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2 rh 1 Testimony of Mr. Roger D. Murray,  
 2 \_\_\_\_\_, Waukegan, Illinois,  
 3 taken at Karcher Hotel, Room 909,  
 4 Waukegan, Illinois, at 1830 to 2000  
 5 hours on 14 June 1969, by COL William V.  
 6 Wilson, IG.

7 Q. As you know, I am from the Department of the  
 8 Army and with The Inspector General's office there. This  
 9 investigation concerns the alleged destruction of a village  
 10 in South Vietnam nicknamed "Pinkville", and we are talking  
 11 about My Lai (4). Pinkville itself was My Lai (1), but  
 12 this area is referred to as the Pinkville complex, and  
 13 this was approximately five or six miles north of Quang  
 14 Ngai City. The incident allegedly occurred in March of  
 15 1968 during the time C Company, 1/20th, Task Force Barker,  
 16 conducted search and destroy operations on the Batangan  
 17 Peninsula, or just south of it. The investigation is  
 18 official and is being made at the direction of the Chief  
 19 of Staff of the Army. The investigation is privileged in  
 20 the sense that my report will be made to the Chief of  
 21 Staff of the Army for such purpose as he deems necessary.  
 22 The substance of this investigation should not be dis-  
 23 cussed with others because it is privileged. It will  
 24 carry a CONFIDENTIAL classification. We consider it a  
 25 sensitive case. The purpose is to determine the facts  
 26 involved in this particular incident which covered a  
 27 period of three days, really, but we are interested  
 28 primarily in what happened the first day.  
 29

30 I would like to place you under oath. Would  
 31 you stand and raise your right hand.  
 32

33 (The witness was sworn.)

34 Please state your full name, position and  
 35 present status?

36 A. My full name is Roger Donald Murray. I am a  
 37 civilian, discharged from the Army April 25th, 1969. I  
 38 work for Sears Roebuck and Company.  
 39

40 Q. What is your occupation?  
 41 A. Professional salesman.  
 42

43 Q. And your home address?  
 44

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(MURRAY)

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3- rh 1 A. , Waukegan, Illinois.

2  
3 Q. Well, what was your duty assignment in March  
4 of 1968 at the time of this operation?

5 A. I was radio-telephone operator, battalion radio.

6  
7 Q. Were you assigned to C Company?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9  
10 Q. You were on the battalion net?

11 A. Yes.

12  
13 Q. Did you operate the radio for the company commander?

14 A. No. I operated battalion radio for the company  
15 commander, between battalion and CO, which at the time he  
16 got a call I gave the phone to him.

17  
18 Q. But you were with the company commander?

19 A. Right.

20  
21 Q. Now, prior to that were you a radio operator?

22 A. Right.

23  
24 Q. In the same position?

25 A. Uh-huh.

26  
27 Q. And after that, was this your job throughout the  
28 time of your tour in Vietnam?

29 A. Right.

30  
31 Q. You really never had any other job except RTO?

32 A. Right.

33  
34 Q. When did you join C Company?

35 A. I believe it was October 1967 in Hawaii.

36  
37 Q. You went over with C Company?

38 A. Right.

39  
40 Q. I am going to show you a photograph with the  
41 numbers one through six on it, and starting with number one,  
42 would you identify any of the people in that photograph  
43 that you might know?

44  
45 (The witness examined the photograph.)

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4 rh 1 A. Number three is me.  
2  
3 Q. OK.  
4 A. Number five is our interpreter. I don't  
5 remember his name.  
6  
7 Q. Does the name Lagunoy ring a bell -- L-A-G-U-N-O-Y?  
8 A. No. What's the name again?  
9  
10 Q. What we believe, a Sergeant L-A-G-U-N-O-Y.  
11 A. That doesn't ring a bell, no.  
12  
13 Q. Do you know any of the others?  
14 A. Captain Medina.  
15  
16 Q. That is what number?  
17 A. Number two.  
18  
19 Q. Anybody else?  
20 A. Well, most of these were new guys when I got  
21 back to the company. I was gone almost a month away  
22 from the company.  
23  
24 Q. Do you remember this particular incident?  
25 A. Right.  
26  
27 Q. Who is that that has the bandage on his foot?  
28 A. I can't remember his name.  
29  
30 Q. Do you know how he received that wound?  
31 A. No, I don't. All I know the man was wounded  
32 up front. We came forward and called for help, a chopper.  
33  
34 Q. Now at the time this man was wounded, were you  
35 there?  
36 A. I was in the rear, moving up. They called back  
37 to us and said there was a man wounded, and we came forward.  
38  
39 Q. How long from the time you received that call  
40 until you got to this location?  
41 A. Oh, I couldn't tell you for sure.  
42  
43 Q. Do you remember the part of that village where  
44 this occurred? Was it to the east or west?  
45

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5 rh 1 A. If I am not mistaken, I think it was the south  
2 end of the village.

