



Ministry
of Defence

Army Secretariat
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Ref: FOI2019/12389/
03/12

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[REDACTED]

E-mail address: [REDACTED]

26 November 2019

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your emails of 29 October and 31 October in which you requested the following information:

"The 1981 report in question was filed by an unnamed Captain of the Royal Military Police' Special Investigations Branch. It addressed an inquiry into the disappearance of a Royal Marine, Alan Addis, the previous year, 1980.

"The quotes provided in my initial enquiry were extracted from that report. In particular, the report mentioned that it, the 1981 SIB report, would be followed-up by further reports filed by authorities in the jurisdiction where Alan Addis disappeared (the Falkland Islands).

"Would it be possible for the titles and nature of the aforementioned documents to be specified, along with the agencies which produced and concurrently hold them? This is so as to determine their relevance."

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that after your clarification, the information in scope of your request (further reports filed by authorities in the jurisdiction where Alan Addis disappeared, their titles and nature) are not held.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that information held by the MOD suggests that the report you are requesting was never received by the Royal Military Police and that it was lost in the Argentine occupation of the Falkland Islands. You may wish to contact the Royal Falkland Islands Police to confirm whether they still hold any information regarding the disappearance of Marine (Mne) Addis.

The redacted copies of the Royal Military Police Interim reports dated 30 July 1981 and 27 November 1981 have previously been published under FOIA on the gov.uk website. If you have not already done so, you can access them by using the following link:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/654082/2017-07541.pdf.

To be helpful, a copy of the Board of Inquiry investigation, which was released under a previous FOI request, is enclosed.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Following this, if you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,



Army Secretariat

R 131419Z AUG 80
 FM MGRM TRF
 TO NP 8901
 INFO MODUK NAVY
 CINCFLEET
 OBRM
 BT
 UNCLAS
 SIC ABA/Z5A/W4A

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

BOARD OF INQUIRY - CONVENING ORDER

REFERENCES:

A. ARMY ACT SEC 135

B. BOARD OF INQUIRY RULES (ARMY) 1956

C. QR (ARMY) CHAP 5 ANNEX A

1. A BOARD OF INQUIRY IS TO CONVENE AT PORT STANLEY, FALKLAND ISLANDS, TO INVESTIGATE THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF
 037596K MARINE ALAN ADDIS ON OR ABOUT 8 AUG 80.

2. COMPOSITION OF BOARD

A. PRESIDENT: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

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B. MEMBERS

(1) A WARRANT OFFICER TO BE DETAILED BY THE PRESIDENT.

(2) A CROWN EMPLOYEE TO BE NOMINATED BY HEGFI IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF C PARA 36.

3. THE BOARD IS TO SIT AT A PLACE AND TIME DIRECTED BY THE PRESIDENT BUT NOT BEFORE THE COMPLETION OF THE CORONERS INQUEST.

4. THE BOARD IS TO INCLUDE IN ITS REPORT A STATEMENT OF THE CORONERS VERDICT, AND IF POSSIBLE, ATTACH A TRANSCRIPT OF EVIDENCE.

5. THE BOARD IS TO REPORT ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. EXACTLY WHERE AND WHEN WAS ADDIS LAST SEEN.

B. HIS MOVEMENTS DURING THE 24 HOURS PRIOR TO HIS DISAPPEARANCE.

C. WHETHER HE HAD CONSUMED ALCOHOL IN THIS PERIOD.

D. WHEN HIS DISAPPEARANCE WAS FIRST NOTICED.

E. WHAT ACTION WAS TAKEN TO FIND HIM.

F. WHETHER HE WAS ON DUTY AT THE TIME OF HIS DISAPPEARANCE.

6. THE BOARD IS TO EXPRESS AN OPINION ON:

A. WHAT HAPPENED TO MR ADDIS.

B. WHETHER HIS MENTAL STATE APPEARED NORMAL IN THE DAYS BEFORE HIS DISAPPEARANCE.

C. WHAT ACTION HAS BEEN, OR SHOULD BE, TAKEN TO PREVENT A

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SIMILAR INCIDENTS

7. THE PRESIDENT IS TO DIRECT MILITARY WITNESSES TO ATTEND AND MAY INVITE CIVILIAN WITNESSES IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFERENCE B RULE 10.

