

PLACE	DATE	TIME	FILE NUMBER
Houston, Texas	6 Nov 69	1720 hrs	
NAME, FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME	SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NO.		GRADE
CARTER, Herbert Louis	None		Civilian
ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS			
Hou-Tex Hotel, 1206 1/2 Prairie St., Houston, Texas			

SWORN STATEMENT

I, Herbert L. CARTER, WANT TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT UNDER OATH:

I was inducted into the Army at Oakland, California, during April 1967 and had basic training and ALT at Fort Polk, Louisiana. When I finished this, I was sent to Jump School at Ft Benning, Ga., and was then assigned to Company C, 1/20th Infantry, in Hawaii. During or about November 1967 I went with the Advanced Party to Vietnam. I stayed there until after the My Lai (4) operation when I was med-evacuated to Japan and then to the United States. I remained in the Army until about 11 April 1969 when I was separated. While I was with Company C, 1/20th Infantry, I was assigned to Sgt MITCHELL's squad in Lt CALLEY's platoon. I was a tunnel-rat and was armed with a caliber .45 pistol and an M-16 rifle.

During March 1968, we were moved to LZ Dottie. We stayed there a day or so and then we were told that we were going to an area we know as Pinkville. The night before the operation, CAPTAIN MEDINA gave the unit a pep-talk and a briefing. The briefing was the usual: equipment to take, what order we would go in, etc. The pep-talk was unusual. He said "Well, boys -- this is your chance to get revenge on these people. When we go into My Lai (4), it's open season. When we leave, nothing will be living. Everything is going to go." He also said to level the village.

After this briefing, CALLEY told me to double my ammunition supply. This wasn't at a briefing: he came around to all the bunkers.

When I left MEDINA's briefing I knew it was going to be a slaughter of civilians in the village the next day. STANLEY and I talked about this before My Lai (4) and we agreed then that it would be a slaughter.

Now I know I am going to say things against friends of mine, but this is the time for the truth. Take MITCHELL, I've been out with him socially a couple of times, but in My Lai (4) he killed people he had no reason to kill. He murdered them. MEADLO was my friend too, but he murdered people too. I got along with CALLEY until My Lai (4), but after he killed all those people I couldn't take any more of that.

We were picked up by helicopters at LZ DOTTIE early in the morning and we were flown to My Lai (4). We landed outside the village in a dry rice paddy. There was no resistance from the village. There was no armed enemy in the village. We formed a line outside the village.

The first killing was an old man in a field outside the village who said some kind of greeting in Vietnamese and waved his arms at us. Someone -- either MEDINA or CALLEY -- said to kill him and a big heavy-set white fellow killed the man. I do not know the name of the man who shot this Vietnamese. This was the first murder.

EXHIBIT	INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT	PAGE 1 OF 6 PAGES
	H L C	

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.

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Just after the man killed the Vietnamese, a woman came out of the village and someone knocked her down and MEDINA shot her with his M16 rifle. I was 50 or 60 feet from him and saw this. There was no reason to shoot this girl. MITCHELL, CONTI, MEADLO, STANLEY, and the rest of the squad and the command group must have seen this. It was a pure out and out murder.

Then our squad started into the village. We were making sure no one escaped from the village. Seventy-five or a hundred yards inside the village we came to where the soldiers had collected 15 or more Vietnamese men, women, and children in a group. MEDINA said, "Kill everybody, leave no one standing." WOOD was there with an M-60 machine gun and, at MEDINA's orders, he fired into the people. Sgt MITCHELL was there at this time and fired into the people with his M16 rifle, also. WIDNER was there and fired into the group, and after they were down on the ground, WIDNER passed among them and finished them off with his M16 rifle. MEDINA, himself, did not fire into this group.

Just after this shooting, MEDINA stopped a 17 or 18 year old man with a water buffalo. MEDINA said for the boy to make a run for it -- he tried to get him to run -- but the boy wouldn't run, so MEDINA shot him with his M16 rifle and killed him. The command group was there. I was 75 or 80 feet away at the time and saw it plainly. There were some demolition men there, too, and they would be able to testify about this. I don't know any other witnesses to this murder. MEDINA killed the buffalo, too.

