV91, I approached Mr. McDaniel personally in Arlington, Virginia, concerning the photo I had sent to him. I told Mr. McDaniel that I was told by Senator Smith's office that the photo was turned over to their investigators. Mr. McDaniels replied, "Let the Select Committee handle it. . . within that process."

On 18NOV91, I was informed by a reliable source that the team of investigators have not received or have never seen the photo in question. On 19NOV91, I gathered a meeting of the Adkins family and our office representatives to collect any data that the family might have that would establish or confirm information surrounding the photo and U.S. Army representatives that had contacted the family in the past period of twenty-three years.

It is noted at this time that most specific dates of contact with Army representatives are not available. The family has referred to time periods in correlation of fall, winter, spring, etc. to the best of their individual and group recollections in establishing certain occurrences pertinent to investigative needs. Supporting documentation (as enclosed) is listed on the enclosed "Contents Information Sheet" and is referred to by document number (DN #). All supporting document originals are secure, as we have received them as originals from any source. Documents in support of any investigation that is not necessarily "original" in nature are also included and listed on Contents Information

Sheet with a document number (DN #) issued as well.

Re-tracing the family movements and involvements with the Department of the Army and Defense Department is as follows:

~~On 1 FEB 69, the Adkins family was notified~~ as of their son being "shot down and presumed missing" upon initial contact by U.S. Army representatives from Wheeling, West Virginia. (DN #2)

Although according to statements, the U.S. Army representative was Per I. Madsen, Captain, Family Services and Assistance Officer, of The U.S. Army ROTC Instructor Group, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, and another unidentified Commissioned Officer.

~~On 4 FEB 69, according to statement by the Adkins, Captain Madsen stated that "The helicopter was recovered within five hours of the crash, with no bodies or blood found, only a dog tag belonging to Joseph Pringle, and a path leading into the jungle."~~

Captain Madsen continued to visit the family on average once per calendar month after his initial visit. No other Army representatives accompanied him after the initial visit.

~~In August or September 1969,~~ the Adkins family received a mailgram that stated "A dog tag of Joseph Pringle was found on the ground, animal bones outside of the craft, footprints that lead into the jungle, and that the helicopter had been burned".

~~Captain Madsen read the mailgram and said that he "could not understand this because of the information he had that the helicopter~~

~~had been recovered.~~ (Mailgram document unavailable)

From February 1968 through September 1971, the family was shown films and a considerable amount of photos by Captain Madsen in Columbus, Ohio, at Lockbury Air Force Base, and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, none being identified as his son, SFC Adkins.

On 26SEPT71, Mr. Adkins and his family traveled by bus to Washington, D.C. for the annual (2nd) convention of National League of Families. Mr. Adkins described being "locked in a room" and shown many pictures - but none of Bud. Mr. Adkins added that he also spoke with Goldwater and Nixon at the dinner. . .

Between November 1971 and March 1972, the family continued to travel to Columbus, Ohio and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, gate security always was shown identification by all persons in the car. A description of the building at Wright Patterson AFB as well as Captain Madsens personal description is on file at this office.

Prior to April 1972, but not before November 1971, Mr. Adkins was shown an 8 MM film strip, approximately a minimum of twenty minutes in length at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base by Captain Madsen. In this film, Mr. Adkins described seeing his son, SFC Adkins for the first and only time on film provided by Captain Madsen.

According to statement of Mr. Charles Adkins:

"On this film was a mess of them - hundreds of them - single file coming through a door that appeared to be metal, but not a door to the outside. Each man came through the door, and shook hands with a minister or priest, then walked down an open stairway that looked to be made of marble or granite. Each POW had a white tag sewn on his right breast pocket with a name or number - I could not tell which, except for the priest, who did not have a tag. Bud (SFC Adkins) came through the door, then shook hands with the Priest and walked down the steps. I knew then for certain that it was Bud, by his walk. After all the men came in and had walked down the steps, the priest gave them communion. I watched the priest give Bud communion and this picture is that of what was going on in the film. The Army said it was a Christmas Service."

Mr. Adkins further described the church or building, the hundreds of men and his son being in , "as very large with stained glass in the ceiling/like a glass dome ceiling/six or even eight crystal chandeliers hanging from the ceiling, each chandelier being at least four feet across in size/Big flight of stairs/fancy place/no altar or pews seen/no guards seen in film/very high ceiling/floor looked like marble."

It is noted at this time that throughout Mr. Adkins review of what appears to be many many 8MM films and hundreds or even more photographs, he was reminded by Captain Madsen and others as all of the photos that the photos and films were "classified information", according to Mr. Adkins. Captain Madsen also took family photos for I.D. purposes.

