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8 Q. This investigation concerns the alleged destruc-
9 tion of a village in South Vietnam nicknamed Pinkville,
10 which was approximately five or six miles north of Quang
11 Ngai City. The incident allegedly occurred in March of
12 1968 during the time Company C, 1/20th Infantry, Task
13 Force Barker conducted search and destroy operations on
14 the Batangan Peninsula. The investigation is official
15 and is being made at the direction of the Chief of Staff
16 of the Army. The investigation is privileged in the sense
17 that the report will be made to the Chief of Staff. The
18 substance of this report and this investigation should not
19 be discussed with others. It will carry a CONFIDENTIAL
20 classification. The purpose of the investigation is to
21 determine the facts relative to this incident. I'm trying
22 to get as much factual information as I can.

24 I'd like to place you under oath. Will you
25 please stand and raise your right hand?

(The witness was sworn.)

29 Please state your full name.
30 A. Andress Delgado.

32 Q. What was your serial number?
33 A. US 67 138 017.

35 Q. Your occupation?
36 A. Right now?

57
58 Q. Yes.
59 A. I'm going to start working with Blume System,
60 tree servicing.

42 Q. Home address?
43 A.

45 Q. Uvalde? FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

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(DELGADO)

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A. Uvalde, Texas.

Q. What was your duty assignment in March 1968
at the time this operation took place?

A. Grenadier.

Q. You were a grenadier?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. In which platoon?

A. 2d Platoon.

Q. Which squad?

A. 3d Squad.

Q. Who was your platoon leader?

A. Brooks.

Q. And your squad leader?

A. La Croix--Sergeant La Croix.

Q. Would you tell me, to the best of your memory,
what you remember about this operation? And I'm primarily
concerned with the first day. You remember it was a
combat assault operation.

A. Well, we got CA there; swept through the village,
flush out the--a couple of VC, 'cause the artillery had
been pounding the village for--say an hour prior to the
assault.

Q. Do you remember what time you landed?

A. Around eight o'clock, morning time.

Q. Do you remember where you were located in the
helicopter? Were you on the inside or were you in one
of the doors?

A. Well, I was--I can't recall.

Q. Were you in the helicopter with Sergeant La Croix?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What weapon were you armed with?

A. 79--M-79.

Q. Was there ammunition available for that weapon?

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1 A. Yes, sir.
2

3 Q. Do you remember a briefing by the company
4 commander the day before that operation?
5

6 A. Well, yes, sort of.
7

8 Q. Who was the company commander?
9 A. Medina.
10

11 Q. What did he say in that briefing?
12 A. Well, he said we were going to make a combat
13 assault. There was a suspected regiment, NVA, in that
14 area, and it was going to be hard, but we had to do it.
15

16 Q. Do you remember the name of the village you
17 landed by?
18 A. I think it was known as My Lai--My Lai--My Lai (4).
19

20 Q. Was your platoon at Dottie or Uptight?
21 A. Dottie.
22

23 Q. Do you remember the direction your helicopter
24 was facing when it landed?
25 A. No, sir.
26

27 Q. Do you remember, when you got out of the door,
28 whichever door it was--were you facing the village? Or
29 were you facing away from it?
30

31 A. I think I was facing (indicating) more or less
32 in between the village (indicating) and another area.
33 'Cause when you get out there, when you're in a combat
34 assault, your chopper lands, everybody spreads out around
35 the chopper in a ring shape. And after that they start
36 moving toward the objective.
37

38 Q. How far did your chopper land from the edge of
39 the village?
40 A. I would say about 200 meters.
41

42 Q. Do you remember whether or not the door gunners
43 were firing prior to your landing?
44 A. I don't remember, sir.
45

Q. Did Captain Medina give any specific instructions
regarding the destruction of the village?

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1 A. Not that I recall, sir.

2 Q. Did Lieutenant Brooks brief you any further
3 after Captain Medina briefed you?

4 A. Well, he just said that we might be in a tough
5 fight. As the situation was, there was an intelligence
6 report that an NVA regiment was there, and so forth.

