

# FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

PLACE 302 West Baker, Richmond, Virginia	DATE 28 Oct 69	TIME 1915	FILE NO. <u>100-111-1111</u>
LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME WOOD, Roy Lee Augustus	SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NO.		GRADE Civilian
ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS			

## SWORN STATEMENT

I, Roy L. A. Wood, WANT TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT UNDER OATH

I came into the Army in December 1966 and took basic training at Fort Bragg. I was sent to Hawaii and joined Co C, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry. During March 1968 I took part in the operation at My Lai (4) in the Republic of Vietnam. At this time I was a Fire Team leader in Sergeant BACON's squad (2d Sqd, 1st Platoon).

The day before My Lai (4) I attended CPT MEDINA's briefing. He gave the usual information about departure times, etc. He also said that recon flights showed My Lai (4) was an enemy strong-hold. He said we were on a search and destroy mission which I understood to mean to search out the enemy and destroy him. I also understood from the briefing that we were to destroy all the food, including cattle and crops, in the village. I do not recall any briefing about civilians, except that detainees were to be passed on to Platoon Headquarters. I did not attend any other briefing.

We flew to My Lai (4) by helicopter. I do not recall which lift I was in, but it should have been either the first or second lift. I usually rode with my squad in the same helicopter. This would include SGT BACON, SLEDGE, STANLEY, BOYCE, OLSEN and perhaps PATE. As we landed the gunships were firing. I saw no signs of artillery preparation. There was no enemy resistance or firing.

Q: Did you see CPT MEDINA at this time?

A: Yes. He and his RTO's formed at the center rear of the company. I was in the middle of my squad and we were on the right of the company line. Second Platoon was on the left. I did not pay any attention to MEDINA and do not recall seeing him again until we were finished with My Lai (4) and had reached the second village. We moved toward and through into the village. All of the men were firing. I did not see anyone killed at that time but did hear someone call out "Somebody got himself one!"

Q: It is alleged that BOYCE and others killed some detainees immediately upon entering the village of My Lai (4). Will you comment on this, please?

A: I don't know about this; I didn't see it or hear about it. I know CALLEY and CARTER killed an old man by throwing him down a well, but this was at another village earlier when we were working out of LZ UPTIGHT. I was in the village when they killed this man, but didn't see it; the others told me about it. Part of that village was burned too.

Q: What happened as you entered My Lai (4)?

A: I was with SLEDGE and STANLEY, as I recall. When I first entered the village, a woman suddenly jumped out of her hut and I whirled and fired. My shot creased the

EXHIBIT

**A**

INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

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ADDITIONAL PAGES MUST CONTAIN THE HEADING "STATEMENT OF \_\_\_\_\_ TAKEN AT \_\_\_\_\_ DATED \_\_\_\_\_ CONTINUED." THE BOTTOM OF EACH ADDITIONAL PAGE MUST BE INITIALED BY THE PERSON MAKING THE STATEMENT AND BE INITIALED AS "PAGE \_\_\_\_\_ OF \_\_\_\_\_ PAGES." IF THE STATEMENT IS 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.

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STATEMENT OF ROY L. A. WOOD TAKEN AT RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, ON 28 OCTOBER 1969 (CONT'D)

woman on the side, lightly wounding her. We sent her with her two children (one in arms, the other walking) to Platoon Headquarters. She was not escorted, but was just instructed to move to the center. As we moved further into the village we shot chickens, pigs and dogs.

We came to another hut and found a man, his wife, a teen-aged girl and a younger girl. I grabbed the man and pushed him out of the hut and asked him "VC?". He said, "No VC," and held his hands up as if pleading with me.

Then a stocky Caucasian PFC from the 2d Platoon, Company C, 1/20th, came up. (He was later wounded by shrapnel on a hill we named Hill Buchanan after SGT BUCHANAN who was wounded on that hill) The man is about six feet tall and weighed about 195-200 pounds. He was about 20-21 years of age. A Negro soldier named SIMPSON, 2d Platoon, Co C, 1/20th Infantry, was with this man and knows him.

This Caucasian soldier grabbed for my M-16 and shouted "Kill them all! Don't turn them over to the company; kill them all!" I was able to hold onto my rifle. He turned and suddenly snatched SIMPSON's M-16 rifle from his hands. The Caucasian soldier then shot the man in the head, blowing off part of his skull and blowing away part of his brain. The man fell and I am certain he was killed. Then the Caucasian soldier shot the older girl. He shot her in the head, also, and from what I saw of her wounds I am certain she was killed also. I turned away because what I had seen made me sick. The Caucasian soldier then shot the woman in the head and the little girl in the head, killing them both. Then the Caucasian soldier gave SIMPSON back his M-16. I believe SLEDGE, STANLEY and BOYCE witnessed these murders.