In March 1972, Captain Madsen brought the same film to the home of Mr. Adkins, where the entire family reviewed it. In the early spring of 1972, or approximately two weeks from when Captain Madsen had shown the film in the Adkins home, he delivered the photo to Mr. Adkins. (DN # 28)

Captain Madsen declared to the Father, upon identification of his son that he [Madsen] would investigate the matter, and that SFC Adkins was ~~unidentified~~ unidentified person in the photo, which was a frame photo from the 8 MM film, and that the Army knew who the others were.

At this time of giving the photo to Mr. Adkins the photo, Captain Madsen stated that there was an "80% chance it is your son and a 20% chance that it is someone else." Captain Madsen never told Mr. Adkins who the person with the 20% chance may have been, nor did he identify any family member of the 20% chance.

Captain Madsen continued to visit the family until October 1972 although he disclosed no more information concerning the film or photo. According to the family, "The subject of Bud was dropped" and Madsen's visits became more social. The family trusted Captain Madsen and viewed him as "a big brother", "awful nice guy", and "even helped Mom in the garden".

According to statements to the family, Captain Madsen was transferred to Germany. This occurred in October 1972. His replacement was John Keller, Major U.S. Army. (DN #21) Major Keller came to their home only twice from October 1972 through the spring of 1973. After The Paris Peace Treaty was signed, no one came

to their home, according to statements.

In 1978 (DN #18) the Adkins received a mailgram stating that their son had been declared dead, basically because no one could prove that he was living. No information of the photo or film was ever released to the family by The Department of the Army.

Mrs. Grace Pringle, wife of Joseph Pringle, a crewmember of the same helicopter crash was never shown a photo, and was introduced to the Adkins family by Captain Madsen in 1969.

Captain Madsen has never contacted the Adkins family since October 1972. Major Keller's last contact was Memorial Services, Memorial Day, 1978.

CONCLUSIONS

In review of the information available it is more probable that SFC Adkins is alive, remaining a prisoner of War somewhere in Southeast Asia, than being deceased as determined by the Dept. of The Army. (DN # 28)

Hundreds of other Prisoners of War being held in the same camp between 3FEB68 and MARCH72, although according to The Dept. of the Army (DN #18) no returning POWS identified SFC Adkins. One would then conclude that these "hundreds of men" were not any of the repatriated POWS released upon the signing of The Paris Peace

accords.

Capture or loss coordinates 161209N/1081006E (DN #24A) are located north of Danang Airfield on a beach. A six degree compass variable either east (still on beach) or west (in water) appear to be a discrepancy also, or plain false information. No blood, human bones, or weapons were ever discussed with the family.

(DN #24A)

Where is this film, the crew of UH1H #66-16442, these hundreds of other men shown captive prior to March 1972? Where is Captain Madsen?

SFC Charles Adkins was a member of ~~B Troop, 1st Squad, 9th Cavalry~~ ~~Division~~, an Aerial Reconnaissance Unit, from August 1967 until capture on 2FEB68. ~~Other crew members~~/passengers were Captain Donald D. Burnham, Pilot, Kenneth J. Patton, Crew Chief, SFC Joseph Pringle, SGT Joseph Puggi. SFC Adkins unit was stationed near Hue, ~~possibly~~ Camp Evans.

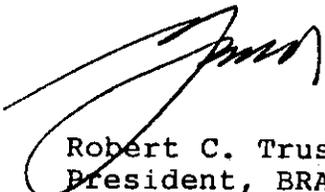
By notarized affidavit, Mr. Charles Adkins, next of kin of SFC Charles L. Adkins has given The Ohio Valley Support Office For POW/MIAS and BRAVO/BRAVO Veterans Outlook approval to release the photo publically, (DN #28) and to contact all family members, past and present 1st Cav Division Armed Forces personnel (DN #24A) (DN #24B) (DN #24C,D) to further investigate the whereabouts of his son, with the condition that all information found be returned to OVS0, P.O. Box 2, Glen Dale, WV 26038, for debriefing and coordination of services, of the Adkins family and for the

Adkins family.

It is noted at this time that Mr. Adkins, nor the siblings of SFC Adkins, will be interviewed or questioned without officers of OVSO arranging such action, in coordination with any efforts that may be occurring through federal or private contacts to further the investigation by OVSO and BRAVO Staff or agents of the same. Mr. Adkins and siblings of SFC Adkins are willing to testify under oath to The Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs. These arrangements must also be through OVSO and BRAVO.

According to Mr. Adkins, "We need a lot more BRAVOS out there - The Governments never done anything. . . "

Respectfully Submitted, In Their Honor,



Robert C. Trussell
President, BRAVO WV
Co-Founder, OVSO For POW/MIAS

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