4 Q. The south end?

5 A. Right. I am not sure.

7 Q. Now the landing zone, as far as we have been  
8 able to determine, was on the west.

9 A. Right. So this would be south, because if I'm  
10 not mistaken, this was the end of the village. There  
11 were a few hootches here and right to our left was the  
12 main village.

14 Q. So that would have been, to your north was the  
15 main village and this was on the southern end of it?

16 A. Right.

18 Q. Does the name Carter mean anything to you?

19 A. Carter -- that is his first name?

21 Q. Last.

22 A. Huh-uh.

24 Q. How about a SP5 Capezza?

25 A. He might have been the medic. I'm not sure,  
26 though. I knew most everybody by their first name.

28 Q. I have a roster. This thing is by grade.  
29 The PFCs start here. These are SP4s and the SP5s start  
30 there (indicating on roster).

32 (The witness examined the roster.)

34 A. What was that name?

36 Q. Well, the name Capezza -- C-A-P-E-Z-Z-A -- that's  
37 a SP5. The roster is a month later.

38 A. If I am correct, if he was a medic, he wouldn't  
39 be on the roster. They had their own roster, if I am  
40 not mistaken.

42 Q. Do you remember who the company medic was?

43 A. That was who I was thinking might be him.

45 Q. In the photograph?

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6 rh 1 A. Right. But he was new when I got there.  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13

Q. Would you describe in detail the events which occurred when C Company, 1/20th of Task Force Barker conducted search and destroy operations in the vicinity of a village called My Lai (4)? Now, I will give you a map which might assist you in recalling, and I will explain this area. This is Sheet 6739 II Series L7014, title: Quan Ngai. This is My Lai (1), the pink area (indicating on map), the road. This is what is called the Citadel. LZ Dottie was up in this area (indicating).

A. Right.

Q. Uptight was about here (indicating), and then of course you have your two rivers Song Tra Khuc, Song Diem Diem. This is the Cape Batangan.

A. This is the village right here, sir, that we hit (indicating on map).

Q. Right.

A. Then we came in from here. I know we landed from the west after the artillery had ceased from the gun ships. We came in here and went through the village and then worked right around this village in here (indicating on map), and by mid-afternoon, or late afternoon, excuse me, late afternoon we ended up here (indicating on map).

Q. Where is that, My Khe (2)?

A. We were going to stand the night and landed on here (indicating on map). If I remember this correctly now, we moved -- that's right, we moved all the way down to there and we caught one -- we called him Victor Charlie, and I believe he was a big wheel. I don't remember his status. It would be like a colonel to us. I am not quoting. I am not sure. And they turned him in and they said we were out of artillery reach, and we moved back, and I think it was back in here. If I am not mistaken, it is right in here (indicating on map).

Q. It is near My Khe (1). Are you describing one day or three days?

A. Oh, that's three days. You want just the one day. We moved through the village and stayed right here by a cemetery, pretty close to (3).

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1 Q. My Khe?

2 A. My Khe (3). That's where we stayed the first  
3 night after we went through the village, and stayed  
4 right about in there somewhere (indicating on map). The  
5 second day we went all the way down here.

6 Q. South?

7 A. South, to My Khe (2). We didn't stay there,  
8 though. We came back to My Khe (1). Then we moved out  
9 the next day. They picked us up -- I can't remember -- I  
10 think it was right along, if I am not mistaken, across a  
11 river; I know that. It was right in this area they  
12 picked us up (indicating on map).

13 Q. This would be the Song Diem Diem where the pick-  
14 up was? Was there a briefing before this operation took  
15 place?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Who briefed you?

18 A. The CO.

19 Q. What was the briefing?

20 A. He told us -- as a matter of fact, he told  
21 us where we were going to land, what was going on. He  
22 kept the company well informed on what was going on all  
23 the time. He was a good CO, and he told us it would be  
24 a search and destroy mission, if I am not mistaken, and  
25 what the operation was for and who to look for, and that  
26 the information was that Charlie had been staying in this  
27 village and we better find him.

28 Q. Did he give any specific instructions on how  
29 the operation should be conducted?

30 A. By telling which platoon to go where?

31 Q. Well, yes, and whether the village was to be  
32 destroyed?

33 A. I don't remember.

34 Q. Was this briefing associated in any way with a  
35 funeral or a memorial ceremony?

36 A. I am not sure. See, I only stayed there for a  
37 few minutes.

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Q. That first briefing?

A. Right, because I had to take care of the radios, and I don't remember too much about it.

Q. Do you know a LT William Calley?

A. LT Kelly?

Q. Calley?

A. Right.

Q. Did you see him on this operation?

A. No.

Q. Not during the three-day period?

A. I seen him that night. That was the only time I seen him.

Q. The first night?

A. Yes.

Q. Where was this?

A. This was where we set up our RO at, but during the day I wouldn't see him at all unless the CO would call him back to our position.

