

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

PLACE Raymond, California	DATE 7 Dec 69	TIME 2100	FILE NUMBER 63-CID011-0001A
NAME, FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME BUNNING, Dennis Martin	SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NO.		GRADE Civilian
ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS			

SWORN STATEMENT

D.M.B. Dennis Martin BUNNING, WANT TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT UNDER OATH:

I was drafted in Jun 67 and completed basic training and AIT at Ft Polk, LA on 20 Oct 67. I took a 29 day leave, then reported to Oakland Army Terminal for transportation to Hawaii, where I joined C/1/20 around 22 or 24 Nov 67. The unit was subsequently transferred to Vietnam and we got there about 1 Dec 67.

With C/1/20 in Vietnam, I was a rifleman in the 2d Plt, 1st Sqd. My Plt Ldr was Lt CALLEY initially, but later was replaced by Lt BROOKS, who was my Plt Ldr during Task Force Barker. My Plt Sgt was a Sgt BUCHANON. My Sqd Ldr was Sgt HODGES, and I believe my Fireteam Ldr was a SP4 McBREEN.

One day during Mar 68, at LZ Dottie, CPT MEDINA assembled the company for a briefing on Task Force Barker. He told us that the next day we were to begin a three day search and destroy operation in the area of Pinkville. He stated that we would be C'd into an enemy controlled area, that is controlled by VC or VC sympathizers, that authority had been given to enter the area as it was outside our normal area of operation. He stated that it was our chance to get revenge for the men recently killed and wounded in that area. I cannot recall his exact words, but I do recall him saying, in effect, that we were to kill all the people and animals and to destroy the homes and crops. He also said that the orders from higher headquarters were to kill the enemy only, but he said we were to kill everyone. He also advised that prior to our assault, the area would be "prepped" with artillery. His briefing lasted approximately 30 minutes. Later that evening we received a briefing from our Plt Ldr and/or Sqd Ldr. My recollection is vague here and I don't recall during which briefing we received instructions as to formations, time of departure, etc. As planned, we were picked up the next morning by helicopters and flown to our LZ, west of MyLai(4). I believe I was in the 2d lift. The entire company landed approximately 100 meters to the west of MyLai(4). 1st and 2d Plts formed on line to assault the village, 1st Plt on the right, facing the village, and 2d Plt on the left or north side of the village. The 3d Plt brought up the rear and was to count bodies and burn the village. I cannot recall who was in the helicopter with me, but when we formed for the assault, I was the last man on the left (north side of the village) and I believe a PFC Leonard GONZALES was to my right. I also believe that the LZ was cold, at least I was not aware of any incoming rounds. As we were moving to form "on line" at the western edge of the village, some of the men started shooting at the people, male and female, working in the fields near the village. Just in my field of vision, I saw 5 or 6 Vietnamese shot by unknown members of my unit. I do not recall an order to fire. We started to movethrough the village and about 3 children, 7-9 years old, ran toward us with their hands out, saying "chop chop", indicating they wanted food. They were shot and killed. I don't recall who shot them, but there were two or three men shooting. This took place approximately 100 meters inside the village in the northwest corner.

As I walked east, I observed numerous Vietnamese, about 15-20, men, women and children, being shot at random. Everyone except a few of us were shooting.

EXHIBIT A	INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT D.M.B.	PAGE 1 OF 4 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.

DA FORM 2823 JAN 68

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At a hut about half way through the village, from about 40 feet to one side, I observed SCHIEL and 4 or 5 members of his squad shooting about 9 men, women and children in front of the hut. Before shooting, SCHIEL said "I don't want to shoot them", "but I have to because we were ordered to", or words to that effect. One man was shooting an M-60 machine gun from the hip, the others fired their M-16s on automatic. The Vietnamese were just huddled together. The firing almost literally tore up their bodies.

My route through MyLai(4) was mostly in and out of the extreme northern tree line. I never went farther than 100 feet into the village. During my passage through the village I continued to observe random shootings of Vietnamese by unknown members of the 1st and 2d Squad of the 2d Plt. These were the only elements I could see inside the village.

Approximately three fourths of the way through the village, some men farther inside yelled that a man was getting away to the left. Hodges and I moved to get a view of him and saw a young man running north. I shot a clip of 20 rounds on automatic, but never hit him. HODGES shot and the man fell. Other than animals, that was the only time I fired my weapon.

We continued to move through the village. I still observed random killings of men, women and children until we reached the eastern edge and was through it. It took approximately 1 hour to go through MyLai(4).

I don't recall who, but someone noticed I wasn't shooting and told me to start. I told him I was not going to shoot women and children, and that's why I was assigned the complete left flank at the onset.

After going through MyLai(4), we got word by radio that the gunships killed 2 men with weapons to the north. Our Plt was assigned to get the weapons and check the bodies. We found the bodies and two rifles approximately 200 meters north of the east edge of the village.

