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POW/MIA Sent to Darman
3-25-82
8 a.m.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
March 24, 1982

RECOMMENDED TELEPHONE CALL

TO: George and Gladys Brooks - mother and father
Louise and George - sister and brother
of Nicholas G. Brooks, Lieutenant Commander, USN

DATE: By Friday, March 26, 1982

RECOMMENDED BY: Elizabeth H. Dole, William P. Clark,
Morton C. Blackwell, Robert Kimmitt

PURPOSE: To offer condolences.

BACKGROUND: See accompanying biography.

Navy Lt. Commander Nick Brooks, a Navigator-Bombardier, had been an MIA since he was shot down over the North Vietnam-Laos border on January 2, 1970.

His remains were returned and identified just recently. The funeral and memorial service was held today at Ft. Myers' Chapel with a standing room crowd consisting of representatives from all the armed services, from our Office of Public Liaison, National Security Council, Department of Defense, Department of State, and members of the League of Families of POW/MIAs.

His family has been very active in the League of Families and his father serves on the Board of Directors.

No letter has been sent by Correspondence.

- TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:
1. Offer condolences and praise the family for all that Commander Brooks did for our country.
 2. Compliment the family for all the work they have done for the POW/MIA cause.
 3. Reaffirm your commitment to obtaining the fullest possible accounting for Americans missing in South-east Asia and that your Administration continues to attach the highest priority to the problem of those missing in action.

DATE OF SUBMISSION: Wednesday, March 24, 1982.

Phone numbers where the family can be reached:

Until noon on Thursday, March 25 - 979-6800 Room 937

From Thursday evening on - home in Newburgh, NY - 914-561-9447

ACTION _____



NICHOLAS G. BROOKS
Lieutenant, USN
Born May 18, 1943
Missing since January 2, 1970

Nick attended elementary and high school in Newburgh, N. Y. While in high school, he spent the summer of 1960 in Austria as an exchange student, as part of a program sponsored by American Field Service.

He held the presidential offices of Junior Class, Cranarian Council, Episcopal Young Churchmen, Key Club and various offices in the local and state Hi-Y groups. He was a member of the Varsity football team, Junior Sportsmen's Club, Boy Scout and Sea Scout troop.

He received a letter of commendation in the National Merit Scholarship Program and a New York State Regents Scholarship.

After completing one year at the University of Wisconsin where he was enrolled under a Naval ROTC scholarship, he entered the Naval Academy in 1962. At the completion of that year he was awarded the Military Excellence Award for freshmen. He received his appointment to the Naval Academy through the Naval Board.

After graduating from Annapolis in 1966, he served one year in Vietnam aboard the destroyer "Eversole." Upon his return to the states, he went to Pensacola for his flight training. He returned to Vietnam on the Aircraft Carrier "Ranger" in October '69. Nick, a Navigator-Bombardier and his pilot were flying an A-6 on a bombing mission when they were shot down over Mu Gia Pass, border of North Vietnam and Laos, January 2, 1970.

Nick's wingman and another controlling aircraft observed two ejections and two good parachutes just prior to the impact of the aircraft. Navy Department report reads, "a very sensitive but usually reliable source" reported Nick survived to evade. More recently, additional information revealed that Nick was captured, tied to a tree, freed himself and escaped. He was captured again, tied to a tree a second time, freed himself again and escaped. From that point, his whereabouts are unknown.

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

RECOMMENDED TELEPHONE CALL

TO: Mrs. Janis Dodge, widow of Navy Commander Ronald W. Dodge, whose recently returned remains from Vietnam were identified on Monday, July 20.

DATE: Before Friday, July 24, afternoon. The funeral will take place in Arlington Cemetery at 2 PM on Friday, July 24.

RECOMMENDED BY: Elizabeth H. Dole; Morton Blackwell

PURPOSE: To offer condolences.

BACKGROUND: See accompanying article and picture of Mrs. Dodge with the President.

Navy Commander Dodge had been an MIA since he was shot down over North Vietnam in 1967. His picture, with the head bandage, was on the cover of Life magazine and became a symbol of thousands of servicemen who were then missing in action in Vietnam. He had been a young pilot with hopes of a career in professional baseball.

His widow has been very active in the League of Families of POW/MIA's in Southeast Asia and served on the National Board of Directors for the past three years. She has two children - Brad, 17 years and Wendy, 20 years. (Brad was 3 years old when his father was shot down.)

No letter has been sent by Correspondence for this purpose.

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION: 1. Offer condolences.
2. Praise her husband for all he did for our country.
3. Compliment her for the work she has done for the POW/MIA cause.

DATE OF SUBMISSION: Wednesday, July 22.

Phone numbers where Mrs. Dodge can be reached: Day: 223-6846
Night: 941-2491

Long Wait Ends For 3 Families Of Missing GIs

By Nicholas D. Kristof
Washington Post Staff Writer

Brad Dodge was 4 when his father was shot down over North Vietnam in 1967. He's grown up wondering about his father, trying to learn more about this baseball-loving pilot whose picture was on the cover of Life magazine, a symbol of thousands of servicemen who were then missing in action in Vietnam.

Brad barely remembers his dad, and he has long doubted whether he would see him again. Now it is over. Yesterday the Pentagon announced the names of three servicemen, among them Navy Cdr. Ronald W. Dodge, Brad's father, whose remains Hanoi returned to the United States two weeks ago.

Brad Dodge, like members of the families of Air Force Capt. Richard H. Van Dyke and Lt. Stephen O. Musselman, grieved. But, he said, in a way he was relieved.

The Vietnamese returned the remains, incomplete and packed in separate small wooden boxes, on July 7, after repeated inquiries about those missing in action, military officials said. Laboratory technicians

See MIA, A6, Col. 1

The Waiting Is Over for 3 Families

MIA, From A1

identified the remains Monday, and officials notified the families.

Cdr. Dodge, who had been a young pilot with hopes for a career in professional baseball, became a symbol of the 2,500 servicemen MIAs. A photo of him, after capture and escorted by North Vietnamese soldiers, was published in Paris Match, a French magazine, and later reprinted on the cover of Life and in 5 million brochures urging that more attention be paid to the missing.

Dodge, who was flying an F8 Crusader jet when he was shot down on May 17, 1967, was 31. Paris Match published the photo on Sept. 9, 1967, and nothing had been seen or heard of him since.

Capt. Van Dyke, of Salt Lake City, was shot down over North Vietnam on Sept. 11, 1968, at age 24. Lt. Musselman was shot down over North Vietnam on Sept. 10, 1972, when he was 26.

Officials said they were certain of the identifications, which were made at an Army laboratory in Honolulu after the remains were flown there.

Identifications were made by comparing the characteristics of the bones with medical information of missing servicemen, especially those considered to be most likely because of when and where they disappeared, said Maj. Cliff Purcell, an Army spokesman in Honolulu.

"We definitely won't know when they died," said Lt. Col. Jerry Grohowski in Washington. "We probably won't know how they died, but that is a remote possibility."

Yesterday the survivors sorted through their memories. Brad Dodge said his father attended high school in Olympia, Wash., and then attended the University of Oregon, where he played football and baseball.

Ronald Dodge was a fine catcher who had played for the Seattle Rainiers and who might have played for the Cincinnati Reds if he had not been shot down, his son said.



Associated Press

Ronald W. Dodge on the flight line, inset, and after capture by North Vietnamese.

Steve Musselman had been very proud, one week before he was shot down, when his name was painted on the outside of his bomber in recognition of his successful missions, his mother, Ethel Musselman recalled yesterday from her home in Texarkana, Tex. But on the day of his last mission, his plane was being repaired, so he took another.

"He was bombing a missile site and got a few hits in," she said. Then he was hit by a missile, and "his plane went in an uncontrolled dive. He radioed, 'My altitude is ...,' and he was cut off. He landed in a rice paddy 14 miles from Hanoi."

Ethel Musselman said Navy officials told her that Steve probably had been shot to death, perhaps as he floated to earth by parachute. "I'm more fortunate than many mothers," she said. "I still have four sons."

Kay Van Dyke said from her home in Salt Lake City that her son, Richard, attended Wakefield High School in Arlington, Va., and then joined the Air Force after attending the University of Colorado.

"He was a personable young man, a large man," she said. "He loved everything. He was just a fun-loving, living, man."

Her son's plane was hit by a missile and he ejected safely, she said. "He was seen to land, to stow his parachute and to go into the woods."

Her husband, Milton, added that prisoners of war later released said their son was in the same camp, with a broken leg apparently resulting from his bail-out. The North Vietnamese "took him from the camp and said, 'your buddy has to have his leg amputated.' Then one of the guards came back and said, 'Your buddy didn't make it.'"

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 23, 1981

TO: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: Morton Blackwell *MB*
VIA: Elizabeth H. Dole
RE: Telephone Call to parents of Lt. Richard Van Dyke

In addition to the call to Mrs. Janis Dodge, widow of Navy Commander Ronald Dodge whose remains have recently been identified, we feel it would be appropriate to call the parents of Richard Van Dyke, an Air Force pilot who was not married.

Van Dyke was a Lieutenant who was shot down over North Vietnam in 1968. He had been seen with a broken leg by other POW's in 1968. Nothing more was heard of him until his remains were identified this week. He was made a Captain in 1969, but his status was changed to Killed in Action in 1973.

He graduated from the University of Colorado and made his career in the Air Force. He received a Silver Star for this mission when he was shot down.

His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Milton W. Van Dyke and can be reached at

801-582-1283.