8. THE PRESIDENT IS TO SHOW THE RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS TO HEGFI, IN HIS CAPACITY AS MILITARY COMMANDER, AND INVITE HIS COMMENTS. THE PROCEEDINGS, TOGETHER WITH ANY COMMENTS BY HEGFI, ARE THEN TO BE SENT TO THIS HQ

BT

File.

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NAVAL PARTY 8901
MOODY BROOK CAMP
STANLEY
FALKLAND ISLANDS

RM/FALK/P037596K

See Distribution

15 September 1980

BOARD OF INQUIRY - ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION

References:

- A. MGRM TRF I3I4I9Z AUG 80.
- B. Board of Inquiry Rules (Army) 1956.
- C. QR (Army) Chap 5 Annex A.
- D. Army Act 1955 Sec 135.
- E. MGRM TRF I2I5I5Z SEP 80.
- F. Conversation: xx-XXXXXXXXXXXX of 13 Aug 80 and Telecon of 15 Sep 80.

I. In accordance with Ref A a Board of Inquiry composed as under is to convene in the Conference room, The Secretariat Stanley and at North Arm Settlement to investigate the circumstances of the disappearance of Marine Alan Addis P037596K;

President
Member
Member

XXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXX

} Convening order attached.

2. The Board will convene on Monday 22 September at 0930 hours 1980 in the Secretariat and subsequently at North Arm Settlement on Wednesday 24 September 1980 at 1400 hours.

3. a. The following military witnesses are required to attend;

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

b. The Master MV FORREST is invited to make the following crew members available:

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

c. The Manager North Arm Settlement is invited to make the following persons available:

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

4. HEGFT is requested to make a short-hand writer available to the board.

his bunk in the for'ard hold of the Forrest all day. He did not get up for meals nor drank anything hot.

6. It was dark when the Forrest arrived at North Arm. The temperature was around freezing, probably 1° below. There was a fresh wind blowing. (This is probably equivalent to a strong wind in UK). It was Mne Addis' first visit to North Arm. It is not absolutely certain that Addis had eaten the evening meal on the Forrest. The Board thinks that he probably did. He also had a couple of whiskeys before going ashore with the other two members of his team at approximately 2000 hrs. They had been invited to join the end of the training party conducted by the previous team.

7. The Board concludes that Addis had had an uncomfortable day on board the Forrest. It is not certain if he had been sick during the day, but probably had a full stomach from the evening meal and was further fortified by a 'couple of whiskeys'. This then covers Addis' activities up to 2000 hrs on 7 August 1980.

8. The next period, which has been covered in detail by the Board, is from the time Addis left the mv Forrest and the last time anyone saw him, which can be conclusively set at 0130, 8 August. This period covers the time the party was in progress. The Board would have been most surprised if witnesses' stories had tallied in every respect, and that every action could be accounted for and there were no contradictions. The Board has taken into consideration that most of the people who attended the party became at the worst drunk, and at best inebriated to some extent. Their recollections are therefore understandably hazy. The following facts emerge:

(a) Addis had an argument/discussion with a person called ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ but it is not considered significant.

(b) ~~XXXXXX~~~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ had an argument which is not relevant.

(c) There were no fights during the evening and the Manager, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ had no need to exert his authority to keep order.

(d) Addis appears to have been in good spirits throughout the evening and held conversations with a number of people, who report him to have been acting normally but more drunkenly as the evening went on, but that at no time had he drunk so much that he was incapable.

(e) That Addis was offered a bed in a Bunkhouse and was also advised by xxxxxxxxxxxxxx to sleep in the Bunkhouse and return to the ship in the morning. He made no known attempt to take up this offer.

