

WITNESS STATEMENT

For use of this form, see AR 195-10 - TB PMG 3; the proponent agency is Office of the Provost Marshal

EXHIBIT A

DATE 18 Sep 69	TIME 2130 hrs	FILE NUMBER 69-CDDOLL-00073
LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME MAPLES, Robert Earl (M-NEG-7 Nov 48)		GRADE Civilian
ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS		

SWORN STATEMENT

I, ROBERT E MAPLES

WANT TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT UNDER OATH

I left Hawaii on 1 Dec 67, for Vietnam with Company C, 1st BN, 20th Inf, 11th Bnig. I was a machine gunner wand went on numerous combat operations with Co C.

Q. Are you familiar with Task Forceer BARKER?

A. Yes I perticipated in this operation. Most of the troops refer to thss operation as "Pinkville".

Q. This investigation concerns an assault upon a village by the name of My Lai (4), in Quang Ngai Province, Vietnam, that was part of the operation you refer to as "Pinkville". Do you recall perticipating in this operation and if so will you state what knowledge you have of it?

A. I do remember taking part in the operation. During the operation CPT MEDINA, was the commanding officer, LT CALLEY was the platoon leader, SGT COWAN was the platoon SGT and SGT MITCHELL was the squad leader of 1st Platoon, 1st Squad. The night before the mission the company was briefed by MEDINA. During the briefing MEDINA told th. company there was supposed to be nothing in the village but the enemy, that we were to sweep through the village and and kill everything that was in there. He also told us to put the dead animals in the wells. He did not leave the impression with me that he meant to kill the women and children however this is what did happen.

I do not recall what time we landed or what side of the village of My Lai (4) we landed on. I was in the first lift in the fourth ship and with me was SGT COWAN and my machine gun helpers but I do not recall which ones but it might have been STANLEY BERGTHOLD or BRYANT. After we landed the whole company got on a line and started a sweep through the village. Prior to starting through the village I spotted someone off to my right front and I fired on this individual with my machine gun. I was standing while firing and could see that I did not hit him and he got out of my sight somewhere but I do not know where he went. As we went through the village I saw our troop shooting the villagers but I do not know who was actually shooting. I do recall that BERGTHOLD shooting a man as the man came out of a hootch. I remember seeing the top of the man's head fly off as BERGTHOLD shot him with .45 pistol. There were other troops ahead of me and as I went through the village I saw dead persons lying in all positions everyplace. I would estimate that I saw about 25 persons dead as I went through the village. As I reached the edge of My Lai (4) I saw LT CALLEY heading a group of about 15 persons into a hole or a crater. After these persons were into the hole I saw CALLEY open fire on them with an M-16. I recall that one of the women had been wounded prior to this time and she came up to me and showed the wound. She had been shot in the left arm but there was nothing I could do for her because she was being pushed ahead by COWAN and two or three other GIs. I did not go and look into the hole but I stayed in the immediabe area for some time and none of the persons ever came out of the hole. I believe that a bubble chopper pilot witnessed this incident shortly thereafter he landed and I heard that he told whoever he talked to on the ground that there was still someone alive in the hole. I also heard that the pilot was mad about the incident. I heard that somebody went back to the hole and finished killing those that were not already dead.

INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT R. E. M.	PAGE 1 OF 3 PAGES
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ADDITIONAL PAGES MUST CONTAIN THE HEADING "STATEMENT OF _____ TAKEN AT _____ DATED _____ CONTINUED." THE BOTTOM OF EACH ADDITIONAL PAGE MUST BEAR THE INITIALS OF THE PERSON MAKING THE STATEMENT AND BE INITIALED AS "PAGE _____ OF _____ PAGES." WHEN ADDITIONAL PAGES ARE UTILIZED, THE BACK OF PAGE 1 WILL BE LINED OUT, AND THE STATEMENT WILL BE CONCLUDED ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF ANOTHER COPY OF THIS FORM.

A. No.

A. Yes but I do not know who they were. There was either two or three. I do now remember that MEDLOE was one of those firing and he was crying at the same time. I know that he or the others did not want to kill those persons. This is not true of CALLEY because he seemed to want to kill. I do also believe that CALLEY called STANLEY to where he was at the hole to act as interpreter but apparently he did not get any information. After this incident or after lunch we moved on to the next village.

A. Yes all animals were killed.

A. I did not see anyone alive when we left the village.

A. None that I saw.

A. None that I saw. Later that afternoon some 6 or 8 prisoners were taken at another village. Even later I saw these prisoners being ^{her} incriminated by the Vietnamese National Police. There must have been 2 or 3 police and they walked down the line of prisoners and said "You are VC" and then the other police would take these persons right by the company CP and shoot them. Not all the prisoners were shot.

A. Yes.

Q Yes.

A. I did not receive the order but I assume it was given for the killings did stop.

A. No.

A. No. The medics present was CAPPEZZA, LEE, FLORES, and MANZANEDO.

A. Yes ^{later} this was the next day on hill 85. CALLEY had received orders to up the hill but not all the way to the top. We got up the hill ok but instead of returning the same way we had gone up CALLEY, MEDLOE and someone else (I believe his RTO BRUNNER) started down a different direction. This is when MEDLOE stepped on a mine. I heard MEDLOE say something to CALLEY about God and then "Your got yours coming".

A. No.

A. If I was called,

A. Only that I expected something to happen about that incident and I did not expect that it would wait this long. R.E.M.

Not used
P.E.M.

AFFIDAVIT

I, ROBERT E MAPLES

HAVE READ OR HAVE HAD READ TO ME THIS STATEMENT WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 1 AND ENDS ON PAGE 3. I FULLY UNDERSTAND THE CONTENTS OF THE ENTIRE STATEMENT MADE BY ME. THE STATEMENT IS TRUE. I HAVE INITIALED ALL CORRECTIONS AND HAVE INITIALED THE BOTTOM OF EACH PAGE CONTAINING THE STATEMENT. I HAVE MADE THIS STATEMENT FREELY WITHOUT HOPE OF BENEFIT OR REWARD, WITHOUT THREAT OF PUNISHMENT, AND WITHOUT COERCION, UNLAWFUL INFLUENCE, OR UNLAWFUL INDUCEMENT.

WITNESSES:

Kenneth W. Cobb
KENNETH W COBB, SGT E-5

MP Desk SGT, Ft Monmouth, NJ
ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS

ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS

INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

Robert E. Maples
(Signature of Person Making Statement)

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this 18 day of Sept, 19 69 at Ft Monmouth, NJ

Jack P. Byers
(Signature of Person Administering Oath)

JACK P BYERS
(Typed Name of Person Administering Oath)

ART 136 (b) (1) UCMJ

(Authority To Administer Oaths)