7 Q. Did Sergeant La Croix give you any additional
8 instructions after Lieutenant Brooks?

9 A. No, not that I recall.

10 Q. Did your platoon move through the village?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Did your squad move through the village?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. Do you remember what section of the village your
15 squad moved through?

16 A. No, sir.

17 Q. Do you remember the direction of the landing
18 zone from the village?

19 A. Well, we were moving toward the sea. That would
20 be--I think it would be east.

21 Q. You were moving east?

22 A. I think so. I'm not--I'm not positive on that,
23 sir.

24 Q. At the time that you got out of the helicopter,
25 were any of the huts in the village burning?

26 A. I think a few of them were burning.

27 Q. Were any American troops in the village at that
28 time?

29 A. No, sir. We were the first ones to land there.

30 Q. What do you suppose caused these fires?

31 A. Maybe artillery.

32 Q. Did you see the impacting artillery rounds?

33 A. No, sir.

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1 Q. Did you see any craters where the rounds would
2 have fallen?

3 A. Well, like Vietnam is full of craters, sir. It
4 maybe hit a month before, two months before, something
5 like that.

6 Q. Do you have any reason to believe that white
7 phosphorous, WP, was used as part of the artillery con-
8 centration?

9 A. No, sir.

10 Q. What is your estimate on the number of hootches
11 that were burning when you first saw the village?

12 A. Well, I saw smoke. This--maybe two or three,
13 something like that.

14 Q. Did you see any of the helicopter gun ships
15 firing?

16 A. Yes, sir. They cut down a couple of (indicating)
17 Viet Cong that were running off. They were circling, sir--
18 circling around, sir.

19 Q. Did their fire appear to be accurate?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. Were they firing miniguns or M-16s?

22 A. Miniguns, rockets.

23 Q. They brought down these two VC?

24 A. Yes, sir. I--we saw two dead Viet Cong later
25 after we swept through. Weapons and everything were there.

26 Q. Did you recover the weapons?

27 A. Yes, sir.

28 Q. Did these men appear to have been killed by
29 rockets or small arms fire?

30 A. Small arm.

31 Q. Did you see the gun ships fire anywhere else
32 besides that one place?

33 A. Not that I recall.

34 Q. Did you see any National Police or ARVN with
35 your unit?

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A. No.

Q. Had you participated in operations in this particular area prior to the 16th of March?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. This was in the Pinkville complex?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you get fairly close to this particular village prior to the 16th of March?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you ever receive any fire from that village?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. When was that?

A. It would be around February. We got--once we got our platoon--we got pinned down by machine gun fire, automatic fire, mortars round.

Q. Where was that fire coming from?

A. Pinkville.

Q. Now when we talk of Pinkville, are we talking about My Lai (1) or My Lai (4)?

A. Well, that would be--I would say that would be My Lai (4).

Q. How far do you think you were from the sea when you landed?

A. How far was I from the--from the what?

Q. From the sea; from the ocean or South China Sea.

A. I would say about six klicks.

Q. You have a pretty good memory on where you went in.

Have you seen this map (handing map to witness) before? It's the 1:50,000, Quang Ngai sheet.

A. (Examining map.) I think I've seen it before.

Q. (To reporter.) Don't take this down.

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(Discussion off record.)

In this February operation, do you remember the location of your platoon when it was pinned down?-- from that map.

A. (Examining map.) No. I couldn't say, sir.

Q. Did you lose any men on that operation?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Who?

A. Well, we lost two. I can't recall their names.

Q. Do you know where the other squads in your company were located with reference to your squad? Were you on the right or left?

A. That would be when we got pinned down?

Q. No, no. This would be on the 16th of March operation.

A. Well, we were--I can't say 'cause we were on line (indicating)--the whole company.

Q. How was this line formed?

A. Well, just (indicating)--I'd say maybe five meters between each man, all the way down, sweeping through the village.

Q. Was it formed before you went into the village?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. On the landing zone?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you remember an abutment or a ditch, or something, that that line was formed on? When you left the helicopter and moved toward the village, do you remember stopping on some sort of terrain feature?

