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1 Testimony of SSG Manuel Lopez,
2 RA 50 155 639, 103d Co, 10th
3 Student Bn, Fort Benning, Georgia,
4 taken at Office of Inspector General,
5 Fort Benning, Georgia, at 1240 to
6 1345 hours on 13 May 1969, by Colonel
7 William V. Wilson, IG.

8
9 Q. SGT Lopez, I am from The Inspector General's
10 Office at Department of the Army. I am here on an inves-
11 tigation and I will read you into it.

12 A. Yes, sir.

13
14 Q. The investigation concerns the alleged destruction
15 of a village in South Vietnam nicknamed Pinkville which was
16 approximately five or six miles north of Quang Ngai City at
17 coordinates 728795. The incident allegedly occurred in March
18 of 68 during the time Co C, 1/20th Inf, Task Force Barker,
19 conducted search and destroy operations on the Batangan
20 Peninsula. The investigation is official and is being made
21 at the direction of the Chief of Staff of the Army. The
22 investigation is privileged in the sense that my report will
23 be made to the Chief of Staff of the Army. The substance
24 of the report and the investigation should not be discussed
25 with others. It will carry a CONFIDENTIAL classification.
26 The purpose of the investigation is to determine the facts
27 relative to this incident. SGT Lopez, I have no reason to
28 believe, or no evidence to indicate, that you are suspected
29 of anything in this case. If you do provide evidence that
30 would be self-incriminating to you I will so warn you.
31 Remember you do not have a requirement to incriminate yourself.

32 A. Yes, sir.

33
34 Q. I'd like to place you under oath. Please stand and
35 raise your right hand.

36
37 (The witness was sworn.)

38 Please state your name, grade and serial number.

39 A. SSG Manuel Lopez, RA 50 155 639.

40 Q. Organization, station and present duty assignment.

41 A. The Charlie Co, 1st Bn, 20th Infantry, 11th Inf
42 Brigade, Americal Division.

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~~HEADQUARTERS, THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY~~
~~Office of the Army Staff Judge Advocate~~
~~Fort Benning, Georgia 30750~~

1 Q. Now.

2 A. 103d Co, 10th Student Bn, Fort Benning.

3 Q. What was your duty assignment in March 1968?

4 A. I was platoon sergeant.

5 Q. What platoon?

6 A. I was with the 2d Platoon--correction, 3d Platoon.

7 Q. What company?

8 A. Charlie Co, 1/20th

9 Q. Please describe in detail the events which occurred
10 when Co C, 1/20th, Task Force Barker, conducted search and
11 destroy operations in the vicinity of a village nicknamed
12 Pinkville.

13 A. Well, I can't describe it too much because we went
14 to the area many times. I don't know which time, about the
15 time. We went to the Pinkville many operations, so I can't
16 tell you much unless I get a little more explanation of what
17 you are referring to.

18 Q. This is the 1:50,000 map sheet. This operation
19 was concerned with the combat assault on My Lai (4) by C Co.

20 A. I believe that it was--I don't remember the exact
21 date, but it was the CA operation to that village. We re-
22 ceived an operation that it was suspected enemy area and we
23 was supposed to search and destroy that village, which we
24 did. I don't really recall what other units were attached
25 to us, but there was some other units that I know of, but
26 anyway our company with the 1st, 2d and 3d Platoons were
27 landed in that area, or near to that village, and I can't
28 recall the time, but it was early in the morning. From
29 there we went into the village, and breakdown by platoon,
30 and my platoon was not even in the village. As we passed
31 the village, the right-hand side of the village--

32 Q. (Interposing) That would be east?

33 A. Right, it would be on the east, and the--what was
34 the platoon--I believe the 2d Platoon was the one that went
35 right into the village. We had a lot of casualties there,
36 enemy type. After that we reorganized and continued the
37 operation, we continued forward. I can't recall how much
38 farther we went forward, but we did walk that day until
39 about five or six o'clock in the evening. That is when we

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1 stopped for overnight.
2

3 Q. When you received the order to destroy the
4 village, how was this order given?
5

6 A. I don't remember, sir. I don't even remember.
7

8 Q. Were any instructions given regarding the de-
9 struction of the inhabitants?
10

11 A. Well, if I recall right, yes, it was. We was
12 supposed to go in and search the village and if there was
13 any civilians we was supposed to move them aside, search
14 them, of course, and after we cleared the village we was
15 to turn them loose unless they were young men anywhere from
16 12 to 35 or so, we brought them back to the rear, and old
ladies or something like that, to search them and leave
them in the village.
17

