

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|-------|-------------|
| PLACE Fort George G. Meade, Maryland 20755 | DATE 11 Oct 69 | TIME | FILE NUMBER |
| LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME BYERS, Jack P | SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NO. | GRADE | |
| ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS Det A, 12th MP GP (CI), Ft Geo G Meade, Maryland 20755 | | | |

SWORN STATEMENT

I, JACK P BYERS

WANT TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT UNDER OATH:

On 8 Oct 69, Mr Fredrick Joseph WIDMER, was interviewed at his home at 221 Crescent Drive, Lower Furrell, Pa 15068. WIDMER stated that he was present at My Lai (4) on 16 Mar 68, as a member of C Company, 1st Bn, 20th Inf, 11 Brig as a part of security for Headquarters Section. WIDMER normally had the job as RTO however on this mission MURPHY was being broken in as a new RTO by PAUL. WIDMER related that during a briefing on 15 Mar 68, by CPT MEDINA the troops were told that during the mission, Task Force BARKER, everyone was VC or VC sympathizers and supporters and everything was to be killed meaning people and animals. MEDINA reminded the troops that their company had lost persons before in the area they would be going into. There was one other briefing held about the operation the night they returned to base camp. There was no company formation but MEDINA held a "gathering" and informed those present that someone had made a complaint about civilians being shot. MEDINA stated that he was responsible that the troops were following his orders by burning the building and killing everything. MEDINA told those present not to discuss the incident with anyone. WIDMER believed the incident had been reported by a gunship pilot.

WIDMER claimed he went into My Lai (4) with the last lift and was also behind all others while going through the village. He estimated the time spent in and around My Lai (4) to be between 0900-1200 hrs. WIDMER stated he saw an "easy 50" dead civilians lying dead in and around My Lai (4) and that no one was alive when the unit left the village.

WIDMER claimed he was within sight of MEDINA most of the time and denied seeing MEDINA shoot anyone. WIDMER was about 3 steps past CARTER when CARTER was shot in the foot therefore could not state if it was an accident. Most of the time around My Lai (4) WIDMER was with WEST the squad or team leader, SMAIL, and SMITH and he could not remember the others in the team and WIDMER was armed with an M-79.

When asked MEDINA's reaction to seeing the village burned and people shot WIDMER stated that MEDINA had nothing to say as it was his orders. WIDMER did recall that MEDINA called the platoon leaders and was mad and told them to stop killing the people however WIDMER could not remember if this occurred before or after BARKER visited MEDINA.

According to WIDMER no enemy soldiers were captured at My Lai (4) however a weapon was captured some distance from the edge of the village, which was claimed by DELPOME, GRIMES (team leader), and 4 or 5 others. WIDMER made reference to a picture on page 32 of THE AMERICAN, May edition and claimed that DELPOME was the person closest to the camera when the photograph was taken.

WIDMER opined that although the company went into the village with instructions to kill everything and everybody the situation got out of hand.

Later that day WIDMER claimed he saw some National Police and Military Intelligence personnel interrogate some prisoners (at least 2) One of the prisoners was an old man and dressed in white. The interrogations took place near the CP. WIDMER denied seeing the prisoners shot but a short time later he saw two persons dead in a ditch and on

| | | |
|---------|---|-------------------|
| EXHIBIT | INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT JB | PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES |
|---------|---|-------------------|

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.

STATEMENT (Continued)

was the old man dressed in white.

At the beginning of the interview WIDMER stated that he had already talked to COL WILSON and did not think he had anything else to add and would make no statement under oath.

WIDMER stated he did not see POYCE, CONTI, OLSON, DCRSI kill anyone and when ask about MEDLO he said he could not give a definato answer. When ask if he saw anyone actually shoot civilians he replied "No Statement".

WIDMER was then advise of his rights and told of what he was suspected (murder). WIDMER then signed part one and II of Waiver Certificate and stated he did not want to make a statement or answer any more questions.

WIDMER will not testify if called.

AFFIDAVIT

I, JACK P. EYERS HAVE READ OR HAVE HAD READ TO ME THIS STATEMENT WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 1 AND ENDS ON PAGE 2. 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:

ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS

ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS

INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

Jack P. Eyers
(Signature of Person Making Statement)

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this 11 day of Oct, 1969 at FT Geo G Meade, Md 20755

Francis R. Robinson
(Signature of Person Administering Oath)

FRANCIS R. ROBINSON

(Typed Name of Person Administering Oath)
Art 136 (b) (4) UCMJ, RCM, 1969

(Authority To Administer Oaths)

PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES