

# Escaped Hijacker Surrenders Peacefully

By ROBERT D. McFADDEN

A convicted Croatian terrorist who escaped from a Federal prison in Orange County, N.Y., early Friday surrendered meekly yesterday morning to a village police officer who found him resting on the back porch of a store in Millford, Pa., 18 miles southwest of the prison.

Exhausted after 30 hours trekking through woods and fields in a cold/crisp, the fugitive, Zvonko Busic, was approached by Officer Donald Quick at 9:30 A.M. behind the Village News Stand in Millford, a town of 1,400 people on the Delaware River in Pennsylvania's northeast corner.

Officer Quick, dispatched after two employees arriving to open the place reported a vagrant on the porch, said the 41-year-old fugitive was clad in a gray sweatshirt and had a small bag of personal effects, but was not armed and seemed "pritty beat."

Wanted posters bearing Mr. Busic's picture, calling him "possibly armed and dangerous" and noting that he had been convicted of a 1976 trans-Atlantic jet hijacking, had not yet arrived in Millford, and the officer — one of seven in town, — said he had no idea who the man was.

## "I'm an Escaped Prisoner"

"I recognized him as not being from the local area," Officer Quick said in a telephone interview. "I asked him for some identification, and he said he had none. I asked him for a Social Security number, but he didn't give one. We went on like that for a few minutes."

"Finally I said, 'You've got to come up with some identification or you've got a real problem.'"

"I do have a real problem," the stranger said, according to the officer. "I'm an escaped prisoner."

Officer Quick, who handcuffed Mr. Busic and took him to a lockup to await Federal marshals, said the fugitive

'He had had no sleep. He was just worn out.'

"gave me no trouble — he seemed very intelligent and articulate, basically a very gentle man," adding: "He was pritty beat. He had been going for about 30 hours out in the rain and drizzle. He had had no sleep. He was just worn out."

## Held on a Fugitive Warrant

The officer also said Mr. Busic told him he had staged the escape from the Otisville Correctional Institution — a medium security Federal prison that had never before had a breakout — because Federal officials had reneged on promises of a parole hearing last year.

Mr. Busic was transferred later in the day to Scranton, where he was being held on a fugitive warrant for arraignment tomorrow before a United States Magistrate, William Askey, in Williamsport, Pa.

An advocate of independence for his Croatian homeland in Yugoslavia, Mr. Busic led the hijacking of a Trans World Airlines jet that left La Guardia Airport for Chicago Sept. 19, 1976. He and his confederates — his wife and three men — surrendered in Paris after a 30-hour odyssey during which Croatian leaflets, at their insistence, were dropped over London, Paris, Montreal, Chicago and New York.

None of the 86 passengers on the flight was injured, but a New York City Police Officer, Brian J. Murray, was killed in the Bronx the day after the hijacking while trying to defuse a bomb they had planted in Grand Central Terminal.

Mr. Busic and his wife, Julienne, were convicted in 1977 of Federal air

piracy involving a death, which carried a mandatory life term, and were also convicted of state charges of kidnapping and murder. But the judge in the Federal case ruled that Mr. Busic would be eligible for parole in 10 years and Mrs. Busic in 8.

According to Officer Quick, Mr. Busic said he escaped because he had been denied a parole hearing and his wife, though granted a hearing, had been denied parole eligibility for another five years.

Mr. Busic's escape was discovered at 7:50 A.M. Friday after he failed to show up for a work detail. In his bed, guards found a dummy adorned with Mr. Busic's mustache and beard, which he had shaved off for the occasion. It was the first escape from inside the prison, 60 miles northwest of New York City, since it was founded seven years ago.

A prison spokesman, Greg Bogdan, said Mr. Busic apparently hid in a crawl space above the ceiling of the prison gymnasium, then broke through a wall and lowered himself into a recreation yard. He dug a hole under the perimeter fence, wriggled through a barrier of double razor wire and fled.

Roadblocks were set up in Orange and Rockland Counties and search teams with bloodhounds and state police helicopters combed the area, but Mr. Busic managed to elude capture. It was unclear whether he encountered anyone before reaching Millford.

Officer Quick, 36, who has been on the Millford force two years and restores 18th and 19th Century ornamental iron as a sideline, was at home when a dispatcher sent him to check out a vagrant on the porch at the Village News.

"He was quite willing to talk," Mr. Quick said. "We discussed political ideology, the Croatian thing. Basically, he felt the United States system was in for a major change. I don't agree with him, but he seemed very intelligent."

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