

Statement of CPT James Allen REUTNER taken at Giessen, Germany on 8 Jan 70,
continued:

A: I don't recall.

Q: Did you participate in any combat attacks at My Lai?

A: I helped support a unit at My Lai that was in contact there.

Q: What kind of support did you provide that unit?

A: We provided suppressive fire in a tree line about 150 meters south of the village.

Q: When you provided suppressive fire on the tree line, was it ~~xx~~ requested fire or on your own?

A: It was requested.

Q: Who requested it?

A: We received a request through the radio operator on the ground. I don't recall the call sign. The operator requested that we deliver suppressive fire to the tree line about 150-200 meters south of his position. His position was either ~~in the~~ village or on the edge of it. He said that we are receiving light automatic weapons and sniper fire or words to that effect.

Q: Did you fire at any other target other than the tree line?

A: Negative.

Q: How long was the tree line?

A: It was about 400 meters long and ran from east to west about 150-200 meters south of the village.

Q: Did you do any actual shooting yourself?

A: Yes.

Q: What were you firing?

A: I was firing a 40 MM grenade launcher, otherwise known as the M-5.

Q: Were there any other gun ships with you on your mission to My Lai?

A: As ~~we~~ gun team was coming on station, consisting of 2 UH 1B gun ships, and a OH 23 that followed about 20 minutes later, a team from the 176th Avn Co, was leaving. There might have also been a gun team from the 11th Bde called the Sharks but I'm not sure.

Q: Who were the other pilots in your team?

A: The pilot of the OH 23 was WO1 THOMPSON but the other pilots name I don't remember.

Q: When you arrived, did you see any dead bodies?

A: Not when I arrived.

Q: When did you observe the bodies?

A: About 35-45 minutes after we arrived on station, CW1 THOMPSON, piloting the observation helicopter, reported over the radio that "he had spotted a lot of dead civilian bodies down here" or words to that effect. At that time THOMPSON was down low reconning the village. I would say he was at tree top level or lower.

Q: What kind of bodies did you see?

A: I specifically remember seeing a body of one woman with a small child laying next to her and that was to the east of My Lai village. I remember seeing a total of about 10 bodies that were wearing civilian clothes. It is hard to tell from the air whether they are men or women.

Q: Did you observe anyone wearing an American uniform point a weapon or shoot any women, men, and children wearing civilian clothes?

A: No.

Deponents Initials JAR

Page 2 of 4 pages.

Statement of CPT James Allen REUTHER taken at Giessen, Germany on 8 Jan 70
continued:

Q: What kind of munitions and weapons did your ship carry?

A: XM-130 rocket pods (2 each), M-5 system, 2 M-60 machine guns plus our personal assigned weapons.

Q: How much ammo did you return to base with?

A: About 25 per cent.

Q: Did you start out with a full load of ammo and if so, how much?

A: Yes, we had 14 rockets, about 6,000 rds of 7.62 ammo, and about 350 rounds of 40 MM plus ammo for our personal assigned weapons.

Q: Were your personal weapons fired?

A: No.

Q: How many passes did you make on the tree line?

A: It was either four or five.

Q: While firing on the tree line, did you see any people?

A: No I didn't.

Q: Were records kept on ammunition expended after a mission?

A: Yes. Records were kept in the aircraft log book.

Q: Did you observe any unnecessary killing on your mission to My Lai?

A: No.

Q: Did you participate in any unnecessary killing?

A: No.

Q: Did you observe anyone doing anything that they shouldn't while on mission to My Lai?

A: No.

Q: What did you hear from other troops about this incident?

A: I heard that a unit of the 198th made an insertion south of CHU Lai near the vicinity of Pink Ville (this is a nick name, the true name I don't know). I heard that the LZ was hot and that there was quite a few civilian bodies laying around the area.

Q: Who did you hear that from?

A: I don't recall who I heard that from, some of the other pilots in the area.

Q: Did you talk to anyone in particular about this incident?

A: The other pilots who flew on that mission and I went to our CO and told him about the village that morning. I don't remember the names of any of the pilots except THOMPSON.

Deponent's Initials  Page 3 of 4 pages.

Q: Is there anything you would like to add to your statement?
 A: Negative.

||||| END OF STATEMENT |||||

AFFIDAVIT

James Allen REUTNER

HAVE READ OR HAVE HAD READ TO ME THIS STATE-

MENT WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 1 AND ENDS ON PAGE 1. 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:

Jack C. Stewart

(Signature of Person Making Statement)

Subscribed and sworn to before me a person authorized by law
 to administer oaths, this 8th day of January, 1970
 at Giessen, Germany

Ronald O. OAKES, Crim Inves 36032-0750
 (Typed Name of Person Administering Oath)

Article 136 (b) (4) MCMS, 1968
 (Authority To Administer Oaths)

ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS

INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

PAGE 4 OF 4 PAGES