

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOI/PA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET  
FOI/PA# 1370627-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 3

Page 18 ~ b6; b7C;

Page 19 ~ b6; b7C;

Page 20 ~ Referral/Direct;

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X  Deleted Page(s)  X
X No Duplication Fee X
X  For this Page    X
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File - Serial Charge Out  
FD-5 (Rev. 6-17-70)

File 1978-78 Date \_\_\_\_\_

Class. \_\_\_\_\_ Case No. \_\_\_\_\_ Last Serial \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Pending ☐ Closed

Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_ Description of Serial \_\_\_\_\_ Date Charged \_\_\_\_\_

89 78 V. Grimehist 12/3  
Grimehist [Redacted]

[Redacted] b6  
b7C

91 affidavit re [Redacted] 12/5

25 3/15  
QC

[Redacted]

Employee

RECHARGE

Date \_\_\_\_\_

To \_\_\_\_\_ From \_\_\_\_\_

Initials of Clerk {

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date {

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date charged \_\_\_\_\_

Employee \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) 4

THE HERALD AMERICAN  
BOSTON, MA.Date: 9/27/83  
Edition: MORNING

Title:

b6  
b7CCharacter: HA-FINAN/COMM. INST  
or 192A-78\* BS  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: BOSTON

Indexing:

# Green Beret jailed in \$1.2 M extort plot

By ANDREW GULLY

A GREEN BERET from Fort Devens was sentenced to four years in prison yesterday for trying to extort \$1.25 million from the president and founder of Digital Equipment Corp.

Staff Sgt. Marc E.

McDonnell, 28, a former Stoughton resident who became a Special Forces demolition expert, also faces discharge from the military.

"It's up to his commander, but that's very often what happens," said Major Sandor Ketvis of Ft. Devens. "It's an un-

fortunate case. Until this, there was no indication he was anything but a good soldier."

McDonnell pleaded guilty Aug. 31 to a one-count indictment charging him with trying to extort money from Digital's top exec, Kenneth H. Olsen of Lincoln, with a

death threat. The ransom, which was never paid, was supposed to be in \$100 bills.

U.S. Marshalls took McDonnell, a 10-year-veteran and married father of one, into custody yesterday after sentencing by Judge A. David Maz-

zone in federal court.

In a bizarre, handwritten note, McDonnell told Olsen the "interest free loan" would go to "expatriots" who did the "dirty work" for American intelligence gathering around the globe.

192A-78-80

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 29 1983	
FBI-BOSTON	

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) 68

THE BOSTON GLOBE  
BOSTON, MA.Date: 9/27/83  
Edition: MORNING

Title

b6  
b7CCharacter: HA.-FINAN.COMM. INST.  
or 192A-78\* BS  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: BOSTON

Indexing:

# Green Beret gets 4 years in jail

By William Doherty  
Globe Staff

A Green Beret, who admitted threatening to kill the president of Digital Equipment Corp. in a \$1.25-million extortion attempt, received a four-year prison sentence yesterday.

Sgt. Marc E. McDonnell, 28, who is based at Fort Devens in Ayer, admitted writing two letters to Digital president Kenneth H. Olsen demanding the money as an "interest-free loan." Digital is the second largest computer manufacturing firm in the world.

The first letter promised a "demonstration of our seriousness" and after it was mailed McDonnell admitted setting off explosives which damaged two utility poles in Lincoln June 4. One explosion was a mile from Olsen's home.

McDonnell pleaded guilty in federal court in Boston to a charge of sending an extortionate letter through the mails. No money was paid and neither Olsen nor his family was injured.

US District Judge A. David Mazzone imposed the sentence and ordered McDonnell turned over to federal marshals to begin serving it immediately.

Although Assistant US Attorney Paul F. Healy Jr. recommended a five-year sentence, the judge said he considered McDonnell's remorse, his supportive family and his lack of a future in the Army.

Defense lawyer Willie J. Davis, emphasizing that no one was injured in the episode, argued that McDonnell "let his mind run away with him." The sergeant is a trained demolitions specialist who was born in Boston and lived in Stoughton before joining the Army 10 years ago.

According to a psychiatric report filed in court: "The combination of financial stress and his feeling of entitlement and lack of recognition for the dangers of his job seemed to have led to a temporary disorder of thinking which he now views with remorse."

McDonnell is a person of superior intelligence and with no mental disease, according to the report.

In a confession given Army investigators at the time of his arrest in June, McDonnell said the extortion attempt was motivated by a desire to do more for his wife and daughter. "I tried to think of a way that would harm no one, inconvenience few and make available enough money to live on without my wife working," he said in the confession.

McDonnell selected Olsen's name from a magazine article listing the 400 richest people in the country.

"I narrowed the possible candidates down to seven. From those only Mr. Olsen lives a near normal lifestyle in a rural setting. This was a requirement because I felt the operation required a demonstration of the capability which could only be done in a woodsy type area where nobody could be injured," he said.

In the letters, McDonnell directed the money be left at a roadside rest area in Littleton. He took his wife and 4-year-old daughter with him to the "drop site," but said they were unaware of what he was looking for.

Army investigators working on another case found a draft of the demand letter containing McDonnell's fingerprints discarded in a trash bin outside the sergeant's home.

192A-78-81  
AS BS

AB

**REPORT  
of the**



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535**

To: SAC, Boston (192B-78)

October 3, 1983

FBI FILE NO. 192-1242

Re:   
U.S. ARMY;  
KENNETH H. OLSEN, PRESIDENT  
DIGITAL EQUIPMENT CORPORATION - VICTIM;  
HA-CI;EID

LAB. NO. 30811028 S WG US  
30818029 S WG

b6  
b7C

OO: Boston

Examination requested by: Boston

Reference: Communications dated July 21, 1983 and August 17, 1983

Examination requested: Explosives - Instrumental Analyses

Specimens received July 26, 1983, under cover of communication dated  
July 21, 1983 (30811028 S WG US):

ITEMS SEIZED FROM  RESIDENCE ON  
JUNE 23, 1983

K1 White puttylike substance

b6  
b7C

K2 M2 cap crimper

K3 Partial roll of black plastic tape

K4 White paper box containing four nonelectric blasting caps

K5 Two rolls of M700 safety fuse

ITEM FURNISHED FROM  ON  
JUNE 24, 1983

K6 Four sealed packages bearing manufacturers print "6-CAP,  
BLASTING NON-ELEC M7"

Enclosures (38)

Page 1

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OCT 6 1983	
FBI - BOSTON	

(over)

Specimens received August 18, 1983, under cover of communication dated August 17, 1983 (30818029 S WG):

RESUBMISSIONS OF Q10 THROUGH Q26 (30615032 S WG US):

DEVICE #1

- Q10 Two metal fragments (Item A-1)
- Q11 Length of burned safety fuse (Item A-2)
- Q12 Length of black plastic tape (Item A-3)
- Q13 Length of black plastic tape (Item A-4)
- Q14 Two lengths of black plastic tape (Item A-5)
- Q15 Three black plastic wire ties (Item A-6)
- Q16 Pieces of fragmented wood (Item A-7)

DEVICE #2

- Q17 Length of black plastic tape (Item B-1)
- Q18 Fragment of black plastic tape (Item B-2)
- Q19 Fragment of black plastic tape (Item B-3)
- Q20 Length of burned safety fuse (Item B-4)
- Q21 Pieces of fragmented wood (Item B-5)
- Q22 Length of burned safety fuse (Item B-6)
- Q23 Length of black plastic tape (Item B-7)
- Q24 Length of burned safety fuse (Item B-8)
- Q25 Length of black plastic tape (Item B-9)
- Q26 Length of burned safety fuse (Item B-10)

Result of examination:

You should refer to the previous FBI Laboratory report, numbered 30615032 and 30617023, dated July 21, 1983 for the results of the examinations on resubmitted specimens Q10 through Q26.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

You requested an examination of specimens K1 through K6 and an intercomparison of those items with specimens previously examined and reported in above referenced report.

PHOTOGRAPHS:

Enclosed for your investigative assistance are two sets of photographs (19 photographs per set) depicting the submitted items.

EXPLOSIVES AND EXPLOSIVE ACCESSORIES:

Present in the submitted items are nonelectric blasting caps, rolls of safety fuse, a blasting cap crimper tool, and C-4 type high explosive material. All items are manufactured for the use of the United States Military and are not normally available on the commercial market. Also present is a partial roll of black plastic tape.

A detailed description of the individual items is set forth hereafter:

Main Charge Explosive

The white puttylike material in specimen K1 was determined to be C-4, a United States Military demolition explosive.

Safety Fuse

Present in specimen K5 are two rolls of type M700, safety fuse, a United States Military fuse used to safely initiate nonelectric blasting caps like the ones present in specimens K4 and K6. The green plastic covering of the fuse is colored with a single yellow band every 18" and double yellow bands every 7'6."

Tape

Present in specimen K3 is a partial roll of 3/4"-wide black plastic tape whose free end has been cut/torn and is suitable for end match purposes. This roll of tape was manufactured by the Plymouth Rubber Co., Inc., Canton, Massachusetts during June 1976.

### Blasting Caps

Present in specimens K4 and K6 are twenty-eight (28) United States Military Type M7 nonelectric blasting caps which contain the explosives, RDX and lead styphanate. These aluminum shelled blasting caps which measure approximately 2.35" X .239" are capable of initiating the C-4 explosive in specimen K1. Present on the exterior of the paper boxes in specimens K4 and K6 is the following United States Military LOT number: CIL 2-3 3-72. The 3-72 indicates the blasting caps were manufactured during March 1972.

### Crimper Tool

Present in specimen K2 is a nonelectric blasting cap crimper type M2 manufactured by the Sargent Company. An instrumental analysis of the white powder removed from the cutting portion of the crimper was determined to be PETN, the high explosive component in detonating cord.

### COMPARISON EXAMINATIONS:

The free end of the 3/4"-wide black plastic tape in specimen K3 was compared with the 3/4"-wide black plastic tape in specimen Q12, Q13, Q14, Q17, Q18, Q19, Q23, Q24, and Q25. Although the lengths of tape have similar surface characteristics, no end match was affected.

The metal fragments of an aluminum shelled blasting cap in specimen Q10 were compared to one of the nonelectric blasting caps in specimen K4. Although the presence of the aluminum fragments in specimen Q10 are similar to the type aluminum used in the K4 nonelectric blasting cap, no positive determination was reached regarding the exact source of specimen Q10.

The length of burned safety fuse in specimen Q11 was determined to be like the military M700 green colored safety fuse in specimen K5.

### DISPOSITION OF SPECIMENS:

Unless advised to the contrary, specimens Q10 through Q26 will be returned to your office under separate cover by registered mail. However, specimens K1 through K6 will be retained in the Explosives Unit, FBI Laboratory until final disposition is determined.



# Memorandum



To : SAC, Boston (192B-78)

Date Oct 7, 1983

From :

[Redacted]

b6  
b7C

Subject :

[Redacted]

US ARMY;  
KENNETH OLSEN, PRESIDENT, DIGITAL  
EQUIPMENT CORP - VICTIM  
HA-CI ; R/D  
(OO:BS)

On 10/7/83 this matter was discussed with  
[Redacted] Boston, MA relative to [Redacted]

In addition, [Redacted]

b5  
b6  
b7C

[Redacted] advised he  
would contact subject's attorney relative to  
these matters and would recontact writer with  
the results.

A+D

1 - Boston (192B-78)

192B-78-83

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
1983	
FBI - BOSTON	

*[Signature]*

BS 192B-78

John F. Kennedy Federal Building  
Government Center  
Boston, Massachusetts 02203

October 17, 1983

Honorable William F. Weld  
United States Attorney  
District of Massachusetts  
John W. McCormack Post Office  
& Courthouse, Room 1107  
Boston, Massachusetts 02109

Attention:   
Assistant United States Attorney

b6  
b7C

Dear Sir:

Re: U.S. ARMY;  
KENNETH H. OLSEN - VICTIM  
HOBBS ACT; EXTORTION

This will confirm the recent conversation between [redacted] of this office and Assistant United States Attorney [redacted] concerning captioned matter. Special Agent [redacted] requested that [redacted]

b5  
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b7C

In addition, pursuant to the above conversation, Agent [redacted]

b5  
b6  
b7C

Due to the hazard these chemicals pose in our evidence area, I

SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED  
INDEXED  
FILED

1928-78-~~74~~

b6  
b7C

am requesting that you notify us as soon as possible concerning the disposition of this material.

Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

JAMES W. GREENLEAF  
Special Agent in Charge

By:

Supervisory Special Agent

b6  
b7c

BS 192B-78

John F. Kennedy Federal Building  
Government Center  
Boston, Massachusetts 02203

October 17, 1983

[REDACTED]  
U.S. Army Criminal Investigative Division  
Ft. Devens, MA

Dear Rick:

Re: [REDACTED]

U.S. ARMY  
EXTORTION

b6  
b7C

This will serve as official notification that captioned subject was sentenced on 9/29/83 to four years in federal prison for violation of Title 18 U.S. Code Section 876, regarding the attempted extortion against Digital Equipment Corporation President Kenneth Olsen. [REDACTED] was sentenced in United States District Court, Boston by U.S. District Judge David Mazzone. An attempt will be made to question [REDACTED] informally or via the federal grand jury relative to his allegation of accomplices assisting him in the extortion.

Assistant United States Attorney [REDACTED] Boston, Massachusetts has authorized the disposal of the evidentiary items maintained at the Explosive Ordinance Depot at Ft. Devens. An inventory of the items is enclosed for your assistance. Please have someone execute and return the original of the enclosed receipt once the inventory has been confirmed and the Army has accepted custody of the material.

b6  
b7C

May I again express the Federal Bureau of Investigation's appreciation for the valuable assistance provided by your staff and the other Army units who cooperated in this sensitive investigation.

2-Addressee  
1-Boston (192B-78)

GHB/mw  
(3)

SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED  
INDEXED  
FILED

192B-78-85  
[REDACTED]  
b6  
b7C

I will ensure you are notified of the results  
of the [redacted] interview.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

b6  
b7C

JAMES W. GREENLEAF  
Special Agent in Charge

Rv:  
[redacted]

Supervisory Special Agent

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE HERALD AMERICAN  
BOSTON, MA.Date: 10/18/83  
Edition: MORNING

Title:

Character:

or HA-FINAN/COMM INST.

Classification: 192A-78\* BS

Submitting Office: BOSTON

Indexing:

b6  
b7c

# Green Beret extortionist sought 'good life' for family

A FORT Devens Green Beret sergeant, tired of military life with its low pay and high risks, said he decided to extort \$1½ million from a Lincoln industrialist to provide his family with "the good stuff" in life.

Staff Sgt. Marc E. McDonnell, 28, was sentenced Sept. 26, to four years in federal prison in Danbury, Conn., a place he has found better than the Army.