Q. I want to warn you that these are very serious charges you are making. I want you to be very sure that you tell only the truth and that everything you say is the truth?

A. What I have said is the truth and I will face MEDINA in court and swear to it. This is the truth: this is what happened.

Q. What happened then?

A. We went on through the village. MEADLO shot a Vietnamese and asked me to help him throw the man in the well. I refused and MEADLO had CARNEY help him throw the man in the well. I saw this murder with my own eyes and know that there was no reason to shoot the man. I also know from the wounds that the man was dead.

Also in the village the soldiers had rounded up a group of people. MEADLO was guarding them. There were some other soldiers with MEADLO. CALLEY came up and said that he wanted them all killed. I was right there within a few feet when he said this. There were about 25 people in this group. CALLEY said when I walk away, I want them all killed. MEADLO and WIDNER fired into this group with his M16 on automatic fire. COWAN was there and fired into the people too, but I don't think he wanted to do it. There were others firing into this group, but I don't remember who. CALLEY had two Vietnamese with him at this time and he killed them, too, by shooting them with his M16 rifle on automatic fire. I didn't want to get involved and I walked away. There was no reason for this killing. These were mainly women and children and a few old men. They weren't trying to escape or attack or anything. It was murder.

A woman came out of a hut with a baby in her arms and she was crying. She was crying because her little boy had been in front of her hut and between the well and the hut and someone had killed the child by shooting it. She came out of the hut with her baby and WIDMER shot her with an M16 and she fell. When she fell, she dropped the baby and then WIDMER opened up on the baby with his M16 and killed the baby, too.

I also saw another woman come out of a hut and CALLEY grabbed her by the hair and shot her with a caliber .45 pistol. He held her by the hair for a minute and then let go and she fell to the ground. Some enlisted man standing there said, "Well, she'll be in the big rice paddy in the sky."

Q. Do you know any witnesses to these incidents?

A. STANLEY might have been the one CALLEY killed. There were a lot of people around when WIDMER shot the woman with the baby. I can't definitely state any one person was there, but there were a lot of people around.

I also saw a Vietnamese boy about 8 years old who had been wounded I think in the leg. One of the photographers attached to the company patted the kid on the head and then MITCHELL shot the kid right in front of the photographer and me. I am sure the boy died from the fire of MITCHELL.

About that time I sat down by a stack of dying people and WIDMER asked me if he could borrow my caliber .45 pistol and finish off the people. I gave him my pistol and he walked in among the people and would stand there and when one would move, he would shoot that person in the head with the pistol. He used three magazines of caliber .45 ammunition on these people. These were men, children, women, and babies. They had been shot by machinegunners and riflemen from Company C, 1/20th Infantry. This was at a T-junction of two trails on the outskirts of the village. I got my pistol back from WIDMER and holstered it again.

Q. How many people do you figure WIDMER finished off when he used your pistol?

A. I know he shot some twice, so I figure he shot fifteen or so with my pistol. I know he shot one guy in the head and I imagine that was where he was shooting them all.

Q. What happened then?

A. We went on through the village and there was killing and more killing. I was with STANLEY, mainly. I sat down with STANLEY and WIDMER came up again and asked to borrow my pistol again. I gave it to him. I saw a little boy there -- wounded, I believe in the arm -- and WIDMER walked up close to the kid and shot him with my pistol. WIDMER said something like, "Did you see me shoot that son of a bitch," and STANLEY said something about how it was wrong. My gun had jammed when WIDMER shot the kid. As far as I could tell, the kid died as a result of this gunshot. Then WIDMER gave me my pistol back and walked off. I was trying to clear it when it accidentally went off and I was shot in the left foot. STANLEY gave me medical aid and then the

medics came. MEDINA and some of the command group came up and then I was flown out in a helicopter. The next day the medics brought MEADLO into the hospital. He had stepped on a booby-trap booby-trap and had lost his foot. He said he thought God might be punishing him for what he had done in MyLai(4).