Q. What wave of the combat assault were you with?

A. The first bunch, the first load that went in, because I carried the radio.

Q. You were with CPT Medina?

A. Yes.

Q. What was your position in the aircraft? Were you by the door or on the inside?

A. I think I was sitting on the inside. I sat on the inside.

Q. Could you see out of the doors?

A. Uh-huh.

Q. Were the door gunners firing?

A. I don't remember if the -- no, because we were right in the center. If they were firing, they wouldn't be in the center because we ride the center shift usually.

Q. Did you receive any fire?

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9 rh 1 A. When we hit the ground?  
2  
3 Q. Before you hit the ground?  
4 A. I don't know.  
5  
6 Q. Did you receive any fire when you hit the ground?  
7 A. I heard somebody firing but I don't know who  
8 was firing.  
9  
10 Q. Did you hear the artillery?  
11 A. Just before we landed I did.  
12  
13 Q. Did you see the artillery?  
14 A. No -- coming in, do you mean?  
15  
16 Q. Yes.  
17 A. No.  
18  
19 Q. Did you see the results of where the artillery  
20 landed?  
21 A. Just out in the rice paddies mostly. What I  
22 saw, I only saw a few craters, and that's all.  
23  
24 Q. Did you see any of the gun ships firing?  
25 A. I was sitting in the middle. I couldn't see  
26 them all.  
27  
28 Q. How about when you hit the ground?  
29 A. They stopped firing after we hit the ground, if  
30 I am not mistaken. I am not sure, though.  
31  
32 Q. Did you know a PFC Terry?  
33 A. PFC Terry -- I presume that's his last name?  
34  
35 Q. Yes, Michael B. Terry is his full name.  
36 A. I don't know offhand.  
37  
38 Q. How about a PFC Doherty -- D-O-H-E-R-T-Y?  
39 A. Not offhand. A lot of guys had nicknames.  
40  
41 Q. Did you know a PFC Bernhardt?  
42 A. Yes. I can't picture what he looks like, though.  
43  
44 Q. Did you see him on this operation?  
45 A. Bernhardt -- what was he in? I don't think I

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10 rh

1 seen him that night, if I saw him at all, because I didn't  
2 see too many guys from the headquarters section, but the  
3 name sounds familiar. I just don't know what he looked  
4 like.

5  
6 Q. From the time you got off your aircraft, how  
7 long did it take to complete the sweep of My Lai? (4)?

8 A. The village we hit?

9 Q. Yes.

10 A. Oh, just guessing, maybe three hours because we  
11 were searching everything out.

12 Q. Was the village burned?

13 A. Some buildings were set afire.

14 Q. Some of them were burning?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Was the village burning when you went in it?

17 A. Well, I actually didn't walk right in the  
18 heart of it, but we came up last, so there were a few  
19 burning when we came into it. I couldn't tell you if  
20 it was nothing but artillery or gun ships.

21 Q. So actually the village was under attack for  
22 about three hours, you estimate?

23 A. I wouldn't say they were under attack for  
24 three hours, but we searched it. I am not positive.  
25 This is back a year, year and a half ago. I am just  
26 guessing, because we had a late start to begin with, too.  
27 I am trying to think where we ate lunch at, because  
28 we set up and searched the village. When we come through  
29 we always search it thoroughly for weapons and such.

30 Q. Did you eat lunch in the village?

31 A. That is what I am trying to think. I don't  
32 think we did. I think we were on the outskirts of it.

33 Q. This would be on what section, what part?

34 A. It would be the east. We were heading east.

35 Q. You had moved through then by the time you  
36 ate lunch? You had cleared the village?

37 A. I think we had. I am not sure, now.

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11 rh 1 Q. Who was with you when you were eating lunch?  
2 A. Headquarters section, and the company was  
3 around us.  
4

5 Q. Do you remember who was in the headquarters  
6 section?  
7 A. Do you mean in the way of names?

8 Q. Yes.  
9 A. Oh, jeez -- Captain Medina, myself. The last names  
10 I am lousy on. First names I could give you.  
11

12 Q. Who else by first name?  
13 A. John.  
14

15 Q. What was his job?  
16 A. He was company RTO. Between him and -- what  
17 was his name? He was company RTO and the one who was  
18 carrying the radio.  
19

20 Q. How about LT Storms? Did you know a LT Storms?  
21 A. He was our XO.  
22

23 Q. Was he with you?  
24 A. No.  
25

26 Q. Was he on the operation?  
27 A. No, not LT Storms, no, I am pretty sure he  
28 wasn't.  
29

30 Q. Does the name Widmer mean anything?  
31 A. There we go. He was the other one.  
32

33 Q. Other what?  
34 A. RTO.  
35

36 Q. And he was the company RTO?  
37 A. No, it was between him and John.  
38

39 Q. Does the name "Paul" mean anything?  
40 A. I am not sure if his last name was "Paul" or not.  
41

42 Q. Last name "Paul". Let me show you the roster..  
43 Let me see the roster. "John H. Paul" -- does that ring  
44 a bell?  
45