"It is absolutely fascinating who is in here, big corporate presidents, world-class forgers and people you see in 'People' magazine. It's like a cocktail party where all the guests are celebrities," McDonnell said.

McDonnell told the Middlesex News his only

regret is that life will be tough on his wife and their 5-year-old daughter while he is behind bars.

The idea for the crime came up in idle conversation with other members of the Green Berets at Devens. "Two years later, I went off and did it, alone," McDonnell said.

June 2, Kenneth Olsen, president of Digital Equipment Corp., received a letter demanding the extortion money under threat of death, the FBI said.

Six days later, Olsen received instructions to leave unmarked \$100 bills in plastic trash bags at a rest area at Routes 2 and 495.

When McDonnell got no indication that no one would pay, he said: "There

and then I was ready to forget the whole thing. I would come across it," McDonnell said.

"But one day I told my wife to drive by the rest area. I just hated to think that, if he did pay, some kid would come across it," McDonnell said. "That was a bad move because they traced my wife's car from there," he added.

112B-78-86  
B B

JB

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**-b7E**

**DIRECTOR, FBI**

Bureau File Number

Field Office File Number

Squad or RA Number

☐ - X if a joint FBI/DEA (or other Federal Agency \*\* ) operation.

☐ - X if case involves corruption of a public official (Federal, State or Local).

## Investigative Assistance or Techniques Used

Were any of the investigative assistance or techniques listed below used in connection with accomplishment being claimed? ☐ No ☒ Yes - If Yes, rate each used as follows:

1 = Used, but did not help  
2 = Helped, but only minimally  
3 = Helped, substantially  
4 = Absolutely essential

**SUBJECT**

**SAC, BOSTON**

US ARMY;  
KENNETH H. OLSEN,  
PRESIDENT, DIGITAL  
EQUIPMENT CORP -  
VICTIM  
HA-CI; RID  
(OO: BS)

<b>A. Preliminary Judicial Process (Number of subjects)</b>				<b>D. Recoveries, Restitutions, Court Ordered Forfeitures or Potential Economic Loss Prevented (PELP)</b>						
Complaints				Informations	Indictments	Property or PELP Type Code *	Recoveries	Restitutions	Court Ordered Forfeitures	Potential Economic Loss Prevented
<b>B. Arrests, Locates, Summonses &amp; Subpoenas (No. of subjects)</b>				Subject Priority (See Reverse)						
A				B	C					
FBI Arrests -							\$	\$	\$	\$
FBI Locates -							\$	\$	\$	\$
Number of Subjects of FBI Arrests Who Physically Resisted _____							\$	\$	\$	\$
Number of Subjects of FBI Arrests Who Were Armed _____							\$	\$	\$	\$
Criminal Summons _____ Subpoenas Served _____							\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>C. Release of Hostages: (Number of Hostages Released)</b>						<b>E. Civil Matters</b>		Government Defendant		Government Plaintiff
Hostages Held By Terrorists _____; All Other Hostage Situations _____						Amount of Suit		\$		\$
						Settlement or Award		\$		\$
										Enter AFA Payment Here

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

**Attach additional forms if reporting final judicial process on more than three subjects.**

Remarks: Subject pleaded guilty 8/31/83. Subject sentenced U.S. District Court, Boston 9/26/83 to four years prison. 1924

1920-78-87

2 - Bureau  
2 - Field Office (1-192B-78) (1-SIP)

\* See codes on reverse side. Subject description codes in Section F are required only when reporting a conviction.

Identify the other Federal Agency(ies) in the Remarks Section.

GNB/ eill  
(4) *um* OK-mok

FBI/DOJ

**Property Type Codes\***

Code No	Description
1	Cash (U.S. and foreign currency)
2	Stock, Bonds or Negotiable Instruments (checks, travelers checks, money orders, certificates of deposit, etc)
3	General Retail Merchandise (clothing, food, liquor, cigarettes, TVs, etc)
4	Vehicles (autos, trucks, tractors, trailers, campers, motorcycles, etc)
5	Heavy Machinery & Equipment (heavy equipment, computers, etc)
6	Bulk Materials (grain, fuel, raw materials, metals, wire, etc)
7	Jewelry (including unset precious and semiprecious stones)
8	Precious Metals (gold, silver, silverware, platinum, etc)
9	Art, Antiques or Rare Collections
10	Dangerous Drugs
11	Weapons or Explosives
12	Businesses or Assets Forfeited
20	All Other Recoveries (not falling in any category above)

**Potential Economic Loss Prevented (PELP) Type Codes \***

Code No	Description
21	Blank Negotiable Instruments or Tickets
22	Counterfeit Stocks, Bonds, Currency or Negotiable Instruments
23	Counterfeit or Pirated Sound Recordings or Motion Pictures
24	Bank Theft Scheme Aborted
25	Ransom, Extortion or Bribe Demand Aborted
26	Theft From, or Fraud Against, Government Scheme Aborted
27	Commercial or Industrial Theft Scheme Aborted
30	All Other Potential Economic Loss Prevented (not falling in any category above)

\*The case file must contain an explanation of the computation of the recovery value or loss prevented. An explanation airtel must accompany this report if the recovery is \$1 million or more, or if the PELP is \$5 million or more.

**Subject Description Codes \***

- Enter Description Code Only When Reporting a Conviction -

**Organized Crime Subjects:**

- 1A Boss, Underboss or Consigliere
- 1B Capodecina or Soldier
- 1C Possible LCN Member or Associate
- 1D OC Subject Other Than LCN

**Known Criminals (Other Than OC Members):**

- 2A Top Ten or I.O. Fugitive
- 2B Top Thief
- 2C Top Con Man

**Foreign Nationals:**

- 3A Legal Alien
- 3B Illegal Alien
- 3C Foreign Official Without Diplomatic Immunity
- 3D U.N. Employee Without Diplomatic Immunity
- 3E Foreign Students
- 3F All Others

**Terrorists:**

- 4A Known Member of a Terrorist Organization
- 4B Possible Terrorist Member or Sympathizer

\*If a subject can be classified in more than one of the categories, select the most appropriate in the circumstance.

**Union Members:**

- 5A International or National Officer
- 5B Local Officer
- 5C Union Employee

**Government Official Or Employees:**

- 6A Federal - Elected Official
- 6B Federal - Nonelected Executive Level
- 6C Federal - All Other
- 6D State - Elected Official
- 6E State - Nonelected Executive Level
- 6F State - All Other
- 6G Local - Elected Official
- 6H Local - Nonelected Executive Level
- 6J Local - All Other

**Bank Officers Or Employees:**

- 7A Bank Officer
- 7B Bank Employee

**All Others:**

- 8A All Other Subjects (not fitting above categories)

**Instructions****Subject Priorities for FBI Arrest or Locates:**

- A - Subject wanted for crimes of violence (i.e. murder, manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault) or convicted of such crimes in the past five years.
- B - Subjects wanted for crimes involving the loss or destruction of property valued in excess of \$25,000 or convicted of such crimes in the past five years.
- C - All others

**Claiming Convictions Other Than Federal:**

It is permissible to claim a local (state, county or local) conviction if the FBI's investigation significantly contributed to the successful local prosecution. A succinct narrative setting forth the basis for claiming a local conviction must accompany this report. When claiming a conviction other than Federal, enter the word "LOCAL" in the "Conviction-Section" block, disregard the number of conviction counts, but enter the sentence in the appropriate blocks. Enter "LF" in the "In-Jail" block for all life sentences and "CP" for all capital punishment sentences.

**Reporting Convictions:**

Convictions should not be reported until the sentence has been issued. There are two exceptions to this rule. The conviction information can be submitted by itself if:

- 1. The subject becomes a fugitive after conviction but prior to sentencing.
- 2. The subject dies after conviction but prior to sentencing.

An explanation is required in the Remarks section for either of the above exceptions.

**Rule 20 Situations:**

The field office that obtained the process (normally the office of origin) is the office that should claim the conviction, **not** the office where the subject enters the plea in cases involving Rule 20 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedures.

**Investigative Assistance or Techniques (IA/Ts) Used:**

-Since more than one IA/T could have contributed to the accomplishment, each IA/T must be rated.

-The IA/T used must be rated **each time** an accomplishment is claimed. (For example - if informant information was the basis for a complaint, an arrest, a recovery and a conviction and if separate FD-515s are submitted for each of the aforementioned accomplishments, the "Informant Information" block must be rated on each FD-515 even if it was the same information that contributed to all the accomplishments.)



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE MIDDLESEX NEWS  
FRAMINGHAM, MA.Date: 10/17/83  
Edition:

Title:

b6  
b7CCharacter:  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office:

Indexing:

# Plot for 'a quick \$20,000' ruins his life

By THOMAS MORONEY

DANBURY, Conn. — For most of the soldiers in the small group, the conversations about extorting wealthy businessmen were nothing more than that — just talk.

Yet, set against the low pay, risky assignments and months away from their families, the idea had

a certain appeal, albeit a perverse one.

Staff Sgt. Marc E. McDonnell, a member of that Fort Devens coterie, saw the idea as "a quick \$20,000" to cover bills and start a "nest egg" for his children's education.

"A bunch of us just started talking one day. Two years later, I went off and did it ... alone," he said in an interview.

McDonnell was sentenced Sept. 26 to four years at the Federal Correctional Institution here after he pleaded guilty to

charges of threatening to kill Kenneth Olsen, the president of Digital Equipment Corp., and his family in a \$1.25 million extortion plot.

In the prison visitors room, McDonnell talked about how the scheme took root and the motives behind it.

What emerged were some hints as to why this successful 28-year-old career Army sergeant blessed with a devoted wife, loving daughter and strong family background would do what he did.

"People look at me as the soldier boy gone bad or 'Andy of Mayberry commits extortion' or something like that. All I wanted to do was stay solvent and stay in the military. I loved the job, but it's real tough on the family.

"It was a bluff to secure a loan. What was I supposed to do, threaten to egg his house? I'm sorry for the trouble I caused, but nobody was hurt, no property damaged," he said.