Q. I would like to show you a book of photographs pertaining to MyLai(4) and some other operations and want your comments.

A. Yes, here is PHU. He did his share of killing at MyLai(4) and in fact, he and MEDINA killed a couple of people together early in the operation and were laughing because they had fired on the same group at the same time. I saw this shooting and know that there was no reason for their firing at these people at that time.

I also identify myself in several photographs and further identify one of the men carrying me as ~~MAURO~~ WIDMER, Mr Murder Incorporated, the man who borrowed my pistol and shot all the people. The other man is MAURO, but I don't remember his doing anything wrong. I do not know anything about the other photographs, except the color photograph of the little boy in the dirt road. This is the child WIDMER shot with my pistol. This photograph was taken before WIDMER shot him.

Q. Do you know anything else about atrocities we should know about?

A. Yes, CALLEY has killed other people, too. I was with him in a village when we were questioning a man and after we roughed him up, we threw him in a shallow irrigation well and suddenly and without any warning, CALLEY fired into the man with his M16. We had not intended to kill the man, only to threaten him because the well was just a shallow one in the field for dipping up water for the crops. If CALLEY had not shot the man we threw in the well, he wouldn't have been hurt by being thrown in the well.

Q. I would like to read you the names of the people on your unit roster and see if you have any comments about these people. (The roster is read).

A. I know nothing about anyone else being involved in this sort of thing. CONTI had a reputation for raping girls, but I have no knowledge first hand of this. *WITNESS*

Q. Did you murder anyone in Vietnam?

A. The only people I killed in Vietnam I killed in combat. I didn't kill any women or kids or unarmed persons at all, ever.

Q. How many people do you think were killed in MyLai(4)?

A. There were more than 100, but I couldn't tell you accurately how many people were killed. I don't believe there were any people left alive.

Q. Were any huts burned?

A. Yes, the entire village was on fire.

Q. Would you draw a sketch of the village showing where the incidents you have mentioned took place?

A. Yes.

Q. Would you like to add anything to this statement or delete anything from this statement?

Continued
A. No, this statement is true and correct.

Q. Are you willing to testify in a court of law concerning this incident?

A. Yes I am.

Q. Will you notify this office of any changes of address?

A. Yes I will.

H. J. C.

H. J. C.

DECLARATION OF BENEFIT OR REWARD
STATEMENT

HSC

AFFIDAVIT

I, Herbert Louis CARTER HAVE READ OR HAVE HAD READ TO ME THIS STATEMENT WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 1 AND ENDS ON PAGE 6. 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:

Herbert L. Carter
(Signature of Person Making Statement)

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this 6th day of November, 1969 at Houston, Texas

ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS

Reis R. Kash
(Signature of Person Administering Oath)

ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS

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

ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS

Art. 136(b)(4), UCMJ, 1951

(Authority To Administer Oath)

OFFICE

INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION DATA SHEET

NAME CARTER, Herbert Louis DATE 6 November 1969
ASN: US-67 183 349
SSAN None SERVICE OR ID NUMBER _____ DOB 8 Jan 46
ORGANIZATION _____ Tel: 713-226-8594
OR ADDRESS HOU-TEX HOTEL, 1206 1/2 Prairie St., Houston, Texas
PLACE OF BIRTH Savannah, Georgia
HOME OF RECORD 111 Daphne Way, East Palo Alto, California. 405-324-085
ADVISEMENT OF RIGHTS BY Reis R. Kash
DATE ENTERED US ARMY April 1967 ETS 11 Apr 69 SCTY CLNC Confidential
EDUCATION 9th MARITAL STATUS Single DEPENDENTS None
ALIAS Lucky NICKNAME N/A
SEX Male RACE Negro HEIGHT 66 WEIGHT 145
HAIR Blk EYES Brn CHARACTERISTIC Afro haircut
BUILD Slender SCARS OR TATTOOS None COMPLEXION medium
OCCUPATION OR BRANCH day laborer

REMARKS Will contact this office collect if he moves from
Hotel