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12 rh 1 A. That might be him.  
2  
3 Q. At least at the time of this roster he was a  
4 SP4.  
5 A. Uh-huh, so was John.  
6  
7 Q. Was he with you? John was there?  
8 A. Right.  
9  
10 Q. The John but you don't know whether his name  
11 was John Paul or not?  
12 A. I think that might be it.  
13  
14 Q. And he was what? He was the company --  
15 A. (Interposing) He would be company RTO.  
16  
17 Q. And what was Widmer?  
18 A. Well, they switched back and forth.  
19  
20 Q. But there were only two radios?  
21 A. Right. We had a third one but that was  
22 artillery.  
23  
24 Q. This man was always attached, I suppose, the  
25 artillery RTO?  
26 A. Right.  
27  
28 Q. Was he the same man each time or was he  
29 different?  
30 A. No. We keep them -- I would say they stay  
31 out in the field sometimes three to four months and then  
32 they rotated them.  
33  
34 Q. Do you remember the radio-telephone operators  
35 that were in the platoons?  
36 A. Oh, no. They rotated them. They switched them  
37 around.  
38  
39 Q. What was the radio that you were using at that  
40 time?  
41 A. What kind or what?  
42  
43 Q. The nomenclature?  
44 A. I don't remember.

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2 Q. It was a back pack?  
3 A. It was a 25.

4 Q. It was a 25, PRC-25?  
5 A. Right, PRC-25.

6 Q. And this was the radio that was on the company  
7 net and the battalion net, or the type of equipment?  
8 A. Right, the only radios we used were PRC-25s.

9 Q. Did you ever use your radio on the frequency  
10 that the platoons were on?

11 A. No, unless something happened to the other  
12 radio. That was in case of emergency, like rain would  
13 hit you with the radios, and right away I tell battalion  
14 I am leaving on 5 and call the platoons up, but I didn't  
15 use it with company at all; I used it with battalion.

16 Q. You did not? That day you did not change  
17 frequency?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Did you ever communicate with any of the  
20 supporting aircraft?

21 A. I don't remember that at all. The CO might have.  
22 I don't remember calling them.

23 Q. Was it common to talk frequently with the  
24 supporting helicopters?

25 A. It depended on whether -- if we were going into  
26 a "hot" LZ or something, sometimes we talked to them and  
27 sometimes we didn't. I think we did talk to one chopper,  
28 if I am not mistaken, and we got a rifle out. They had  
29 shot a VC and he had a rifle, and we got the rifle.

30 Q. Who got the rifle?  
31 A. We got the rifle.

32 Q. Do you mean the command group?  
33 A. Right, they bring the rifle up to us.

34 Q. Who brought it up to you?  
35 A. One of the companies. I don't know which one,  
36 sir.

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14 rh 1 Q. Do you mean someone in one of the platoons?  
2 A. Right. They sent somebody out to pick it up.  
3 If I am not mistaken, I don't know whether he talked to  
4 the chopper or not. I don't remember.  
5

6 Q. Did CPT Medina ever go after a weapon based  
7 on a request from a helicopter?  
8 A. I don't think he did personally. I think he  
9 sent a squad out. Now I am not sure. I know we got a  
10 weapon that day. We got a couple, as far as I can  
11 remember, and a chopper had called that they had shot  
12 one running and they had called us and told us where  
13 the location was and we sent a squad or a half platoon out  
14 to get it.  
15

16 Q. Did you go through the village?  
17 A. Parts of it I did.  
18

19 Q. Did you see a lot of dead or wounded?  
20 A. I seen a few men laying there.  
21

22 Q. Men?  
23 A. Uh-huh.  
24

25 Q. Where were they?  
26 A. In the village.  
27

28 Q. Were they in a group or scattered?  
29 A. The ones I seen were scattered.  
30

31 Q. Did you ever see a ditch with bodies in it?  
32 A. Huh-uh.  
33

34 Q. Did you fire your weapon during this operation?  
35 A. No.  
36

37 Q. Did CPT Medina fire his weapon during this  
38 operation?  
39 A. No, because the company was in front of us.  
40 If I remember correctly, he didn't fire his weapon at all.  
41

42 Q. How about Widmer?  
43 A. I don't think so.  
44

45 Q. How about Paul, John, Paul, or John?  
A. No.

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15 rh 1 Q. Did the command group at any time fire their  
2 weapons for any purpose?  
3 A. As far as I remember, we didn't fire our  
4 weapons at all because the company was in front of us,  
5 so we couldn't fire because the company was in front of us.  
6  
7 Q. Were you with the supporting platoon, which  
8 according to our information, was the 3d Platoon?  
9 A. I think the 3d Platoon was around us.  
10  
11 Q. Did you see a helicopter set down to your  
12 front anywhere?  
13 A. No.  
14  
15 Q. Was there a good bit of foliage in the vicinity  
16 of the village?  
17 A. Right, there was.  
18  
19 Q. Were the various huts screened by foliage? I  
20 mean from one hut to the other was there a lot of trees  
21 and hedges in there?  
22 A. Do you mean from the air?  
23  
24 Q. No, from the ground. If there was a hut here  
25 and a hut here, were they separated by foliage?  
26 A. More or less they were, I'd say.  
27  
28 Q. Did you see any civilians, either VC or anyone,  
29 moving to the rear, or being rounded up by American  
30 personnel?  
31 A. Huh-uh.  
32  
33 Q. You never had any turned over to the command  
34 group, groups of men?  
35 A. Oh, we have had people, you know, turned over  
36 and then we would search them, and then our interpreter  
37 would question them and say, "Is Victor Charlie in the  
38 area?" And they always gave us the same answer, "No."  
39  
40 Q. How many came through your command group that  
41 morning?  
42 A. I can't tell you for sure.  
43  
44 Q. Well, normally were they brought back, or did  
45 they come back individually, or were they escorted by