McDonnell was arrested by

(Continued on 14A)

1928-78-88

(Continued from 1A)

the FBI in June while on a tour of duty in Germany. With utter disgust, one agent turned to McDonnell and asked, "How could you do such a thing?"

"And I asked him, 'How much do you make a year?' He said \$60,000. I told him I made \$14,000 and I was just as patriotic and hard-working as he was.

"I knew after 10 years in the Special Services (Green Berets), where the average tour of duty is 12 years, that I would never be able to give my family the good stuff," McDonnell said.

He and his soldier friends also knew they had the talent, training and equipment for any plan. McDonnell is an expert with explosives, known in military circles for his skill and creativity in the field.

"We talked about how we would show the people we were a viable force. We could do anything, really. We could have derailed a train; or, with a single charge, blacked out all of New England. We also talked about the person.

"There must be 150 millionaires in New England. We had it narrowed down to two — Mr. Olsen and An Wang (founder of Wang Laboratories in Lowell). But we weren't sure how Wang would react or whether he was heavily protected, so we focused on the other," he said.

Did he ever think he'd get away with it, he was asked.

"It was about a 50-50 chance. If it didn't work, I figured to walk away and never try it again.

"Early summer was a frantic time. The people I was talking with (the other soldiers) were starting to leave on one-year missions. I was ready to leave again myself, and I thought, 'Well, it's now or never,' " he said.

On June 2, Olsen received McDonnell's letter demanding a

\$1.25 million interest-free loan, accompanied with the threat of death, according to the FBI.

On June 8, Olsen received instructions to put unmarked \$100 bills in plastic trash bags in a deserted rest area at the intersection of routes 2 and 495.

The FBI also said that, on June 4, two telephone poles near Olsen's house were damaged by explosions, perhaps as a show of force.

McDonnell corroborated all the FBI information but would not talk about the explosions. He did say that, after the poles exploded, he was surprised to find nothing in the newspapers to indicate that Olsen would pay.

"There and then I was ready to forget the whole thing — so much for a life of crime. But one day I told my wife to drive by the rest area. I just hated to think that, if he did pay, some kid would come across the million bucks and I'd read about it in the papers.

"That was a bad move, because they may have traced my wife's car from there," he said.

Combined with what some say is a light sentence and McDonnell's own description of the country club atmosphere at Danbury, it is hard to feel much empathy for him.

"I live in a dormitory setting. I've had worse times back in the barracks.

"Besides the tennis courts, track, weight room, you can go to school all day. I have a chance now to take college courses I couldn't take in the Army. I may work toward a degree in civil engineering.

"Plus it's absolutely fascinating who is in here — big corporate presidents, world-class forgers and people you would see in 'People' magazine. It's like a cocktail party where

all the guests are celebrities.

"I'd rather not say who they are, but I will say I've had many good job offers," he said.

Although it is not official, McDonnell expects no court martial — just a permanent release from the military.

His one regret is the pain he has caused his wife.

"The person really hurt by this is her, and that hurts me. She lost her job because of this. She has to take care of our 5-year-old daughter and leave Devens right away, so basically she's looking for a place to sleep this winter. She's really on the edge. I hope she's OK.

"Otherwise, I'd like to say I'm more remorseful, but I never meant any harm, so I can't be that sorry," he said. "I'm not a psycho or gangster. I made a mistake, and I'm paying for it."



MARC E. MCDONNELL

"It was a bluff"

# Memorandum



To : SAC, Boston (192B-78)

Date DEC 5, 1983

From :

[Redacted]

b6  
b7C

Subject :

[Redacted]

US ARMY

KENNETH OLSEN, PRESIDENT  
DIGITAL EQUIPMENT CORP - VICTIM

HA-CI ; EID  
(OO:BS)

On 12-2-83 all recovered explosive-related evidence was given into the permanent custody of the US Army, receipts obtained.

On 12-5-83 AUSA [Redacted] Boston MA advised that an order is presently pending before the US District Court in Boston which would authorize the FBI to dispose of the remaining evidence and firearms in this case. AUSA [Redacted] stated he would notify the FBI when the order is signed. AUSA [Redacted] requested that he be contacted after 1/1/84 at which time he will request subject's appearance before a federal grand jury in Boston.

b6  
b7C

1- Boston

# Memorandum



To : SAC, Boston (192B-78) (C) Date March 2, 1984

From :

[Redacted]

b6  
b7C

Subject :

[Redacted]

US ARMY;

KENNETH H. OLSEN, PRESIDENT  
DIGITAL EQUIPMENT CORP - VICTIM  
HA - CE ; IED ;  
OO:BS

All prosecution is complete and all evidence has been disposed of in this matter.

On 3-2-84 AUSA [Redacted], Boston MA advised that after discussion with subject's attorney [Redacted] is satisfied that it is very unlikely evidence of complicity by identifiable persons would be obtained by subject's appearance before a federal grand jury. Therefore, subject will not be required to testify.

b6  
b7C

Due to the above, since all investigation is complete, it is recommended this case be closed.