A. Not a terrain feature, but I remember stopping so everybody would get on place.

Q. Did you see Captain Medina in the village?

A. No, sir.

Q. Do you know PFC Esequiel Torres?

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19. *Calostoma* *lutea* (L.) *Wright*

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- 1 A. Yes, sir.
- 2 Q. Did you see him on this operation?
- 3 A. After we swept through the village.
- 4
- 5 Q. After you swept through the village.
- 6 A. Yes, sir. We took a break and I saw him then.
- 7
- 8 Q. Was he in your squad?
- 9 A. No, sir.
- 10
- 11 Q. Was he with your platoon?
- 12 A. Yes, sir.
- 13
- 14 Q. But he wasn't with your squad.
- 15 A. No, sir.
- 16
- 17 Q. Did you hear any explosions in the village?
- 18 A. Yes, sir.
- 19
- 20 Q. What type of explosions did they seem to be?
- 21 A. Grenade.
- 22
- 23 Q. Above-ground or below-ground?
- 24 A. I couldn't say, sir.
- 25
- 26 Q. Were you receiving any fire from the village
27 when you left the helicopter?
- 28 A. I think we were receiving sniper fire. I'm not
29 positive on that, sir.
- 30
- 31 Q. When your platoon moved into the village, was it
32 firing?
- 33 A. When our--our platoon moved--
- 34
- 35 Q. When you moved up (indicating) through that
36 line, through the village.
- 37 A. Yes, sir.
- 38
- 39 Q. Did there appear to be any targets to fire at?
- 40 A. Maybe recon by fire.
- 41
- 42 Q. Reconnaissance by fire?
- 43 A. (Nodding affirmatively.)
- 44
- 45

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1 Q. As you formed this line, and as you looked to
2 the village, could you see the huts? Or was there
3 vegetation there?

4 A. We could see the huts.

5 Q. Was there vegetation also?

6 A. I'm not sure on this, sir.

7 Q. From your position, as you formed this line,
8 about how many huts could you see?

9 A. Four or five.

10 Q. During the time you swept the village, were you
11 always in the village? Or were you ever over in the rice
12 paddies?

13 A. I was sometimes in the rice paddies.

14 Q. Did you observe any personnel--US personnel--
15 indiscriminately firing on civilians?

16 A. No.

17 Q. You didn't see anybody indiscriminately firing
18 on a civilian or a VC?

19 A. Well, what would you mean by "indiscriminately"?

20 Q. On the basis of a type of execution, firing for
21 no reason.

22 A. No.

23 Q. Did your squad detain any suspected VC or any
24 inhabitants of that village?

25 A. I think we had some suspects.

26 Q. Males?

27 A. Males and females; both of them.

28 Q. How many?

29 A. Maybe five.

30 Q. What happened to them?

31 A. They were taken to the CP after that.

32 Q. Company or platoon?

33 A. Company.

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1 Q. Who took them?
2 A. I don't recall.

3
4 Q. Did you ever go back through the village once
5 you cleared it?
6 A. No.

7
8 Q. Once you got out of the east side of it, you
9 didn't go back in?
10 A. No. We had--I think we had another platoon
11 sweeping behind us. That would be weapons.

12
13 Q. Did you feel that C Company went into this
14 operation with a "get even" attitude?
15 A. "Get even" attitude?

16
17 Q. Yes.
18 A. Maybe it did, but maybe it didn't, 'cause we had
19 lost a couple of mens up there, in mines, and all that
20 stuff.

21
22 Q. Did Captain Medina say anything at his briefing
23 which might cause the unit to feel that this village would
24 be held responsible for the casualties that you had in the
25 past?

26 A. Not that I recall.

27
28 Q. Do you remember a man named Medloe?
29 A. Medloe?

30
31 Q. Yes.
32 A. No.

33
34 Q. Do you remember Carter?
35 A. I think I do--"soul brother." Colored guy?

36
37 Q. Yes.
38 A. I think I do.