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16 rh 1 U. S. personnel?

2 A. They were usually escorted by personnel because,  
3 you know, if you take them back they just walk away, and  
4 we want to talk to them and see if there is any Charlie in  
5 the area. They brought them back and the interpreter  
6 would question them, and he would tell us what they knew,  
7 which was most of the time nothing, and then we would  
8 let them go.

9 Q. When you let them go, did you tell them where  
10 to go or just let them go?

11 A. I sat to one side so I didn't listen, because  
12 I listened to the radio. That was my job. That is all  
13 I did.

14 Q. Do you remember who the interpreter was?

15 A. I can't think of his name.

16 Q. Did you see any medical attention being given  
17 to civilians, I mean South Vietnamese, other than U. S.  
18 personnel?

19 A. Not right offhand, no.

20 Q. Did you ever receive an order on the radio,  
21 or while you were handling the radio, to stop killing  
22 civilians, stop the slaughter, anything in that content?

23 A. Not to my recollection. They called my call  
24 sign and I'd say, "Wait", and I would hand the phone  
25 to the CO.

26 Q. Do you remember the CO ever passing down an  
27 order like that?

28 A. I can't remember.

29 Q. Do you know if a helicopter pilot ever  
30 threatened to report the Pinkville operation?

31 A. I never heard anything like that.

32 Q. Were there any South Vietnamese Nationals  
33 working with C Company, and I want to clarify that as  
34 National Police, ARVN, or Popular Force personnel working  
35 with the company?

36 A. No. If I remember, that night -- I can't  
37 remember if they went with us. We met with another  
38 company for an RN. I don't know if they came with our

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17 rh 1 company or the other company, but they were there that  
2 night. I remember that.  
3

4 Q. Did you see them during the day?  
5

6 A. That, I can't think, because they didn't come  
7 on our ship and I don't know who was on the rest of the  
8 ships, and there might have been. I can't remember.  
9

10 Q. Well, how many of these people did you see  
11 that night?  
12 A. I think, if I am not mistaken, I seen roughly  
13 about six. I am not sure, though.  
14

15 Q. Were they ARVN or National Police?  
16 A. I think they were National Police or Local  
17 Forces, whatever you want to call them.  
18

19 Q. Did you see any of the interrogations being  
20 conducted by these people?  
21 A. Huh-uh.  
22

23 Q. Did you see or hear of a group, an individual  
24 or group of field grade officers, after the operation  
25 was over, asking questions about it?  
26 A. No.  
27

28 Q. Were you questioned about the operation?  
29 A. This is the first time I was ever questioned  
30 about it.  
31

32 Q. Have you ever heard of the Rules of Engagement?  
33 Were you ever briefed as to what to do if a South  
34 Vietnamese in a combat assault operation was running  
35 away from you?  
36 A. Do you mean like a VC?  
37

38 Q. Yes.  
39 A. You always tell them to stop.  
40

41 Q. What do you say?  
42 A. I can't remember the words. Asked them to  
43 stop, say, "dung lai".  
44

45 Q. Dung lai?  
A. Dung lai, stop.  
46

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18 rh 1 Q. Then what?  
2 A. If he kept running, fire a warning shot.  
3  
4 Q. A warning shot?  
5 A. Yes.  
6  
7 Q. Then what?  
8 A. This is what I learned in basic, you know.  
9  
10 Q. Then what?  
11 A. Then if he kept running, then you try to hit  
12 him. But if a guy is running away, you tell him to stop.  
13 Of course, he's scared, too, and if it is an old man --  
14  
15 Q. (Interposing) Were you briefed that people  
16 were not supposed to run from US Forces?  
17 A. Do you mean before the operation?  
18  
19 Q. During the operation?  
20 A. I don't remember anything.  
21  
22 Q. What was your understanding of the enemy  
23 situation in this area?  
24 A. I heard it was quite -- it was supposed to  
25 be quite heavy in there. Well, that's all I knew about  
26 it, because I had only been back a short time and I  
27 hadn't worked that area. I hadn't been with the company  
28 in this area.  
29  
30 Q. You had not?  
31 A. No.  
32  
33 Q. Where had you been?  
34 A. Xa Ninh.  
35  
36 Q. How do you spell it? Is this a town or  
37 hospital?  
38 A. No, it is a town.  
39  
40 Q. Is it south of Quang Ngai City?  
41 A. It is south of Duc Pho.  
42  
43 Q. The name is not important. And how long were  
44 you down there?  
45 A. I would say about a month, because I sprained  
my thumb. I was jumping over a ditch one time and my

