

REUTNER

STATEMENT BY ACCUSED OR SUSPECT PERSON
(AR 195-10)

PLACE Giessen, Germany	DATE 8 Jan 70	TIME 1530	FILE NUMBER FOL-16-70
LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME REUTNER, James Allen	SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NO.		GRADE CPT
ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS Air Cav Trp, 14th Armd Cav, APO 09146			

PART I - WAIVER CERTIFICATE

I HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY Ronald O. OAKES
OF The US Army CID
THAT HE WANTS TO QUESTION ME ABOUT The My Lai incident
~~SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE HE HAS ALSO INFORMED ME OF MY RIGHTS.~~
I UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT AND THAT ANY STATEMENT I MAKE MAY BE USED AS EVIDENCE AGAINST ME IN A CRIMINAL TRIAL.
I UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONSULT WITH COUNSEL AND TO HAVE COUNSEL PRESENT WITH ME DURING QUESTIONING. I MAY RETAIN COUNSEL AT MY OWN EXPENSE OR COUNSEL WILL BE APPOINTED FOR ME AT NO EXPENSE TO ME. IF I AM SUBJECT TO THE UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE, APPOINTED COUNSEL MAY BE MILITARY COUNSEL OF MY OWN CHOICE IF HE IS REASONABLY AVAILABLE.
I UNDERSTAND THAT EVEN IF I DECIDE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS NOW WITHOUT HAVING COUNSEL PRESENT, I MAY STOP ANSWERING QUESTION AT ANY TIME. ALSO, I MAY REQUEST COUNSEL AT ANY TIME DURING QUESTIONING.
I (DO) NOT WANT COUNSEL.
I (DO) NOT WANT TO MAKE A STATEMENT AND ANSWER QUESTIONS.

INTERROGATOR: Ronald O. Oakes (Signature)
WITNESS: Jack C. Stewart (Signature)
MAJ, JAGC
~~James H. Reutner~~ (Signature of Person To Be Questioned)
James H. Reutner (Typed Name and Organization)
Det C, 9th MP Gp (CI), APO 09146

PART II - SWORN STATEMENT

I, James Allen REUTNER WANT TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT UNDER OATH: This statement is being given freely by me in the presence of my counsel, CPT Donald A. DONADIO, OSJA, V Corps, APO 09169. Questions by Crim Inves OAKES and Answers by CPT JAMES A. REUTNER, AR
Q: Were you serving in Viet Nam during March 1968?
A: Yes I was.
Q: What unit were you with at this time?
A: I was with B Co, 123rd Avn Bn, known as the Area Scouts.
Q: Were you on a mission during March of 1968 in the vicinity of My Lai in support of ground forces?
A: Yes I was.
Q: What was the date?
A: I don't recall the exact date but it was around the middle of March.
Q: What units did you support while flying missions at My Lai?
A: All units of the 198th Light Infantry Bde.
Q: Were you in support of C Co, 21st Inf at My Lai?
A: I don't know if that was the unit or not but it was an element of the 198th.
Q: What kind of aircraft were you flying on this mission?
A: I was flying in a UH 1B gun ship. The markings could have been 092. I'm not sure.
Q: Who was in command of your aircraft?
A: I don't recall his name at this time. James H. Reutner I was Pilot in the Fire TEAM LEADER. James H. Reutner
Q: Do you recall the names of your crew members while on this mission to My Lai?

EXHIBIT	INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT <u>JAR</u>	PAGE 1 OF 1 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 CPT James Allen RIEUTNER 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 far as 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

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Page 2 of 4 pages.

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

- Q: What kind of munitions and weapons did your ship carry?
A: XM-55 rocket rds (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 incursion 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.

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

A: Negative.

////////////////// END OF STATEMENT //////////////////

AFFIDAVIT

I, James Allen REUTNER HAVE READ OR HAVE HAD READ TO ME THIS STATEMENT 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

James A. Reutner
(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

Hans Ingobert LEIDER

SJA Office, Giessen, Germany

ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS

Ronald O. Oakes
(Signature of Person Administering Oath)

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

Article 136 (b) (4) MCMUS, 1968

(Authority To Administer Oaths)

INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

JAR