39
40 Q. Do you know what happened to him on this operation?
41 A. I think he got--from what I heard, he got shot in
42 the foot, and med evac'd later.

43
44 Q. How?
45 A. I don't recall.

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- Q. You didn't see any National Police?
A. Well, we had--as far as I know, only the interpreter we had.
- Q. He was an ARVN.
A. He was an ARVN.
- Q. Did you see Lieutenant Calley on this operation?
A. Calley--no, sir. He wasn't with our platoon.
- Q. Which platoon did he have?
A. I'm not positive--positive, but I think he had
- 3d. I couldn't be sure on that.
- Q. Did you ever see a helicopter land and pick up Vietnamese?
A. Like (indicating)--just land and pick up Vietnamese people?
- Q. Yes.
A. No.
- Q. Did you see a helicopter land at all?
A. I didn't see it, but I heard--I heard one coming in (indicating).
- Q. Would you know Widmer?
A. Did you know Widmer?
A. Sergeant Widmer?--or what? What was his rank?
- Q. On 18 April 68 he was a Spec 4.
A. Spec 4. I recall the name, but I can't place him.
- Q. Did you know Grzesik?
A. Grzesik?
- Q. Yes.
A. No, sir.
- Q. Did you know Bernhardt?
A. Bernhardt--yes, sir, I recall him.
- Q. Was he in your squad?

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1 A. No, sir.

2
3 Sir, I saw a name on that paper a while ago.
4 He was in my squad.

5 Q. Yes, I know.

6
7 A. Was Trevino with you during this entire operation?
8 (Nodding affirmatively.)

9 Q. You were together?

10 A. (Nodding affirmatively.)

11 Q. Sergeant Torres says that you and Trevino and
12 Rodriguez were together on this operation.

13 A. Rodriguez was with us, but I don't recall Torres.

14 Q. So Rodriguez, yourself--

15 A. La Croix.

16 Q. --and--

17 A. La Croix.

18 Q. --La Croix and--

19 A. Trevino.

20 Q. --Trevino were together.

21 A. Let me see--had to be a couple of more. Moss.

22 Q. Do you remember in that unit a large, heavy-set
23 colored boy? It could have been an NCO.

24 A. Large, heavy-set--

25 Q. Big fellow.

26 A. Do you recall what platoon he was with?

27 Q. No.

28 A. Large--do you recall his name?

29 Q. No, I don't.

30 A. The only one we had was Hodges, but he wasn't
31 large.

32 Q. He wasn't a big man?

33 A. No. He was just a little taller than me. Maybe
34 about your size.

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1 Q. This man was, as I understand from a descrip-
2 tion, sort of fat.

3 A. Fat. We had one; he was kind of big, but he
4 wasn't fat. Buchanon was his name--Sergeant Buchanon.

5 Q. What was Sergeant Buchanon's job?

6 A. Platoon sergeant.

7 Q. How many people do you estimate were killed in
8 this village?

9 A. Well, from what I learned from the casualty
10 report, maybe a hundred.

11 Q. How many did you see?

12 A. Well, I saw a couple of dead bodies, but I can't
13 recall how many.

14 Q. Did you hear, after this operation, that groups
15 of villagers had been rounded up and executed?

16 A. I heard some rumors like that, but I can't be
17 sure.

18 Q. Where did you hear these rumors?

19 A. Around Dottie.

20 Q. Dottie?

21 A. (Nodding affirmatively.)

22 Q. Who was saying this?

23 A. I can't recall. We just sit together, drink
24 beer, something like that, and be talking.

25 Q. Did you have any reason to think that these
26 rumors were true?

27 A. No.

28 Q. Were any names mentioned?

29 A. Names mentioned?

30 Q. When these statements were made as to who did
31 this, or who allegedly did it?

32 A. Well, I heard something, but I can't be sure.

33 Q. Who were they?

34 A. Well, his name was Calley.

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Q. Anyone else?

A. No, not that I recall.

Q. Now was Calley mentioned as the individual whose unit was responsible for this? or as the individual who pulled the trigger?