18 Q. There were no instructions given regarding this
19 combat assault which differed from any other combat assault?
20

21 A. I don't remember, sir.
22

23 Q. What was the sequence of movement of your platoon
24 into the landing zone? Which platoon--
25

26 A. (Interposing) Landed first?
27

28 Q. You were the first platoon to land?
29

30 A. No, sir. Let me see. We had an air strike and
31 artillery. Then after that we were brought down into sec-
32 tions, broken down into sections, and we landed, I believe,
33 with the first platoon that came in first, or--no, sir, I
34 am quite sure we all landed at the same time. We all came
35 down at the same time.
36

37 Q. Was the LZ hot or cold?
38

39 A. LZ? Well, in my section it was not, but I do
40 believe there was sniper fire there when we got there.
41

42 Q. Who was your platoon leader?
43

44 A. (Pause) I believe at that time it was CPT Hauck.
45 He was a lieutenant at that time.
46

47 Q. Who were the squad leaders?
48

49 A. (Pause) Let me see if I remember. (Pause) I
50 don't remember really because we changed so many people
51 around.
52

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1 Q. Was a PFC Gruver in your platoon?
2 A. Yes, he was.

3 Q. Did you observe him on this operation?
4 A. Well, I observe everybody, but I have so many
5 people that, you know, I don't--

6 Q. (Interposing) Do you know a LT William Calley?
7 A. Calley?

8 Q. C-A-L-L-E-Y.
9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. Did you observe him on this operation?
11 A. No, sir. He was platoon leader of either the 1st
12 or 2d Platoon.

13 Q. You didn't see him?
14 A. No, sir, I did not.

15 Q. Did you see his platoon?
16 A. Yes, sir. We had to coordinate with one platoon
17 and the other, but I have seen them from a long distance
18 going through the village. We had different sections.

19 Q. Did you see his platoon round up villagers and
20 machine-gun them?
21 A. No, sir, I did not.

22 Q. Did you see anybody do this?
23 A. No, sir. On that day we--that I know of--we
24 captured, I believe, about four or five weapons in my
25 section and there was a lot of bullets going around, so I
26 couldn't pay attention to everybody and I didn't receive
27 a complete report.

28 Q. Was this action at My Lai (4) any more intense
29 than the normal operations which you participated in?
30 A. In a way it was, yes, sir.

31 Q. Was the enemy action more severe?
32 A. Yes, sir.

33 Q. Was PFC Doherty in your platoon?
34 A. Yes, sir, he was.

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1 Q. Did you observe him on this operation?
2 A. At times I did, yes, sir.

3 Q. Did you ever see him fire on wounded civilians?
4 A. No, sir. All the civilians that we had wounded
5 we usually tagged them and sent them back to the rear to
6 the hospital.
7

8 Q. Do you know PFC Bernhardt?
9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. Did you see him on this operation?
11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Did you see him fire on any wounded civilians?
13 A. No, sir.

14 Q. Was Pinkville burned or My Lai (4) burned?
15 A. Part of it was, yes, sir.

16 Q. Were any other villages burned on this operation?
17 A. Probably was, sir. We stayed in operation for a
18 long time, more than two or three days. It probably was,
19 but I can't remember.

20 Q. How many casualties did you have in your platoon
21 from this operation?
22 A. None, sir.

23 Q. Did you ever go through the village?
24 A. No, sir, I did not.

25 Q. Did you ever notice piles of bodies stacked or in
26 groups?
27 A. Yes, sir, I did.

28 Q. Where were these?
29 A. The ones that I seen were on a trail or road
30 right across--

31 Q. (Interposing) They were in the road?
32 A. Yes, sir.

33 Q. How many?
34 A. That I cannot tell you, sir.

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1 Q. Was it normal to see bodies in groups like this?
2 A. No, sir.

3 Q. Could you tell how they were killed?
4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. How were they killed?
6 A. Some were killed by the air strike or artillery
7 and some were killed by rifle.

8 Q. How many groups did you notice like this?
9 A. Well, sir, maybe one or two groups, but there were
10 bodies in different places--not a stack, but just one or two
11 bodies in different places.

12 Q. How could you tell that some of these people in
13 the stacked group of bodies were killed by artillery?

14 A. The way they were messed up, sir. Some of the
15 people the feet blown off or gone, or the leg or arm was
16 gone. If hit by a bullet there was just a small hole.