Close  
[Signature]

1 - Boston

192B-78-93

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 2 1984	
FBI - BOSTON	

[Signature]



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

John F. Kennedy Federal Building  
Government Center  
Boston, Massachusetts 02203

March 2, 1984

Massachusetts Department of Public Safety  
Firearms Unit  
1010 Commonwealth Avenue  
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Sir:

Please find enclosed one Massachusetts License to Carry Firearms [redacted] issued to [redacted]. The permit was seized by FBI Agents from [redacted] subsequent to his arrest for an attempted extortion against the President of Digital Equipment Corporation. [redacted] pleaded guilty to the charge in U.S. District Court on September 1, 1983 and is presently serving a four year federal prison sentence. The permit is being returned to your department for proper disposition.

b6  
b7C

Your assistance is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

JAMES W. GREENLEAF  
Special Agent in Charge

By:

[redacted]

Supervisory Special Agent

b6  
b7C

1-Addressee  
①-Boston (192B-78)  
GHB/fal  
(2) *FAL*

*192B-78-94*

FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☐ Airtel

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☐ UNCLAS E F T O  
☐ UNCLAS

Date 2/17/84

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
 (Attention: FBI Laboratory - Firearms Unit)

FROM: SAC, BOSTON (192B-78)

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]  
 U.S. ARMY;  
 KENNETH H. OLSEN, PRESIDENT  
 DIGITAL EQUIPMENT CORPORATION - VICTIM  
 HA - CI; EID

b6  
 b7C

Submitted under separate cover to the Laboratory are the following items:

1. One Browning 9mm pistol, serial [REDACTED] with magazine.
2. One Colt 45 caliber pistol, serial [REDACTED] (owner applied) with two magazines.
3. One Savage .308 caliber rifle, serial [REDACTED] with cover.

b6  
 b7C

Enclosed items were seized during service of a federal search warrant on subject's residence. On 11/28/83, U.S. District Judge David Nelson, Boston, Massachusetts, issued an order directing the FBI to dispose of items seized pursuant to the warrant. A copy of the order is enclosed for the Firearms Unit. Accordingly, the seized firearms are being forwarded to the Firearms Unit for proper disposition.

1\*

3 - Bureau (Encl. 1 package, 1 copy)  
 ② - Boston (192B-78)  
 GHB:lao *lao*  
 (5)

SEARCHED

SERIALIZED

INDEXED

FILED

Per

b6  
 b7C

Approved: *C*

Transmitted

(Number)

(Time)

Per

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 09 1984	
FBI - BOSTON	

192B-78-95



# *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

## *Department of Public Safety*

FIREARMS RECORD BUREAU  
1010 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE  
BOSTON, MA. 02215

MARCH 9, 1984

[REDACTED]  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
J.F. KENNEDY BLDG., GOV.'T CTR.  
BOSTON, MA. 02203

b6  
b7C

RE: [REDACTED]

DEAR [REDACTED]

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THIS OFFICE HAS RECEIVED YOUR LETTER AS PER ATTACHED AND FORWARDED A REQUEST FOR REVOCATION OF THE ABOVE-NAMED PERSONS LICENSE TO CARRY FIREARMS, FROM THE ORIGINAL LICENSING AUTHORITY, AS PER SECOND ATTACHMENT.

YOUR ASSISTANCE AND NOTIFICATION RELATIVE TO MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST IS APPRECIATED.

VERY TRULY YOURS,

b6  
b7C

[REDACTED]  
FIREARMS SPECIALIST

FILE REVIEWED  
DATE 6-8-89  
INITIALS [Signature]

192-78-96

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 10 1984	
[REDACTED]	

3-2

b6  
b7C



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

John F. Kennedy Federal Building  
Government Center  
Boston, Massachusetts 02203

March 2, 1984

Massachusetts Department of Public Safety  
Firearms Unit  
1010 Commonwealth Avenue  
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Sir:

Please find enclosed one Massachusetts License to Carry Firearms [redacted] issued to [redacted]. The permit was seized by FBI Agents from [redacted] subsequent to his arrest for an attempted extortion against the President of Digital Equipment Corporation. [redacted] pleaded guilty to the charge in U.S. District Court on September 1, 1983 and is presently serving a four year federal prison sentence. The permit is being returned to your department for proper disposition.

b6  
b7c

Your assistance is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

JAMES W. GREENLEAF  
Special Agent in Charge

[redacted signature box]

E

Supervisory Special Agent

b6  
b7c





# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Department of Public Safety

FIREARMS RECORD SECTION,  
1010 Commonwealth Avenue,  
Boston 15, Massachusetts.

TO:

CHIEF WILLIAM GROSS  
STOUGHTON POLICE DEPARTMENT  
26 ROSE STREET  
STOUGHTON, MA. 02072

19

ATTENTION:

LICENSING AUTHORITY

b6  
b7C

SUBJECT:

RE: FIREARMS I.D. CARD  
LICENSE TO CARRY FIREARMS  
FELONY CONV. - SEE ATTACHMENT

☐ NO RECORD  
OF SUBJECT

- (1) ☐ after check by FINGERPRINTS.
- (2) ☐ after check of NAME FILES ONLY.
- (3) ☐ after INVESTIGATION indicated.
- (4) ☐ in addition to that KNOWN TO YOU.
- (5) ☐ since REPORT FURNISHED
- (6) ☐ based on INFORMATION FURNISHED.
- (7) ☐ except PRIOR LICENSE.
- (8) ☐ in RECORDS OF SALES.
- (9) ☐ in LISTINGS OF DEALERS.
- (10) ☐ as STOLEN OR LOST.