A. Well, I can't be sure, 'cause--like when you say somebody's talking, and they say--well, that Calley's platoon was up there--from the rumors I heard, they shot up a lot of gooks--you know, Vietnamese people.

Q. Did you have any reason to think that any one platoon in that unit was responsible? Or were these rumors referred to any one group--

A. No.

Q. --or unit?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did this operation appear to be any different than any other combat assault you went on?

A. Well, in a way it was 'cause I saw a lot of dead people there.

Q. Moreso than other operations.

A. Moreso. Well--

Q. Yes?

A. I think so.

Q. Was there any difference in procedures for this combat assault than any other combat assault you participated in?

A. No.

Q. Always had gun ships, always had artillery preparation--

A. Well--

Q. --always moved with reconnaissance by fire.

A. Well, no. Like sometimes we didn't have gun ships, sometimes we didn't have recon by fire and artillery.

Q. Did you have any reason to believe that the unit feared this operation, moreso than any other combat

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1 assault?

2 A. Well, it might have been feared 'cause we were
3 new in the country. We hadn't been there but about three
4 months, or something like that. We had been getting hit
5 pretty bad in that area--like the intelligence report
6 said there was a regiment there that--

7 Q. Did you normally receive an intelligence briefing
8 prior to these operations which indicated that there were
9 battalions or regiments in the areas?

10 A. Personally, no.

11 Q. These dead people that you mentioned you saw--did
12 they appear to be scattered out over the village or were
13 they in groups?

14 A. Scattered out.

15 Q. Were they in huts or out of huts?

16 A. Out of huts.

17 Q. Now how did they appear to be killed?

18 A. Small arm.

19 Q. And were all of these people inside the village?

20 A. (Indicating) Well, yeah.

21 Q. Did you see any out in the rice paddies, besides
22 the two VC that you recovered the weapons from?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Did you ever go back through this village at any
25 date after the operation?

26 A. No.

27 Q. Do you remember ever receiving an order to stop
28 firing while in the village?

29 A. I think I did.

30 Q. Do you remember how that order was given?

31 A. Well, I don't recall, but my--I recall my squad
32 leader told me. "Cease fire. Just sweep through the
33 village."

34 Q. Was there any more firing after that?

35 A. Not that I recall.

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1 Q. How long after the line started moving through
2 the village--how long after that did this order come down?
3 A. Maybe an hour.

4 Q. An hour?
5 A. (Nodding affirmatively.)

6 Q. Do you feel that reconnaissance by fire could
7 have been responsible for the deaths of a large number
8 of people that you saw in the village?
9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. Did you see a ditch on the east side of the
11 village--on the other side of the village--as you moved
12 through?
13 A. After we crossed the village?

14 Q. Yes. When you swept through the village (indi-
15 cating), on the other side, did you notice a ditch over
16 there?
17 A. No.

18 Q. You didn't see one?
19 A. No.

20 Q. There's a hearsay statement--you know what
21 hearsay is?
22 A. What's that?

23 Q. Hearsay is not an eye witness.

24 But I have a hearsay statement that said a
25 group of civilians was rounded up, put together, and
26

27 "Kally ordered Pfc Torres to man the
28 machine-gun and open fire on the villagers
29 that had been grouped together." And that
30 Torres, "before everyone in the group was
31 down...ceased fire and refused to fire
32 again....Lieutenant Kally took over the
33 M-60 and finished shooting the remaining
34 villagers in that first group himself."

35 A. Do you think Torres did that?
36 A. Could be, sir.

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- 1 Q. But would he have been with Calley?
2 A. Would he--
3
4 Q. Would he have been with Calley?
5 A. Would he have been--
6
7 Q. Would he have been with Calley if he was working
8 with your platoon?
9 A. Could be, sir.
10
11 Q. Did you see many villagers running?
12 A. There were a couple of them there.
13
14 Q. What were the instructions passed out to the
15 unit regarding Vietnamese that ran from US forces?
16 A. Shoot.
17
18 Q. Shoot them?
19 A. (Nodding affirmatively.)
20
21 Q. What about "Stop"?
22 A. Well, you shoot in the air. If they don't
23 stop, try and hit them.
24
25 Q. Do you know the word for "Stop" in Vietnamese?
26 A. Yes, sir.
27
28 Q. What is it?
29 A. "Dung lai."
30
31 Q. Did you ever use that?
32 A. Yes, sir.
33
34 Q. Do you remember Sergeant Bacon?
35 A. Bacon?
36
37 Q. Bacon.
38 A. Bacon?
39
40 Q. Yes.
41 A. Was he a colored guy?
42
43 Q. Yes.
44 A. I remember him.
45