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19 rh 1 M16 came down and hit the back of my nail and tore it  
2 off, and it was open and got infected, and the doctor  
3 wouldn't let me go back in the field after that.  
4

5 Q. And you were down there about a month?  
6 A. I would say roughly a month.  
7

8 Q. When did you join the unit?  
9 A. October.  
10

11 Q. No, after you came back from the --  
12 A. (Interposing) The month?  
13

14 Q. Yes. Right before this operation?  
15 A. No, I didn't, come to think of it. If I am  
16 not mistaken, I think I joined them just before this  
17 operation, but I am not sure because we went out on a  
18 couple things afterwards and I am not sure.  
19

20 Q. Was it in March or February?  
21 A. I think it was in February. I may be mistaken  
22 now. I have been on so many operations over there I  
23 didn't know whether I was coming or going.  
24

25 Q. Was this a hospital?  
26 A. No.  
27

28 Q. What was it?  
29 A. A company of us were down there. It was just  
30 guys that were on light duty, and stuff like this. We  
31 got on this island.  
32

33 Q. What were you doing down there?  
34 A. I was the telephone operator down there for  
35 LT Maxon at the time. His name was LT Maxon.  
36

37 Q. What company was that?  
38 A. It was men of all four companies, really, people  
39 who had real light duty, and they sent them down there.  
40

41 Q. Was this near the brigade headquarters?  
42 A. It was just about, I would say -- Duc Pho was  
43 the headquarters.  
44

45 Q. Well you must have been on special duty?  
46

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20 rh 1 A. Right, I was. They wouldn't let anybody sit on  
2 the base camp, so they sent me down there. So they  
3 recovered down there.  
4

5 Q. Do you know if the artillery that was normally  
6 fired on these operations was VT or surface detonated?  
7 A. I don't know what the artillery was.  
8

9 Q. What was the procedure for calling artillery  
10 through the artillery RTO.  
11 A. (Witness shakes head negatively.)  
12

13 Q. Do you know the approximate distance from your  
14 helicopter to the edge of the village?  
15 A. Maybe 300 meters.  
16

17 Q. Was the 3d Platoon given the mission of burning  
18 the village?  
19 A. I don't know.  
20

21 Q. Was there a photographer with the company  
22 during this operation?  
23 A. I can't remember.  
24

25 Q. Somebody took that picture.  
26 A. There might have been. I don't remember whether  
27 there was or not. I don't remember seeing a man with  
28 a camera, let's put it that way.  
29

30 Q. You do not or you do?  
31 A. I just can't remember. I can't place him,  
32 because he might have come with one of the platoons.  
33

34 Q. Did you observe any U. S. personnel in-  
35 discriminately firing on civilians?  
36 A. No.  
37

38 Q. Did you know a PFC Torres?  
39 A. What was his first name?  
40

41 Q. Esequiel.  
42 A. Pardon?  
43

44 Q. Esequiel. He would probably have a nickname.  
45 A. Yes, I probably know him by his nickname. Torres

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21 rh 1 sounds familiar because I used to once in awhile hand  
2 out the mail, and the name sounds familiar, that is all.  
3

4 Q. Did you see him on this operation?  
5 A. No.

6 Q. Did you see any of the inhabitants of this  
7 village in military uniform?  
8 A. Do you mean the people we caught?

