

# 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 Pasadena, Texas	DATE 2 3 JAN 1970	TIME 12 Jan 70	FILE NUMBER 1200
LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME GRIMES, Joe (mmn)		SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NO.	GRADE Civilian
ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS Pasadena, TX 77502			

## SWORN STATEMENT

I, Joe GRIMES, WANT TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT UNDER OATH:

I completed Basic Training and AIT at Ft Polk, LA during Oct 67. After a leave, I went to Hawaii where I joined C Company, 1st Bn, 20th Infantry. We left Hawaii and arrived in the Republic of Vietnam on 1 Dec 67. There I was assigned as the Squad Leader, 3d Sqd, 3d Plt. My Plt Ldr was LT LACROSS and my Plt Sgt was SGT LOPEZ. Members of my squad were Michael TERRY, DOHERTY, DELPONE, PENDLETON and PEDRICK. Because of the number of changes, I can't really recall who was in my squad at the time.

Late one afternoon in Mar 68, the company received a "pep talk" from CPT MEDINA, the Company Commander. He told us that the next morning we were going on an operation in MyLai, that we were supposed to engage a battalion of Viet Cong, who according to intelligence reports, were there. He told us to be prepared for anything that might happen, that is, a real fight, and that anyone there would be enemy. I didn't consider whether or not women or children would be in the village. After that briefing we received specific instructions from the Plt Ldrs as to time of departure, formation and equipment, etc. LT LACROSS made no mention of women or children as far as I can recall. Again, it was my understanding that this was to be a combat operation.

Early the next morning we left LZ Dottie and were CA'd to MyLai(4). I don't recall which lift I was on, but I know we landed just west of the village and a couple minutes later my squad was instructed to search for a dead Vietnamese male with a weapon south of the west end of the village. We could not find him, but his location was marked with smoke by a helicopter and the weapon was found by TERRY. He gave it to someone, but I don't remember who it was. I did not see the Vietnamese man, nor do I recall what kind of rifle he had. About 45 minutes had elapsed since landing and the finding of the weapon. I believe 1st and 2d Plts had already entered the village when my squad landed.

After finding the weapon we went back to the village and entered someplace in the south-west corner. It was in that area that 3 or 4 Vietnamese documents were found by someone in my squad and I turned them over to someone else. After no more than one hour, we left the village on the south side where we worked between the edge of the village and a ditch. While in the village I heard some shooting from the east end, but did not see any dead. Some houses were burning and my squad burned some more.

Outside the village, I did see CARTER med-evac'd and my squad provided security for that helicopter. I also observed a group of approximately 10-12 dead Vietnamese men, women and children laying on a trail running north and south on the south side of the village. I don't know who shot them or why.

I do not recall what the time was, but it was afternoon when the entire company left MyLai(4) and went to MyLai(5).

Q: Upon entering MyLai(4), did the company encounter any resistance?

A: No.

Q: Do you know of any orders to commence or cease fire?

EXHIBIT	INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT J.G.	PAGE 1 OF 3 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.

STATEMENT OF JOE GRIMES TAKEN AT PASADENA, TEXAS, DATED 12 JAN 70, CONTINUED

- Q: I only recall a cease fire order. That came after we had been in there (MyLai(4)) anywhere from 3 to 4 hours. I think the order came from CPT MEDINA. I got it for my squad from either LT LACHOSS or SGT LOPEZ. I don't remember where I was when I got the order. The only shooting my squad did was when we first landed. The men were shooting at some people that were quite a distance away, running south-west.
- Q: Do you recall a temple, pogoda or shrine in the village?
- A: No.
- Q: Do you have any documents or photographs concerning MyLai?
- A: No.
- Q: Do you have any knowledge of the villagers being warned to evacuate MyLai because of the impending assault?
- A: No.
- Q: Did you see any US Soldier shoot a Vietnamese National at MyLai(4)?
- A: No.
- Q: Did your squad or platoon round up any groups of Vietnamese?
- A: My squad didn't; I don't know about the rest of the platoon.
- Q: Did you receive any instructions as to handling non-combatants?
- A: Not on this operation, as I remember. Usually though, we would gather them up and turn them over to the interpreter assigned to the company.
- Q: Did you see any Vietnamese receive medical aid?
- A: No.
- Q: Did you see or hear of the Vietnamese National Police killing prisoners?
- A: Yes. On the day we were in MyLai, after we had left and a couple of miles away, I saw a Vietnamese Policeman shoot a male prisoner with a rifle. Just prior to this I saw a US Soldier cut off the first joint of the little finger of the prisoner's hand. I don't remember if it was the left or right hand. I don't know who the soldier was. I think SGT SMAIL was with me at that time. Others were there, but I don't know who they were. That's all I remember about that.
- Q: Where did you see CPT MEDINA at MyLai(4)?
- A: At the LZ when we first got there, and later near the north-south trail at the center of the south side of the village. I never did see LT CALLEY.