17 Q. Did any of these individuals in the stack of bodies
18 appear to be alive?

19 A. No, sir. Sir, in our company we had something like
20 an SOP. We searched the bodies and people that were wounded
21 we sent them back to the rear. We tag them up, call the
22 dust-off, and the dust-off comes and picks them up and takes
23 them to the rear. Every time we went to a village we
24 searched every body to see if they were dead.

25 Q. Did your platoon search this group?
26 A. No, sir, we have different people searching
27 throughout the whole company.

28 Q. Do you know who was designated to perform this
29 mission during this operation?

30 A. No, sir. What we did, we had a squad. If a squad
31 came through it the squad leader would designate one or two
32 guys to go in and search these people.

33 Q. Had you been on an operation where the village
34 had been prepped by artillery before My Lai (4)?

35 A. Yes, sir.

36 Q. Did the casualties seem to be as high as they

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1 did in My Lai (4)?

2 A. No, sir.

3
4 Q. Do you attribute the large number of casualties
5 to artillery and air strikes?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7
8 Q. Did you hear an abnormal amount of small arms
9 fire when the lead platoon was sweeping the village?

10 A. Yes, sir, I did.

11
12 Q. Could you tell from which direction the enemy
13 fire was coming?

14 A. No, sir. It was a lot of confusion going on
15 because it was maybe the second or third time that we had
16 a hot LZ like that and the confusion was hard to control,
17 so we couldn't tell, I couldn't tell where it was coming
18 from.

19
20 Q. Did you see CPT Medina on this operation?

21 A. Yes, sir, I did.

22
23 Q. Did you land at about the same time that he went
24 in, or was he there when you arrived?

25 A. I don't remember for sure, sir, but I am quite
26 sure we all landed at the same time.

27
28 Q. Were you given a company briefing prior to this
29 operation?

30 A. Yes, sir.

31
32 Q. For the whole company?

33 A. Yes, sir.

34
35 Q. Was it, at the time, stated that the inhabitants
36 were to be destroyed?

37 A. Pardon me?

38
39 Q. That the villagers were to be destroyed--the people?

40 A. Yes, sir.

41
42 Q. How was that stated?

43 A. I don't recall, sir, how it was stated, but this
44 village was known to be an enemy, say, where they had an
45 enemy base area, and we was told that they were all supposed
46 to be enemy, they were all enemy.

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1 Q. Were your instructions to kill these people?

2 A. Well, yes, sir, we were instructed to kill these
3 people, yes, sir. We were instructed to--if we captured
4 people--not just kill everybody, if we could capture these
5 people, to capture them and search them and send them back
6 to the rear.

7 Q. You were not told then to go in there and kill all
8 the people?

9 A. No, at no time.

10 Q. Have you ever seen a document on Rules of Engage-
11 ment?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Did you read this document?

14 A. Yes, sir, I did.

15 Q. Do you know who published it?

16 A. No, sir, I do not.

17 Q. Do you remember what it said?

18 A. No, sir.

19 Q. What were your instructions regarding the capture
20 or detention of civilians?

21 A. I don't remember that today, sir, but every time
22 that we captured civilians--in this case the village was
23 supposed to be an enemy base camp. What we did with
24 civilians, we search them and send them back to the rear.
25 What they did at the rear I don't know.

26 Q. What did you do, or what were your instructions,
27 if somebody ran from you?

28 A. Well, our instructions was, sir, to be sure. If
29 there was any enemy captured we had an assembly area where
30 they had all the civilians together and we had guards there
31 and from there the company commander took over and he called
32 back to the rear and somebody come up and picked them up.
33 Of course, our instructions was to stop the man, say dung
34 lai three times--dung lai, dung lai, dung lai--and if they
35 continued on we had to shoot them.

36 Q. Did this occur on this operation?

37 A. This I don't know, sir.

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1 Q. Did it occur with you?
2 A. No, sir, it did not.

3 Q. Where was this holding center for the captured
4 or detained civilians located for this operation?

5 A. Well, sir, it was up to our platoon where we
6 wanted to have it, so we would usually have it back to the
7 rear. After we left the area and knew it was clear, we
8 left three or four guards and sent all the people back there
9 and assembled them.

10 Q. Were these people normally turned over to company
11 control?
12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. How many people did you round up in this fashion
14 at My Lai (4)?
15 A. None, sir.

16 Q. Why?
17 A. The most of the people were in the village and my
18 platoon did not went (sic) to the village because we had
19 the east section of the village. We ran into a lot of enemy
20 that would fire at us and we killed three or four, I guess.
21 We captured three or four weapons. We did not run into a
22 large amount of people, personnel. Most of the people were
23 in the village.