9 Q. Yes.  
10 A. I can't remember.

11 Q. Did you see any bodies which you saw in  
12 military uniform.  
13 A. I don't remember.

14 Q. I mean did they have any web equipment or  
15 anything like that?

16 A. The only time I seen them, they would have been  
17 stripped of their web gear, and stuff like this.

18 Q. How many do you think you saw? How many do  
19 you remember seeing?

20 A. Not too many.

21 Q. Would you be talking about five, fifteen, or  
22 twenty, or more?

23 A. I couldn't say right offhand.

24 Q. Do you remember anyone having "California"  
25 written on their helmet?

26 A. A lot of guys were from California. I can't  
27 remember.

28 Q. You know, I mean written somewhere on the  
29 helmet cover?

30 A. I guess if they come from -- a lot of guys  
31 come from California had done that.

32 Q. Is that right?  
33 A. Right.

34 Q. Did you ever go back into My Lai (4)?  
35 A. No, not me.

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22 rh<sup>1</sup>  
2 Q. What?  
3 A. Not me. I don't think the company went back  
there actually. Do you mean the same village?  
4  
5 Q. No.  
6 A. As far as I know, they didn't. I can't remember.  
7  
8 Q. After you cleared the village and you moved  
9 forward to the east, did CPT Medina or anybody from the  
10 command group go back through the village for any reason?  
11 A. I don't remember.  
12  
13 Q. Do you feel that there was any "get even"  
14 attitude or vengeance on the part of C Company when they  
15 went into this village?  
16 A. I don't think so.  
17  
18 Q. Do you remember a man named Medloe?  
19 A. Huh-uh.  
20  
21 Q. Do you remember Hill 85?  
22 A. Hill 85?  
23  
24 Q. Hill 85?  
25 A. Where was that at?  
26  
27 Q. It is right here (indicating on map).  
28  
29 (The witness examined the map.)  
30  
31 A. Oh, yes, that was -- I think that was an  
32 all Korean outpost, if I am not mistaken.  
33  
34 Q. Did you go on this hill while you were there?  
35 A. No.  
36  
37 Q. Did a man get wounded up there?  
38 A. If I am not mistaken, he did.  
39  
40 Q. Were you with CPT Medina at all times?  
41 A. I was around him. I mean I wasn't standing  
42 right next to him, but I'm in headquarters section.  
43 As long as he was on the radio, if he got a call, I  
44 could run right to him.  
45  
Q. You had to be pretty close to him.

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23 rh 1 A. Well, within calling distance. He was a  
2 short man but he can walk fast.  
3

4 Q. Did you see a number, or could you give me  
5 the approximate number of walking Vietnamese that came  
6 through the command group and went to the rear?  
7 A. No.  
8

9 Q. Would you say that there was a substantial  
10 number?  
11 A. I just can't remember.  
12

13 Q. But they did come through? They were questioned  
14 and they went to the rear?  
15 A. There were some questioned -- I know that --  
16 but how many I can't tell you for sure. I couldn't  
17 even guess.  
18

19 Q. Was there anything abnormal about this operation?  
20 A. Just an operation, an operation.  
21

22 Q. Nothing unusual about it from any other  
23 operation?  
24 A. No.  
25

26 Q. And the Vietnamese moved through the area like  
27 this on all operations?  
28 A. Every time we come to a village we would always  
29 question the people in the village, and stuff like this,  
30 standard procedure.  
31

32 Q. And then they would move to the rear?  
33 A. Or else they would stay right in the village,  
34 one of the two.  
35

36 Q. Did you ever see the brigade commander out  
37 there, COL Henderson?  
38 A. I don't remember.  
39

40 Q. Did you know COL Henderson?  
41 A. Not personally, no.  
42

43 Q. Look at this sketch. This sketch was made by  
44 one of the squad leaders. Now, understand this is a  
45 sketch. It is not to scale.  
46

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24 rh 1 A. Uh-huh.

2  
3 Q. But generally this is My Lai (4) right in  
4 here (indicating on sketch). The landing zone was  
5 over here -- this was north -- which would put it to  
6 the west, and the 2d Platoon and 1st Platoon on line  
7 moved through the village, the 1st Platoon on the  
8 other side. There were some more huts up in this  
9 direction, unnamed. The 2d Platoon moved north. The  
10 perimeter was established up in this area at night.  
11 B Company moved off in the morning to the coast.  
12 C Company moves south.

13  
14 Do you remember some 30 civilians at some  
15 time or other coming through here as a group?

16 A. Do you mean during the operation?

17 Q. Yes.

18 A. This is where we approximately stayed, about  
19 right in here (indicating on sketch), and the platoons  
20 moved up.

21 Q. Do you remember a ditch on this side of the  
22 village?

23 A. No. When we moved out, I stayed out --  
24 this is where I worked, right along in here (indicating  
25 on sketch).

26 Q. On the south side?

27 A. More or less. We went in the village a little  
28 bit and came back out and stayed along in here (indicating  
29 on sketch).

30 Q. That's right. You didn't see two helicopters  
31 sit down in this area?

32 A. No. I didn't see any choppers land.

33 Q. Do you remember the road which ran east-west  
34 generally from My Lai (1) back to the Citadel, just  
35 south of My Lai (4)? Do you remember that road?

36 A. No, I don't.

37 Q. It must have been a pretty good road. I  
38 think it was sort of a built-up road, you know, above  
39 the terrain.

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A. Of course a road over there, it depends really.

Q. Well, I mean by that it is not a trail like one of these others.

A. Uh-huh.

Q. You don't remember crossing that road?

A. We had to cross there -- I know that -- to get down here, but I myself don't remember going across it.

Q. The village is right there?

A. Yes, right there. I don't remember going -- I know we had to cross it but I don't remember crossing it. It takes about five seconds to cross a road.