INITIALS J.G.

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[illegible]

I, Joe GRIMES HAVE READ OR HAVE HAD READ TO ME THIS STATEMENT WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 1 AND ENDS ON PAGE 3. 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

(Signature of Person Making Statement)

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a person authorized by law  
to administer oaths, this 12th day of January, 1970  
at Pasadena, Texas

(Signature of Person Administering Oath)

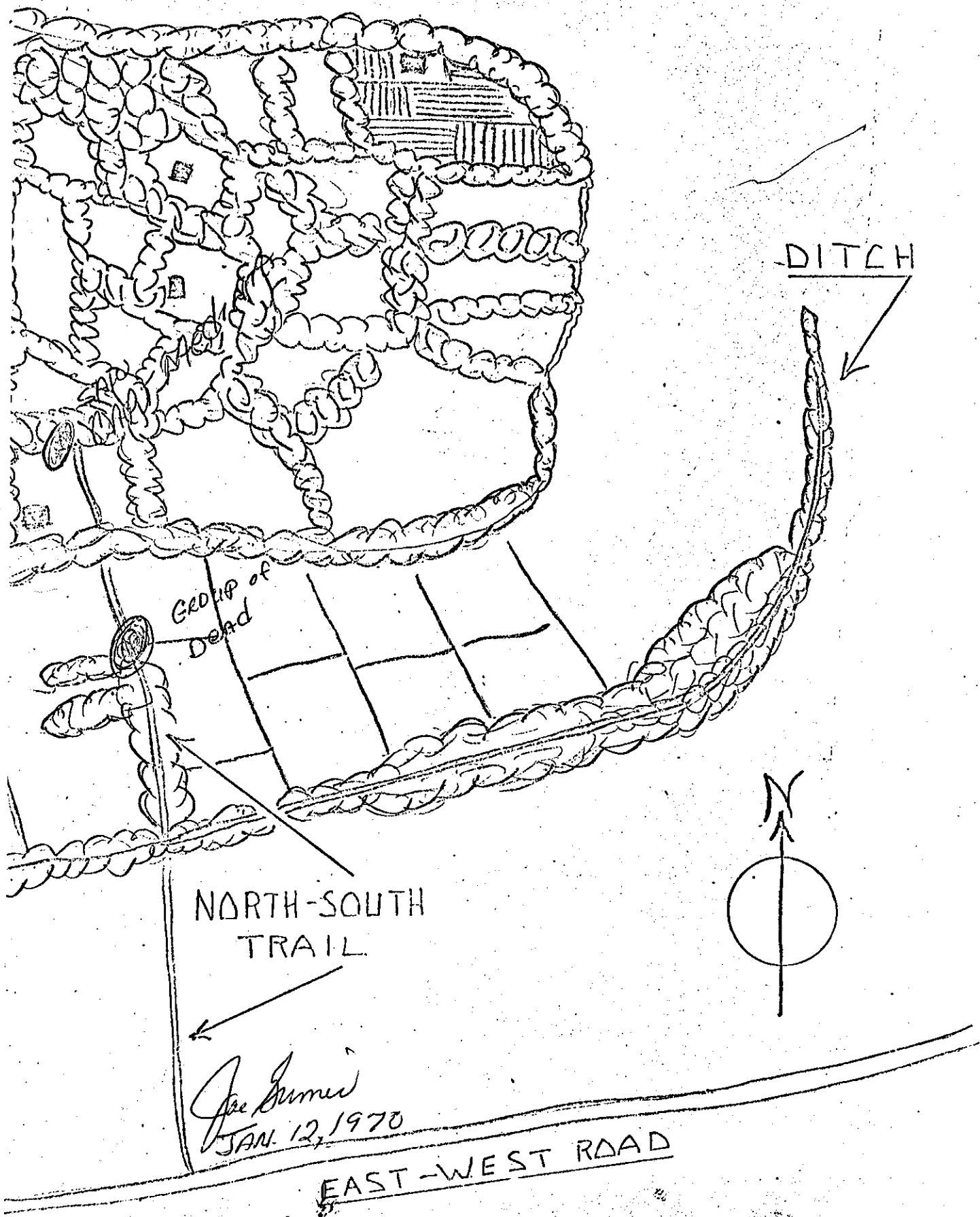
**JAMES BUGLIO**

(Typed Name of Person Administering Oath)

Art 136(b)(4), UCMJ

(Authority To Administer Oaths)

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Joe Brown  
Jan 12 1970