24 Q. Was LT Calley's platoon the platoon that was in
25 the village?
26 A. Yes, sir.

27 Q. These individuals that you killed, that your unit
28 killed, were they armed?

29 A. Well, sir, some of them were, yes, sir, but we
30 run into many cases in Vietnam that maybe there are 10 or 15
31 people armed with weapons. If you killed only maybe five,
32 the others took the weapons away and made it.

33 Q. You were receiving fire from these individuals?
34 A. Yes, sir.

35 Q. Was the fire coming from the village?
36 A. Yes, sir, it was.

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1 Q. And your fire was directed back into the village?
2 A. Yes, sir, it was.

3 Q. Which, I suppose, could be considered cross fire.
4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. Did you see any medical attention being given to
6 civilians?
7 A. Yes, sir, I did.

8 Q. By whom?
9 A. I do not remember my medic, but he did.

10 Q. Was your medic Flores?
11 A. It could have been at that time. He was my medic
12 about then.

13 Q. What type of medical attention was being given?
14 A. Well, I don't know about the other platoons, but
15 if we found a man or lady or kid that was wounded, we did
16 our best to give them first aid. If we could not take care
17 of it we tagged the man and called the dust-off to pick him
18 up back in the rear.

19 Q. Did you see this happening?
20 A. No, sir, I did not.

21 Q. Did you ever receive an order to stop the slaughter?
22 A. I don't remember, sir.

23 Q. Or not to kill any more civilians?
24 A. I don't remember that either, sir.

25 Q. Was any attempt made to warn the villagers of this
26 operation?

27 A. Well, sir, I don't know because there was an air
28 strike going on right next to the village and the artillery
29 and I am sure they knew we were coming.

30 Q. What type of munitions were used for the air strike?
31 A. I don't know, sir.

32 Q. Was it napalm?
33 A. I am quite sure it was.

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1 Q. Was this on the village or away from the village?

2 A. Well, it was near to the village. I don't know
3 how close it was, but it was near the village.

4 Q. Did you see the napalm?

5 A. No, sir, I did not. I seen a lot of holes made
6 by the artillery.

7 Q. Where was this?

8 A. Right at the village.

9 Q. In the village?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. Have you ever known the men to complain about
12 restraints being imposed on them during combat action?

13 A. No, sir.

14 Q. Do you know SP 4 Paul?

15 A. I don't remember his name either, sir.

16 Q. Were there any South Vietnamese Nationals on the
17 operation, and I mean National Police, Popular Force, or
18 ARVN?

19 A. I am quite sure there were, yes, sir.

20 Q. Do you remember seeing any?

21 A. Yes, sir, I believe--yes, sir, we had some, three
22 or four of them.

23 Q. What were they?

24 A. I believe they were National Police and, plus, we
25 had an interpreter in the company.

26 Q. What was the interpreter's name?

27 A. I don't remember him either.

28 Q. Did you see the National Police commit any atrocities?

29 A. Yes, sir, I did.

30 Q. What did they do?

31 A. I seen the National Police after we captured people
32 just take them out and kill them.

33 Q. On this operation?

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1 A. No, sir, I don't remember on that operation,
2 but I have seen it on another operation.
3

4 Q. Did you know any of the National Police that were
5 on this operation?
6 A. No, sir.
7

8 Q. Did you see or hear of a group of field grade
9 officers interviewing company personnel at the base camp
10 a few days after the operation concerning the Pinkville
11 incident?
12 A. No, sir.
13

14 Q. Did you know CPT Medina's radio operator?
15 A. I may. I don't recall at this time at that time.
16 I can't recall, sir.
17

18 Q. When you saw CPT Medina was his radio operator
19 with him?
20 A. Yes, sir.
21

22 Q. Did you see the radio operator at any time fire
23 a weapon?
24 A. No, sir, I did not.
25

26 Q. Did you hear, or do you know of a man who shot
27 himself in the foot in the Pinkville area?
28 A. No, sir. Oh, yes, sir. Yes, sir, I did. It was
29 in the same operation, too. He shot it with a .45.
30

31 Q. How did this occur?
32 A. I don't know how it occurred, sir, but anyway it
33 happened because I was there at the time.
34

35 Q. Did you later hear, or at any time hear, that
36 atrocities had been committed in this village?
37 A. No, sir.
38

39 Q. Did you see any interrogations going on?
40 A. No, sir.
41

42 Q. How many South Vietnamese would you estimate were
43 killed in this village?
44 A. South Vietnamese? None.
45

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1 Q. How many civilians would you estimate were killed
2 in this village?

