

LUYEN

STATEMENT

Unsworn statement of:

Do Dinh LUYEN

Address: Son My Village, Quang Ngai Province, RVN

Occupation: Village Chief

DOB: 20 Jun 29

POB: Tu Cung, Son My Village, Son Tinh District, Quang Ngai Province, RVN

MOR: Same as address

25 Nov 69

Quang Ngai, RVN

0945 hrs to 1100 hrs

This statement was taken by CW4 ANDRE C R PEHER through 1LT John C. WOOD, 635 MID, Americal Division, APO San Francisco 96374, who acted as an interpreter. The questions posed to LUYEN were translated by 1LT WOOD into Vietnamese and the answers by LUYEN were translated into English by 1LT WOOD.

Q: How long have you been the Village Chief of Son My Village?

A: Three Years.

Q: Where were you during the incident that happened in March 1968 in Tu Cung?

A: I was in Quang Ngai City.

Q: Who told you about the incident that happened in March 1968 in Tu Cung?

A: The farmers in the hamlet told me.

Q: Do you know how many people were living in Tu Cung prior to the incident in March 1968?

A: I would say approximately 450.

Q: How long after the incident was it that you heard about the shooting of the women and children in Tu Cung?

A: I heard about 10 days after the incident.

Q: Didn't you write a letter to the District Chief of Son Tinh District, in which you stated that on 16 March 1968, an American unit operating in the area had gathered 450 civilians including women and children and had shot them with their own personal weapons?

A: I made a report that American troops had gone in and had fought with the Viet Cong, but the people were killed in a cross fire between the Americans and the VC.

Q: How many people were killed in the so called fight between the Americans and the VC?

A: 370.

Q: I have many many statements from American soldiers who told me that there was no resistance whatsoever in the village when they entered. They also stated that approximately 115 women and children were gathered together and subsequently shot by them. How do you explain that? This does not include the women and children that were shot in and outside the hootches in the hamlet. Approximately 350 women and children were killed.

A: I do not know anything about it, because I was not there.

Q: On 16 Nov 69, I interviewed the former hamlet chief of Tu Cung (NHON) and you were present during this interview. I also interviewed Do CHUC and Do HOAI. At this time I got a complete different story than you are telling me now. Could you give me an explanation for that?

A: I am the village authority and what the farmers are saying I do not have any control over what they say. They are not telling the truth.

"STATEMENT OF TUYEN TAKEN AT QUANG NGAI, RVN, DATED 25 NOV 69, CONTINUED."

- Q: How do you know if you have not been there?
- A: At the time I was in Quang Ngai, the farmers were in Tu Cung Hamlet. They say one thing, I say something different. I do not know if that is right or not.
- Q: On 16 Nov 69, while interviewing NHON, I showed him a color photograph. On this photograph he identified his mother and his daughter. You were present when NHON stated that they were shot by the Americans. How do you explain that?
- A: I remember that. I do not know if the people on that picture were killed.
- Q: Are these people now dead that are shown on this photograph?
- A: I do not know.
- Q: How is it possible that as a village chief you do not know if the mother and daughter of the Hamlet Chief, who is your subordinate were killed or not?
- A: I know that they are dead, but I do not know if they were killed in that incident or not.
- Q: How then do you explain that picture? (Color photograph # 15)
- A: The incident happened a long time ago, and I do not remember.
- Q: I am showing you now color photograph # 16. Does this look to you like the results of a fire fight between the Americans and the VC?
- A: I have no way of telling because I was not there.
- Q: If you know that exactly 370 people were killed in the cross fire between the Americans and the VC, could you then furnish me with a list of the names of the people that were killed, since you are as you stated the village authority?
- A: I do not have one. The people in the hamlet said that this happened. I am not sure.
- Q: In the letter that you wrote to the District Chief, you stated that you felt that the action taken by the Americans was in revenge for an American soldier killed by sniper fire in the village. Can you explain this?
- A: I do not know that that happened. I just heard it, and that is why I wrote that.
- Q: Did the villagers of Tu Cung in fact tell you that the Americans had gathered 450 civilians, including women and children and subsequently shot them?
- A: The only thing that they said is that the Americans went on an operation and that some villagers were killed.
- Q: If this is true then somebody must have written a letter without your knowledge in your name to the District Chief. How can you explain that?
- A: I did not say in that report that the Americans gathered the people together.
- Q: The translated copy of that letter however contradicts your statement. Can you explain that?
- A: I did not say that the villagers had told me that the Americans gathered the women and children together and later shot them.
- Q: As the village authority, you certainly would have kept a copy of your report to the District Chief. Could I have that copy?
- A: It was a long time ago and I do not have any copy.
- Q: Do you think that Do CHUC and Do HOAI also will change their stories about the incident on 16 Mar 68?
- A: That is up to them. I am the village authority. I do not know what they will say.
- Q: How many survivors of the incident in Tu Cung are now in Son My village?
- A: Six that were actually in the village. The rest of them were not even around in the hamlet. They were scattered in different areas.
- Q: ~~376~~ In other words there were about 376 villagers in the village at the time of the incident and from those 376, only six survived. Is this correct?
- A: Yes this is true. But these are not 6 People but 6 families.
- Q: Do you have, as the village authority, any objections, that I talk to these six families?
- A: I have no objections, as long as the Province Chief and District Chief agree.

STATEMENT OF LUYEN, TAKEN AT QUANG NGAI, RVN, DATED 25 NOV 69, CONTINUED.

WITNESSED BY:

Wayne D. Thioien
WAYNE D. THIOIEN, Crim Inves
Det D, 8th MP Gp (CI)
APO San Francisco 96243

STATEMENT TAKEN BY:

Andre C R Fehrer
ANDRE C R FEHER, CW4, USA
Det A, 8th MP Gp (CI)
APO San Francisco 96243

INTERPRETED BY:

John C. Wood
JOHN C. WOOD, 1LT, MI

635 MI Det
APO San Francisco 96374