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1 Q. Did you see him on this operation?
2 A. No. He was an E-7. Right?

3
4 Q. Well--
5 A. Anyway, it don't make any difference. I was
6 just--just to see if I had the right person.
7

8 Q. Do you remember a man named Wood?
9 A. Wood?

10
11 Q. Yes. W-o-o-d.
12 A. I think I do. He was killed. Right?

13
14 Q. I don't know.
15 A. I remember one Wood.

16
17 Q. There were two Woods in the company.
18 A. Two Woods.

19
20 Q. There's a statement here:
21

22 "I remember this guy, when I pulled
23 this woman and two girls -- I think it was
24 two girls -- and this man out of this hut,
25 a guy, I think from the 2d Platoon, said,
26 'Kill them; don't let them get away.' And
27 I say, 'No, don't kill them; send them up
28 there to the lieutenant.' And then he say,
29 'Give me your rifle,' and I said, 'No, you
30 are not going to have my rifle,' just like
31 that, and then he took the other guy's
32 rifle and then he shoot them....

33
34 "Q. Was this a man from the 2d Platoon?
35

36 "A. Yes. I remember his face. I
37 think he got hurt. He got hit by a grenade,
38 and when I was getting ready to come home I
39 remember seeing him. He had just come from
40 the hospital. I don't know his name but he
41 was kind of a stout guy."

42
43 And I've also heard other statements about a
44 stout colored--heavy-set colored man.
45 A. I can't recall any stout colored man.

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1 Q. He mentioned 2d Platoon. And this man was in
2 Bacon's squad, so he knew Bacon. It couldn't have been
3 Bacon.
4 A. Bacon?

5 Q. Yes.
6 A. I don't know 'cause Bacon wasn't in my platoon.
7
8 Q. I think he was in the 1st Platoon.
9
10 Then he said he couldn't remember his name.
11
12 Q. Do you remember a road to the south of the
13 village? I doubt if you got down to the south of the
14 village, but did you move south at any time?
15 A. I can't recall the directions.
16
17 Q. It would be this (indicating) road right here.
18 That's (indicating) the village.
19 A. (Examining map.) No, I don't.
20
21 Q. It's probably nothing but a trail.
22 A. The only colored guy I remember is that Hodges,
23 but he wasn't big; just a stocky guy.
24
25 Q. What was Hodges' job?
26 A. I think he was a squad leader. I'm not positive.
27
28 Q. In which squad?
29 A. I would say 1st.
30
31 Q. In which platoon?
32 A. 2d Platoon.
33
34 Q. Did you say he was stocky?
35 A. Well, he was--
36
37 Q. Heavy-set?
38 A. Well, he was stocky, but he wasn't big. He
39 was maybe a couple of inches bigger than me.
40
41 Q. Do you have any further information concerning
42 the matters we have discussed?
43 A. Not that I know.
44
45

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1 Q. I want to remind you that this is an official
2 investigation.

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. It is privileged in the sense that my report
5 will be made to the Chief of Staff of the Army for such
6 use as he deems appropriate. You are requested not to
7 discuss the investigation or the questions and answers
8 covered during this interview except as you otherwise
9 may have a right to do so in accordance with law.

10
11 That's all.

12
13 (The witness was excused.)

14 (The foregoing testimony of Mr. Andress Delgado was
15 taken stenographically and transcribed by C. Mae B. Guzman,
16 Shorthand Reporter, Office of The Inspector General, Head-
17 quarters, Department of the Army.)

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