3 A. I can't tell, sir. I don't know, sir. I believe
4 they were not South Vietnamese, sir.

5 Q. I am referring to the inhabitants of the village.

6 A. No, I don't know, sir. In some cases, sir, like
7 I say, I don't know how many civilians there were because
8 some of these Vietnamese there were actually North Vietnamese,
9 but they were dressed in civilian clothes and didn't have
10 any identification except weapons.

11 Q. Was the enemy in this area NVA or VC?

12 A. Both, sir. We found a bunker built there. We
13 can tell they were very well ready to fight, sir. There
14 were bunkers all over the area.

15 Q. Did you see a photographer on this operation?

16 A. Yes, sir, I did.

17 Q. Do you know who he was?

18 A. No, sir. It was the first time I saw him that
19 date.

20 Q. Did you notice any men crying at the meeting held
21 in the company prior to the operation?

22 A. No, sir. I heard somebody mention it, but I
23 didn't notice nobody.

24 Q. Why were they crying?

25 A. Well, they say it was one or two men who just
26 didn't want to go.

27 Q. Fear?

28 A. Yes, sir.

29 Q. Do you feel that your unit conducted this operation
30 with a feeling of vengeance?

31 A. Yes, sir.

32 Q. Do you think the personnel shot or killed the
33 inhabitants of the village because of vengeance?

34 A. No, sir.

35 Q. Did you hear at any time that a four year-old

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1 Vietnamese wounded boy was machine-gunned?

2 A. No, sir. That never happened that I know of,
3 not to my knowledge.

4 Q. Who was SGT Gary Roschevitz? Have you ever heard
5 of him?

6 A. No, sir.

7 Q. Did you ever hear anybody say that anything alive
8 should be killed?

9 A. I never did.

10 Q. Was the livestock in the village killed?

11 A. I don't remember that either, sir.

12 Q. Was it ever referred to, as to whether or not they
13 should kill the livestock?

14 A. No, sir.

15 Q. Was there any reference to poisoning the water?

16 A. No, sir.

17 Q. Did you see any men of military age in the village
18 or from the village?

19 A. Yes, sir, I did. They were not alive at the time
20 I got down there.

21 Q. They were not?

22 A. No, sir.

23 Q. How many would you say that you saw?

24 A. I don't know, maybe 10 or 15 or 20. There were a
25 lot of them around. There were a lot of them running of
26 that age, too, 15 to 25, and they had a lot of weapons, too.

27 Q. Did you see this?

28 A. Yes, sir, I did.

29 Q. Were they running through the village or outside?

30 A. This was outside the village, sir. This was not
31 in the village.

32 Q. Did CPT Medina ever say that the inhabitants of
33 this village were responsible for former casualties in C Co?

34 A. No, sir, he never did.

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1 Q. Did you know PFC Widmer?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. Did you see him on this operation?

4 A. I don't remember, sir. He used to be our RTO.

5 Q. Was this group of bodies that were stacked to-
6 gether in a ditch or on a road?

7 A. I am sure it was in the road, but once again,
8 sir, we were in different places. It might have been
9 another one some place. I don't know. This one I seen
10 was in the road.

11 Q. Do you remember stopping to eat at noon?

12 A. Yes, sir, we did.

13 Q. Did you stop near this group of bodies?

14 A. No, sir, I did not.

15 Q. Did your platoon stop near that group?

16 A. No, sir.

17 Q. Had you already passed them?

18 A. Yes, sir, my platoon had already passed them.

19 Q. Did you see the artillery preparation?

20 A. I don't remember, sir.

21 Q. Did you have a radio with you?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. Did you hear any communication between battalion
24 and the company--not battalion, but task force headquarters
25 and the company?

26 A. No, sir.

27 Q. You were on the company net?

28 A. Yes, sir, the company net.

29 Q. I may have asked you this before, but I am not
30 sure. Did you receive instructions from the company com-
31 mander to stop killing civilians, or were these instructions
32 passed out to the company?