We, 2d Plt, then moved into the village just north of MyLai(4). I don't know if it was MyLai(5) or MyLai(6). There I witnessed more killings of men, women and children. I also observed several rapes. One was committed by HODGES. First I observed a Mexican-American having sexual intercourse with a Vietnamese girl about 18 years old. She was only wearing a blouse that was unbuttoned. When he finished, the girl got up to get away and HODGES grabbed her. All the time she was fighting and yelling. HODGES took her inside a small hut and raped her. I saw this through the open front of the hut. McBRENN and L. GONZALES may have seen this. Either before or after HODGES raped her, I saw three US soldiers with her. One was having normal sexual intercourse while another had his penis in her mouth and at the same time she was fondling the penis of the third man. I do not know the names of these men. Two of them may have been DELGADO and RODRIQUEZ.

During this time members of different squads, 2d Plt, grouped about 20 men, women and children inside the village. Gary ROSCHEVITZ fired his M-79 grenade launcher at the people several times, killing and wounding most of them. Several other men finished killing them with their M-16s. There may or may not have been someone shooting them with an M-60. ROSCHEVITZ is the only man I can remember at the incident.

We continued to move through that village, again there was random killings of men, women and children, until we got the word by radio to stop the killing. Our Plt Ldr, Lt BROOKS received that message and passed the word. At that point we continued to search the village and hold the remainder of the people. Shortly thereafter we left that village and released the people we held. There were about 30 men, women and children released. We then went to the east end of MyLai(4) and had lunch. After lunch we moved to our overnight position approximately 500-800 meters southeast of MyLai(4).

Initials DMB

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STATEMENT OF DENNIS MARTIN BLUNNING TAKEN AT RAYMOND, CALIF. ON 7 DEC 69 (CONT)

The next day we moved to the coast, burning empty houses as we went. We set up n' ht positions again south east of MyLai(4) and the next morning we moved to a designated LZ and were picked up by helicopters. I don't recall exact locations.

Q: Did you ever encounter any resistance?

A: No.

Q: Do you recall a temple, pagoda, or shrine?

A: No.

Q: Were you ordered to burn the village?

A: Yes. That was in CPT MEDINA's briefing. He told us to.

Q: Did you see a helicopter land during the operation in My Lai(4)?

A: No.

Q: Did you see anyone taking pictures at MyLai(4)?

A: No. Because of my position and route through the village, I couldn't ^{see} very much.

Q: Do you have any documents pertaining to the My Lai(4) operation?

A: No.

Q: Did you collect any souvenirs?

A: No.

Q: Were you told that the villagers had been warned to evacuate the area because of the impending assault?

A: I don't remember being told that. All we were told was to kill everyone in the villages.

Q: Have you any knowledge of any type of investigation ever conducted as the result of what took place during Task Force Barker?

A: The day we got back to Base Camp or the day after, either in a Co or Plt briefing, we were told that there was going to be an investigation and that we were not to tell investigators anything. I'm not certain, but I feel that it was a Co briefing conducted by CPT MEDINA.

Q: Were you ever interviewed about My Lai(4) by investigators or anyone else?

A: No.

Q: Having viewed 65 photographs taken at My Lai(4), can you comment on any of them?

A: No. That is what I saw there, but none of the people or places depicted mean anything specific to me.

Q: During the operation at MyLai(4), did you see CPT MEDINA or Lt CALLEY?

A: No.

Q: What instructions did Lt BROOKS give you?

A: His briefing concerned formations, times, locations and the like. He did not elaborate on CPT MEDINA's instructions to kill everyone.

Q: Did you hear of prisoners being shot after interrogation?

A: As far as I know, no one was interrogated. There were not supposed to be any prisoners.

Q: Did you report the incidents you described to anyone?

A: No.

Q: Upon entering Mylai(4), did you observe casualties or damaged buildings which may have resulted from artillery or mortar barrage or gunships?

A: No. Not from where I was.

Q: Dennis, is there anything concerning this investigation that we have not discussed that you would like to tell me?

A: Only that I have told you everything that I recall about MyLai(4) and that I would ~~in~~ say, even though MEDINA gave the orders and we did those things, he was a fine company commander and officer and that he always considered the welfare of his men.

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NOT UTILIZED

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AFFIDAVIT

I, Dennis Martin BURNING 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.

Dennis Martin Burning
(Signature of Person Making Statement)

WITNESSES:

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this 7th day of December, 19 69
at Raymond, California

ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS

James Buglio
(Signature of Person Administering Oath)

JAMES BUGLIO

(Typed Name of Person Administering Oath)

ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS

Art 136(b)(4), UCMJ

(Authority To Administer Oaths)

INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

DMB

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