☐ UNABLE TO  
IDENTIFY

- (11) ☐ based on INFORMATION FURNISHED.
- (12) ☐ WITHOUT FINGERPRINT(S) to compare.
- (13) ☐ because of INCOMPLETE DESCRIPTION.

☐ FORM(S)  
INCORRECT

- (14) ☐ Use FORM CHECKED on this sheet.
- (15) ☐ Not signed by APPLICANT.
- (16) ☐ Not signed by ISSUING AUTHORITY.
- (17) ☐ Some INFORMATION not completed.
- (18) ☐ Some information not LEGIBLE.
- (19) ☐ Date of birth appears wrong.
- (20) ☐ Date of issue appears wrong.
- (21) ☐ Date of expiration appears wrong.
- (22) ☐ Necessary copies not forwarded.

☐ FINGERPRINTS  
SUBMITTED

- (23) ☐ Cannot be classified accurately.
- (24) ☐ indicate another finger should be recorded, and properly labeled.
- (25) ☐ should be replaced by NEW FULL SET at time of next renewal.
- (26) ☐ New set or Impression should be submitted on enclosed form.

☐ LICENSE  
NOT VALID

- (27) ☐ Applicant is not in your jurisdiction.
- (28) ☐ Applicant is an alien.
- (29) ☐ Applicant is a minor (under 18).
- (30) ☐ Applicant has record of a felony.
- (31) ☐ Applicant has history of drug addiction.
- (32) ☐ Issuing authority not as prescribed by law.
- (33) ☐

☐ PLEASE  
FURNISH

- (34) ☐ Corrected copy.
- (35) ☐ Missing photograph(s).
- (36) ☐ Better photograph.
- (37) ☐ Specific request for forms desired indicating quantities needed.
- (38) ☐ Additional data indicated.

☐ FORMS

- (39) ☐ FA 4 ☐ FA 8A ☐ FA 11
- ☐ FA 7 ☐ FA 8B ☐ FA 19
- ☐ FA 7A ☐ FA 9 ☐ FA 20
- ☐ FA 8 ☐ FA 10 ☐ FA 21

☐ FORWARDING  
HEREWITH  
UNDER  
SEPARATE  
COVER  
AS SOON AS  
AVAILABLE

- (40) ☐ Copy (copies) of Firearms Law including latest amendments.
- (41) ☐ Forms requested.
- (42) ☐ Information requested.
- (43) ☐ Out-of-state firearms law or information pertinent.
- (44) ☐ Criminal record.
- (45) ☐ Laminated license form.
- (46) ☒

☐ LICENSE Date:  
SUSPENSION City (town):  
REVOCATION (48) Reinstated (date):  
REFUSAL (49) New license (date):

- (50) ☐ This matter is receiving attention and you will be advised as soon as possible.
- (51) ☐ This matter has been referred as indicated.
- (52) ☐ This is only information known to this section.
- (53) ☐ Please refer this letter to appropriate agency with notice to this section.
- (54) ☐ Forwarded for your information only.
- (55) ☐ Refer to Identification Bulletin #
- (56) ☐ See attached papers.
- (57) ☐ See other side of this form.
- (58) ☐ AWAITING LETTER OF REVOCATION.

Officer in Charge

by: \_\_\_\_\_

b6  
b7C

Worcester Telegram  
Worcester, Massachusetts

Date: September 27, 1983

Edition: Final

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

**Sergeant Gets 4 Years in Extortion Try**

BOSTON (AP) — A U.S. Army sergeant was sentenced yesterday to four years in prison for trying to use the mail to extort a \$1.25 million loan from the president of Digital Equipment Corp., authorities said.

Sgt. Marc E. McDonnell, 27, of Fort Devens in Ayer, Mass., could have gotten up to 20 years for the crime, according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul F. Healy.

But Healy said Judge A. David Mazzone considered McDonnell's good military career, the fact that he had to support a family and a psychiatric report

that he is not dangerous in deciding on the lesser sentence in U.S. District Court here.

Healy, who prosecuted the case, said he had recommended a five-year prison term.

McDonnell pleaded guilty Aug. 31 to one count of using the mail to deliver a threatening letter.

Healy said McDonnell sent two letters in June to Kenneth Olsen of Lincoln, president of the Maynard-based Digital Equipment Corp.

b6

Title:  Kenneth Olsen - Victim

b7C

Character: Extortion

or

Classification: BS 192B-78

Submitting Office:

192B-78-79

SEARCHED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INDEXED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SERIALIZED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FILED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
OCT 11 1983	
FBI - BOSTON	

*[Signature]*