I was about 13 feet from the man when he killed these four people. I believe I could identify him, if I see him again. He was armed with an M79 grenade launcher.

Just after we left this area, the Caucasian soldier with the M79 moved off to join the 2d Platoon and I joined part of the 1st Platoon. Shortly thereafter, I saw an old woman staggering down the path. She had been wounded. Someone said she had been shot at close range with an M79 round and that the round had not exploded but was lodged in her stomach. She fell to the ground. I moved on through the village, but saw no one else killed. I saw no other bodies, either. As I recall, I was with BACON at this time. We passed through the far side of the village and set up a position there. After we had been there 15 minutes, I saw a bubble-chopper land and CPT MEDINA and someone else went out and talked to COL BEERS (phonetic), the Battalion Commander, who had flown in on the chopper. I don't know what was said.

Q: Did you see CALLEY or MITCHELL during this operation?

A: I don't recall seeing either during My Lai (4). During the day, MEADLO and BOYCE told me that CALLEY had gathered up some prisoners and executed them. They didn't tell me any further details except that it took place in a ditch and there were 60 or so people involved in the execution.

EXHIBIT A

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STATEMENT OF ROY L. A. WOOD, TAKEN AT RICHMOND, VA, 28 OCTOBER 1969, CONTINUED

Q: Other than COL BEER's chopper, did you see any helicopters land at My Lai (4)?  
A: No.

Q: Do you know anything of MITCHELL's alleged involvement in the My Lai (4) murders?  
A: No, I do not.

Q: It is alleged that on the evening of 16 March 1968, following the My Lai (4) operation, Vietnamese Police executed some Vietnamese prisoners and that certain US Forces personnel may have been involved. Will you comment on this?

A: After we joined B Company, the Vietnamese Police questioned some suspects. I heard shots and later went over and saw some dead Vietnamese. I believe there were two dead Vietnamese. I did not see the shooting and do not know whether or not US Forces personnel were involved.

Q: Do you know anything about the capture of a VC nurse?

A: Yes, I saw them bring her in. As I recall, this was around Landing Zone ROSS sometime after My Lai (4). The men were bringing her to LT ANDERSON. She had all her clothing on. I did not witness the questioning. I was told that the whole Second Platoon raped her before they brought her in.

Q: What do you know about a soldier named CONN?

A: I was on a patrol out of LZ UPTIGHT and saw him cut a foot of braided hair from a girl's head. He decorated his helmet with it. This made everyone in the village angry and they followed us down the path cursing and shouting at us. He had a reputation as a man who raped Vietnamese.

Q: Do you know WEST and SMITH?

A: Yes I do. I don't know anything wrong about them.

Q: BOYCE is alleged to have killed a prisoner at My Lai (4). Do you know anything about this?

A: He's capable of it, but I have no knowledge about this.

Q: Did you hear any message at My Lai (4) to stop killing civilians.

A: No.

Q: Was My Lai (4) burned?

A: Some of it was.

Q: In My Lai (4) did you shoot at anyone?

A: No, none other than the woman I told you about. I shot some cattle and a pig, too.

Q: Did you ever see the ditch with bodies in it?

A: No.

EXHIBIT A

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STATEMENT (Continued)

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Q: How many detainees did your squad send to Platoon Headquarters?  
A: We sent fifteen or sixteen.

Q: Was there any resistance in the village?  
A: No. There were just scared people running.

Q: Was there any investigation following My Lai (4)?  
A: Not that I know. After we went back to LZ DOTTIE, MEDINA or one of the lieutenants told us at a company assembly never to talk about My Lai (4).

Q: Do you have anything to add to this statement?  
A: No.

AFFIDAVIT

I, ROY L. A. WOOD

HAVE READ OR HAVE HAD READ TO ME THIS STATEMENT WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 1 AND ENDS ON PAGE 4. 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:

/s/ROY L. A. WOOD

(Signature of Person Making Statement)

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this 28th day of October, 1969 at Richmond, Virginia

ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS

/s/REIS R. KASH

(Signature of Person Administering Oath)

REIS R. KASH, Investigator  
(Typed Name of Person Administering Oath)

Art 336(b)(4) UCMJ

(Authority To Administer Oaths)

EXHIBIT A

INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT