

Guilty in Beret Killings Still at Large

By Jack Anderson

We reported last July that the Army was trying to railroad Capt. Jeffrey MacDonald, a Green Beret doctor, who had been accused of killing his pregnant wife and two daughters in a bizarre, Sharon Tate-type tragedy.

At the pleading of his friends, who swore he was incapable of such a hideous crime, we conducted our own quiet investigation into the case. We published our conclusions on July 11 that the Army had botched the investigation and might be perpetrating a grave injustice.

Subsequently, the Army dismissed the charges against MacDonald for lack of evidence. To protect the brass hats who had allowed the investigation to get out of hand, however, the Army has hushed up the investigating officer's report.

We have seen the report, prepared by Col. Warren V. Rock, who recommended strongly that "all charges and specifications against Capt. Jeffrey R. MacDonald be dis-

missed because the matters set forth in all charges and specifications are not true."

The Army's obsession with MacDonald diverted investigators from going after the real criminals who are still at large. The 27-year-old captain swore his family had been attacked by a group of hippies. The description he gave of one girl matched the description of a Fayetteville, N.C., girl who was seen near the murder scene with two hippies on the night of the killings.

The girl told Army investigators that she had been "stoned" on drugs the night of the murders and couldn't recount her activities. Colonel Rock recommended urgently that civilian authorities "be requested to investigate the (girl's) alibi reference to her activities and whereabouts during the early morning hours of 17 February 1970.

Probing the Probers

His suppressed report also confirms our charges of July 11 that "Army sleuths tramped through MacDonald's house

after the murders destroying clues as they went" and that "about a dozen fingerprints, which didn't belong to any principals in the case, turned up in the house" but weren't sent to the FBI for investigation.

The colonel's suppressed report cites "numerous unidentified fingerprints on the premises; wax from an unknown candle apparently not from the MacDonald household; unidentified blond hair in the right hand of Collette (Mrs. MacDonald); red brown stains on the interior of a jewelry box in the east bedroom together with an unidentified finger and palm print; and no evidence that the two knives and the ice pick, apparently used in the murders, came from the apartment."

Meanwhile, MacDonald's Army attorney, Lt. Michael J. Malley, has requested an investigation into the Army's handling of the case. He charged that the investigation was "conducted in a grossly in-

competent fashion" and he cited four pages of examples.

Concluded Malley: "The sort of gross incompetence and misconduct alleged, infringing on the rights and lives of other people, cannot be allowed to happen again. If law is to be humane, the people who enforce it must be accountable for their decency and humanity. Otherwise, law is only fear; and we all must then be either bullies or cowards."

Washington Expose

Records Stolen?—With the government digging deeper into the financial affairs of the United Mine Workers, the union's President Tony Boyle and General Counsel Ed Carey spent hours recently going through the records. Later, they were seen removing boxfuls of documents from Boyle's office. Not long afterward, Carey made an official complaint to Washington police that burglars had struck at union headquarters. Among the goods reported stolen: a boxful of "miscellaneous items." The Justice Department is investigating.

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