Q. Do you have any photographs or documentary evidence, orders or anything from this operation?

A. Huh-uh.

Q. Did you hear that LT Calley had rounded up a group of civilians and machine-gunned them?

A. No.

Q. You didn't hear that? Were all of the RTOs that were with the command group all together all the time?

A. As far as I can remember, they were.

Q. Normally they were, weren't they?

A. Right.

Q. And none of them fired their weapon?

A. As far as I can remember.

Q. Did you ever know a man named Gruver?

A. The name sounds familiar. That is about all I can say to it.

Q. Sometimes referred to as "Groovie" Gruver.

A. What is his first name?

Q. Sergeant La Croix referred to him as "Groovie" Gruver. I had his name somewhere -- Charles D. He was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge on the same orders

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26 rh 1 that you were.  
2 A. Sounds like somebody I know, but I can't place  
3 him.  
4  
5 Q. When did you go on R&R?  
6 A. The end of June, right around the end of  
7 June, 22d to the 29th.  
8  
9 Q. Did you know a SGT Cowan -- C-O-W-A-N?  
10 A. I know who he was but I can't remember what  
11 he looked like.  
12  
13 Q. Isaiah Cown. SGT Bacon?  
14 A. SGT Bacon, if he is the one I am thinking of, I  
15 know him.  
16  
17 Q. He was a colored man?  
18 A. Yes.  
19  
20 Q. Did you see him on this operation?  
21 A. Not that I can remember.  
22  
23 Q. SGT Mitchell?  
24 A. He was an E-6, wasn't he?  
25  
26 Q. I think he was.  
27 A. I know who he is but --  
28  
29 Q. (Interposing) David Mitchell -- did you see  
30 him during this operation?  
31 A. Not during the day. I don't know if he was  
32 in that operation at all even.  
33  
34 Q. Did you know a man named Olsen?  
35 A. Right.  
36  
37 Q. Was he ever an RTO?  
38 A. Yes, the last part of his time over there.  
39  
40 Q. During this operation was he an RTO?  
41 A. Not headquarters.  
42  
43 Q. Platoon?  
44 A. I don't know. He took my job over when I was  
45 leaving Vietnam.

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27 rh 1

Q. When did he take your job?

A. Excuse me, I correct myself on that. He took we needed an RTO, so they picked him for it, and I think that was right around, let's see, after I got back from the hospital. After I got back in the office I think he came into the headquarters section. I was in the hospital for three weeks.

Q. For what?

A. Malaria.

Q. Did you hear that the National Police executed two VC suspects?

A. No.

Q. Do you know a SGT Lopez?

A. Right.

Q. Did you see him on this operation?

A. I'm not sure if he was there or not that night.

Q. Did you see him in the town, the village?

A. No.

Q. Well, did you consider this a "hot" LZ?

A. I'd say yes on that. I heard some firing.

I heard some whistling. Somebody was shooting; I know that.

Q. Somebody was shooting?

A. Somebody was shooting. I don't know who it was.

Q. Did you know SGT Buchanon?

A. What's that?

Q. B-U-C-H-A-N-O-N.

A. Buchanon?

Q. Yes.

A. No, I can't place him.

Q. Did you ever know a man named G-R-Z-E-S-I-K, Grzesik, or something like that.

A. Roy Grzesik?

Q. Yes.

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28 rh 1

A. Right.

2  
3 Q. Roy Grzesik, something like that. That rings  
4 a bell. What was his job?

5 A. I couldn't tell you for sure.

6  
7 Q. Was he in the command group?

8 A. No. He was later on, around September or  
9 August.

10  
11 Q. Ronald D.

12 A. Uh-huh. Grzesik it is pronounced.

13  
14 Q. You don't know what his MOS was or what his  
15 job was?

16 A. No.

17  
18 Q. Was he a medic?

19 A. No, I know he wasn't a medic.

20  
21 Q. He was not a medic?

22 A. Because he belonged to our company.

23  
24 Q. Well, didn't your company have in'it platoon  
25 and company medics?

26 A. We had medics for each platoon -- that was all --  
27 and had one for headquarters section.

28  
29 Q. Do you have any further information concerning  
30 the matters we have discussed?

31 A. No.

32  
33 Q. Any further statements to make regarding the  
34 subject under investigation?

35 A. No.

36  
37 Q. Mr. Murray, this is an official investigation.  
38 It is privileged in the sense that my report will be  
39 made to the Chief of Staff of the Army for such use as  
40 he deems appropriate. You are requested not to discuss  
41 this investigation or the questions and answers covered  
42 during this interview except as you otherwise may have  
43 a right to do so in accordance with law. We are trying  
44 to keep this thing pretty close until we get the investiga-  
45 tion settled.

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29 rh 1 A. Is this going to come to a court matter?  
2  
3 Q. A what?  
4 A. A court matter, will this be coming to a court  
5 matter?  
6

7 Q. Well, we can't say now. It won't from us. We  
8 don't investigate criminal actions. This is up to the  
9 Provost Marshal. If anything like that occurs, it will  
10 have to be investigated by the criminal people. We see  
11 no reason at this time for it to be turned over to the  
12 criminal investigation people, or it would have been  
13 before I came up here. Well, I appreciate your coming  
14 over.

15 (The witness was excused.)  
16

17 (The foregoing testimony of Mr. Roger D. Murray was  
18 taken stenographically and transcribed by Robert I.  
19 Henderson, Shorthand Reporter, Office of The Inspector  
20 General, Headquarters, Department of the Army.)  
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