(f) That Addis appeared to be 'agitated' and that this was demonstrated by the way he banged the door on his way to the toilet. From other witnesses the Board discounts this as imagination.

(g) Addis left the ship wearing a parka and carrying a torch. The parka appears to have been a civilian parka: his service parka was recovered. The torch, however, has not been recovered.

(h) The two other members of his training team left at 2315 to walk back to the Forrest. (Both felt that he was capable of getting back to the Forrest without trouble,) and that had he wished to, he could have joined crew members for the return walk to the vessel.

(i) That at about midnight there was little frost on the jetty but by 0600 there was a considerable 'crust'. There were, however, no visible foot track marks to indicate that Addis may have returned earlier. Unfortunately there is no way of telling at what time the frost had formed.

(j) That the Forrest lights and jetty lights were visible from the Social Club. The Board visited the Social Club and can confirm that by standing on the doorstep of the door one can not see the end of the jetty. By taking two steps forward, however, the end of the jetty is firmly in view. There is one building which for a distance of 50 metres on the track back to the jetty would obscure the jetty. This building is a Bunkhouse and situated very near the Social Club. Once past this building the jetty can be seen clearly. The Board notes that since there could be no other lights in this area the Forrest and the jetty should have been like a beacon. The night was dark but clear.

(k) xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx; clearly states that he saw Mne Addis at 0130 on 8 August leave the bar but did not return.

(l) xxxxxxxx; stated that he saw Addis in the bar at 0230 hrs on 8 August; he may have but since he could not be positive as to who was serving behind the bar at the time and that he thought Addis had purchased soft drinks rather than beer, the Board considers this might be suspect.

9. The Board conclude that Addis had consumed alcohol during the 24 hours prior to his disappearance, but only after the arrival of the Forrest at North Arm. All the alcohol (less a small amount of whiskey consumed on the Forrest) he consumed at the Social Club. The Board is also aware that two unopened bottles of whiskey were recovered from Mne Addis' kit that he had taken with him.

10. He was last seen definitely at 0130 and possibly at 0230 hrs on 8 August 1980. At that time there was nothing about Addis' behaviour which suggested that he was incapable of looking after himself or making his way back to mv Forrest.

11. Addis was first missed at approximately 0715 hrs on 8 August by xxxxxxxxxx who reported it to xxxxxxx. After consultation with the Captain, mv Forrest, he assumed that Addis had stayed ashore and had overslept and missed his ship. A situation common to sailors and Marines for centuries. Since Addis was not due to start training at Fitzroy until Monday 11 August 1980 it was felt that he had sufficient time to make his way overland to Fitzroy. This way he would only miss the Recce stage. The Board sympathises with this not unreasonable view.

12. It is unfortunate that the only radio at North Arm compatible with Forrest was unserviceable and that it was not until 1500 hrs 8 August that contact was made with North Arm over the 2 metre set from Fitzroy Settlement. In hindsight, and without wishing to be critical of xxxxxxxxxxxxxx particularly as it is certain it would not have made any difference in finding Addis, the Board feel that earlier (it was possible) contact should have been made with NP 8901 to report the facts. The OCRM would then have been able to alert North Arm by other means.

13. Touching on what action was taken to find Mne Addis, the Board recommended the statements of xxxxxx xxxxxxxxxxxxxx and xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx to the reader. It is, however, summarized as follows: xxxxx

(Immediate Search)

- | | | |
|-----|---------------|--|
| (a) | 8 August 1500 | North Arm alerted. 1500 - 1730 Settlement searched, jetty examined |
| (b) | 8 August 1630 | OCRM alerted at Moody Brook |
| (c) | 8 August 1900 | 'O' Group |
| (d) | 9 August 0730 | Search teams fly to North Arm Settlement |