33 A. If they were, sir, I don't remember.

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1 Q. Did you at any time observe a loud-speaker air-
2 craft?
3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. During this operation?
5 A. Again I don't remember because they used to go
6 around so many times.
7

8 Q. Did you see any leaflets dropped prior to or
9 during this operation?
10 A. I don't remember any leaflets.
11

12 Q. Did you see any on the ground?
13 A. I don't remember either.
14

15 Q. Do you know the population of My Lai (4)?
16 A. Sir, I believe it was given to us. I can't re-
17 member it now.
18

19 Q. Did you ever go back to that village?
20 A. No, sir, we did not.
21

22 Q. Did you ever hear that PFC's Terry and Doherty
23 finished off a group of wounded civilians left behind by
24 the leading platoons?
25 A. No, sir.
26

27 Q. Did you know SP 4 Torres?
28 A. Yes, sir.
29

30 Q. Do you know if he was ever given an order to fire
31 on a group of assembled villagers?
32 A. I don't know, sir. He was not in my platoon.
33

34 Q. Was Bernhardt in your platoon?
35 A. Yes, sir.
36

37 Q. Did Bernhardt complain very much?
38 A. Yes, sir, he did.
39

40 Q. What types of complaints did he have?
41 A. The only complaint that he had was too much time
42 in the field and not enough time back in the base camp.
43 That was it.
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1 Q. Did you everhave any indication that he was upset
2 about this particular operation?

3 A. No, sir.

4 Q. Or that any of the men in your platoon were upset
5 about this operation?

6 A. No, sir.

7 Q. What sequence of return to the base camp from this
8 area? Now I mean by that was your platoon the first to go
9 back or the last to go back?

10 A. Again, sir, I don't remember. We usually go out
11 to the field and stay out for a long time. I don't really
12 remember. We usually rotate platoons.

13 Q. Do you remember SGT Smail?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. Was he a squad leader at that time?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. SGT Cox?

18 A. I don't know, sir. He might have got killed before
19 that. I don't remember for sure. He got killed.

20 Q. Which squad did SGT Smail have?

21 A. I believe it was the 2d Squad, sir.

22 Q. SP 4 Grimes?

23 A. He was in 3d Squad.

24 Q. Was he a squad leader?

25 A. Yes, sir, he was.

26 Q. How do you spell the first sergeant's name?

27 A. Who was that first sergeant?

28 Q. I have Hobscheid.

29 A. Hobscheid. I can't spell his name either.

30 Q. Have you ever observed LT Calley in combat?

31 A. Yes, sir.

32 Q. Did he appear to handle himself well?

33 A. Certainly, a good lieutenant, a good officer.

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1 Q. Did you ever see him commit any atrocities?
2 A. No, sir.

3
4 Q. Do you have any reason to feel that the action
5 at My Lai (4), except for the enemy resistance, was any
6 different from any other operation that you conducted while
7 you were in Vietnam?

8 A. No, sir, but it was a lot of enemy resistance
9 there and it was not like going to some other village that
10 we went to where there was no enemy fire and if there was
11 civilians we would help them and keep them from getting
12 pounded. In here we had to fire back because of the enemy
13 fire. We probably did kill some people that we didn't want
14 to kill.

15 Q. You said there were a large number of dead in the
16 village area?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. Larger than normal?

19 A. Yes, sir, there were.

20 Q. Did you notice that this impressed the men of your
21 platoon in any way?

22 A. No, sir.

23 Q. Did they discuss it later?

24 A. No, sir.

25 Q. Do you have any further information concerning the
26 matters we have discussed?

27 A. No, sir.

28 Q. Do you have any further statements to make re-
29 garding the subject under investigation?

30 A. No, sir. The only think I would like to ask is
31 what am I being investigated for?

32 Q. You are not being investigated. The incident is
33 being investigated. You are merely a witness.

34 A. I mean after the investigation what happens?

35 Q. As I told you, the investigation concerns the
36 alleged destruction of a village in South Vietnam nicknamed
37 Pinkville and the time it occurred in March of 68.

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1 A. All right.
2

3 Q. There are other allegations, but that is not
4 part of it.
5

6 A. Yes, sir.
7

8 Q. SGT Lopez, this is an official investigation.
9 It is privileged in the sense that my report will be made
10 to the Chief of Staff of the Army for such action or for
11 such use as he deems appropriate. You are ordered not to
12 discuss this investigation or the questions and answers
13 covered during this interview except as you otherwise may
14 have a right to do so in accordance with law.
15

16 A. Yes, sir.
17

18 Q. O. K., Sergeant, thank you for coming in.
19 A. Yes, sir.
20

21 (The witness was excused.)
22

23 (The foregoing testimony of SSG Manuel Lopez was taken
24 stenographically and transcribed by Albert F. Smith, Super-
25 visory Shorthand Reporter, Office of The Inspector General,
26 Headquarters, Department of the Army.)
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