- (e) 9 August 0820-1700 Search by
 - (1) Divers
 - (2) One dinghy with glass bottomed box
 - (3) Air search
 - (4) Tracks near outside houses searched
 - (f) 9 August 1730 mv Forrest arrives with stores
 - (g) 10 August 0730 Additional search team arrives
 - (h) 10 August all day
 - (1) Diving
 - (2) land search using
 - (a) men on foot
 - (b) horses
 - (c) dogs
 - (3) Three boats with glass bottomed boxes
 - (i) 11 August Search continues
1200 OCRM calls off search
- (Subsequent Search)
- (j) 11 August onwards
 - (1) Boats have searched the harbour at frequent intervals
 - (2) Coastlines searched at distance of 3 and 10 miles
 - (3) 5 mile radius of ground from the Settlement searched twice a week
 - (4) All outside houses searched twice (see map)
 - (5) Continued observation
 - (6) Frequent crossing of land during normal farm work

14. The Board was very conscious of the fact that there was or seemed to be more emphasis placed on the sea search rather than the land search. The Board have fully taken all the facts into consideration and are of the opinion that sufficient effort was placed into the hinterland search. ~~xxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ statement is noted. (He believes there was an inadequate search). The Board has taken into account that ~~xxxx~~ was not in possession of all the pertinent facts and privy to the overall plan.

15. Concerning whether Addis was on duty. Addis was sent by the OCRM as part of a training team to Fitzroy Settlement. He was on his way to Fitzroy Settlement, and had he disappeared from mv Forrest at sea there would be no doubt that he was on duty. That he happened to be ashore for a few hours relaxation

before continuing to Fitzroy, the Board feels makes no material difference. Without wishing to create a precedent, the Board consider that at the time of his disappearance Mne Addis was on duty.

16. The Board notes that the OCRM took immediate action to prevent a similar incident. It is apparent that at a 'Clear lower Deck' on 15 August 1980 ground rules were made and explained to prevent a recurrence. These instructions have been incorporated into NP 8901 Administrative Standing Orders. (Flag E)

17. Until Mne Addis' body is found it will never be certain what has happened to Mne Addis. There appear to be two alternatives. Firstly Addis may have wandered off into Camp having mistaken his way when he left the Social Club. If this was the case the Board feel that, in view of evidence given as to his state of intoxication and capability at about 0100 - 0200 (no one at that time thought he could not get back to the ship unaided) that Addis would have sobered up fairly quickly, realised his mistake and have survived the night and been found wandering lost not far away from the settlement. The Board does not rule out the possibility that he may have found shelter behind a peat bank or in a gully and perished in his sleep through exposure. The second alternative is that Addis either, on his way to the ship, on the jetty, or from the Forrest itself may have slipped and suffered an injury possibly rendering him unconscious, and that the impact of very near freezing water killed him. It is possible that he fell into the water between the Forrest and the jetty and became lodged under the Forrest. The Board know that a body, at this time of the year, in this hemisphere, should rise to the surface in about three weeks from the time of its immersion, and therefore Addis should have been found by now. The Board does not dismiss the possibility that the Forrest has somehow dragged his body out of the harbour. Of one thing the Board is certain. Mne Addis is dead. As it is assumed from the evidence that Addis was capable of returning to mv Forrest (and there is no evidence to indicate that he would do otherwise as he did not sleep ashore) the Board conclude that Addis was drowned. As his body has not been found near the jetty or along the shore, it would be wrong to rule out the possibility that he may have been disorientated on leaving the Social Club and wandered off into Camp and died of exposure.

The Board wishes to draw to the attention of the Authority the long exhausting hours that ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ and ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ~~xx~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ spent in very cold water with inadequate protection and diving equipment. Their work was immense value.



Government House
PORT STANLEY
Falkland Islands

13 October 1980

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Officer Commanding
NP 8901
Moody Brook

Dear Officer Commanding,

Thank you for sending me the findings of the Board of Inquiry into the circumstances of the disappearance of Marine Alan Addis on or about 8 August 1980.

I endorse the findings of the Board of Inquiry, and have no further comments.

I consider that everything possible was done to find the body of Marine Addis, and that you have taken all reasonable action to prevent a similar incident in the future.

I am, Sir,
your obedient servant

Governor and Commander-
in-Chief of the Falkland
Islands and Dependencies