

FLYNN, J.H.

WITNESS STATEMENT
(AR 195-10 - TB PMG 3)

PLACE	DATE	TIME	FILE NUMBER
Fairmount, Minnesota	6 Mar 70	0800	
LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME	SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NO.		GRADE
FLYNN, James Harold			Civilian
ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS			
Plainview, Minnesota			

SWORN STATEMENT

James Harold FLYNN

WANT TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT UNDER OATH

My parent unit during Task Force Barker was E/1/20, however on 15 Mar 68, I was attached to C/1/20 as an FO and stayed with that unit for about 2 months. I joined Co C about 1530, 15 Mar 68 and about 1800 hrs, that day, attended a briefing by CPT MEDINA, CO, C/1/20. As I recall, the briefing lasted 10-15 minutes, during which time MEDINA told the men the nature of the mission, location, formations to be used, etc. MEDINA told us to "kill everything that moves" and also that the mission was a chance "to get even" or "take revenge", or words to that effect. Someone asked about women and children, and MEDINA just repeated, "kill everything that moves." I do not recall anything else about the briefing and I do not know who the man was that asked about the women and children.

Concerning the day of the operation, 16 Mar 68, we left LZ Dottie about 0730 and I was in the second to the last lift. MEDINA and RTOs MARTIN, MURRAY and PAUL were in the same helicopter as I. The plane approached MyLai(4) from the south and landed in a rice paddy to the west of the village. The door gunner did not fire and the 81 mm mortar team was in the last lift.

Upon landing, the command element moved from the LZ to the south west corner of the village as I've shown on a map of MyLai(4). The route I traced is that taken by CPT MEDINA, as we were together constantly.

The first slaying I witnessed occurred when the command element, enroute to check out a reported weapons find, observed a Vietnamese female laying face down on a rice paddy dike between the southern edge of the village and a ditch at a point midway between the west end of the village and the north-south trail near the ditch. The woman appeared to be approximately 25 years old and was wearing black pajama type clothing. She was uninjured and obviously faking because she was breathing. MEDINA checked a round flat wicker basket that was near her and all noticed that it contained syringes and other medical supplies. MEDINA then turned her over with his foot, paused a few seconds and shot her with his M-16. I believe he shot her in the head, but I am not positive. I witnessed this from a distance of about 3-4 meters and am sure that she was killed. MEDINA was about 1 meter from the woman when he shot her. I did not see the woman move, nor did I see CPT MEDINA move suddenly. I know I heard her moan when MEDINA turned her over. I do not recall MEDINA saying anything before or after he shot her, nor do I recall anyone in the command element speaking at that time.

The next incident occurred at the north-south trail at the south side of the village. There, MEDINA and I observed a boy of about 5-6 years running toward a group of bodies that was on the trail between us and the boy. The boy had a severe arm injury. At this time I was about five meters from MEDINA when I heard MEDINA say "shoot him" or words to that effect. I turned to my radio, heard a shot and looked up to see the boy fall dead. This occurred prior to CARTER being medevac'd. There were numerous members of the unit present at that time, but I do not recall their names. MEDINA had to have seen the large number of bodies on the trail.

EXHIBIT	INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT	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.

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Next, the command element proceeded through the village in a north-easterly direction. At one point I observed a woman and two children dead in front of a grass hut. I feel MEDINA also saw them. Next, further on, I saw a second house which contained more than 5 bodies, sex and ages unknown, laying on the floor. I saw this through the doorway and believe that MEDINA did not see these. Still further into the village MEDINA ordered a cease fire and I recall him using the words "stop killing". This order was passed to the RTOs for transmission to the Plt Ldrs.

Shortly after the cease fire order we broke for lunch at the northeast end of the village and then moved out of the village, passing within 15-25 meters of a ditch also at the east end of the village. It was here that I observed numerous bodies in the ditch and I believe MEDINA must also have seen them. I cannot estimate the number of bodies in the ditch. MEDINA was walking to my front about 25-30 meters.

While at MyLai(4) I did not see any other slayings, did not fire my weapon, and observed only one helicopter land, that being the one that medevac'd CARTER.

Later that afternoon, Co C joined Co B at a small village near MyLai(5), where I observed an unidentified American officer use a hunting or bowie knife to cut off the tip of a Vietnamese male prisoners little finger. [I do not recall which hand, but I do remember that the officer placed the man's hand on a board and also, that he cut him on the neck.] There were about 10 Vietnamese prisoners and all but 2 or 3 were interrogated and shot by Vietnamese National Police. I observed the police take the prisoners into the bushes and return shortly without them. I do not recall hearing the shots, but I never saw the prisoners again.

Either at LZ Dottie or prior to our return, we received a second briefing from MEDINA. At this briefing, MEDINA advised us that there was going to be an investigation of what had hapoened at MyLai(4) and that we were not to talk to anyone about the incident and that he would do all the talking. I do not recall anything else about that briefing. I was never interviewed by investigating officials.

Having examined a number of photographs, I can comment on these: #3 - Trail on the south edge of MyLai(4) running east and west. I did not see the boy in this photo. #4 - Same as #3, only at west end of village. MEDINA and I walked down this trail and observed bodies. #14 - North-south trail where boy was shot. #15 - I remember the scene, but not the location. #19 - CARTER being assisted. I was there with MEDINA.

Q: Do you recall seeing MEDINA and SGT PHU together shooting at Vietnamese?

A: No.

Q: Do you recall MEDINA being queried by one of the interpreters about the killings?

A: Yes, but I did not hear what was said. SGT PHU told me that MINH was upset about it and that MINH asked PHU to talk to MEDINA. PHU said he asked MEDINA about all the killings, but did not elaborate any further. PHU told me this sometime during the morning.

Q: Do you recall the release of a large number of Vietnamese by MEDINA?

A: Yes, but that was at another village during the 1st day. I can't remember who said what, but MEDINA told PHU to tell a group of no more than 25 to go to the main road. PHU translated and 1 woman argued a little, but they did leave.

INITIALS JHF

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Q: Do you recall CPT MEDINA with a Vietnamese boy and a water buffalo?

A: No.

Q: Do you recall a woman pickingsomething in a field at MyLai(4) being shot or shot at by CPT MEDINA?

A: No.

Q: Was CPT MEDINA present when the prisoners was cut by the American officer?

A: I don't remember.

Q: Do you recall seeing CPT MEDINA shoot at a prisoner?

A: Yes. I think it was near the sea by MyLai(1) on the second night. The prisoner, with hands tied, was placed against a tree. MEDINA shot once above his head. The prisoner didn't say anything, so he fired again above his head, but a little bit lower. The man still did not talk, so MEDINA showed him the holes in the tree and using sign language, indicated that the next shot would be in the head. The prisoner then talked and was subsequently flown out for further interrogation.

Q: How many helicopters did you see land at MyLai(4)?

A: Just the one that medevac'd CARTER.

Q: What was the reaction of the men after the 1st briefing by MEDINA concerning "killing everything that moved"?

A: Because MEDINA had told us that there would be heavy resistance, they accepted it.

Q: What were your duties?

A: FO for 4.2 mortars, but since we were out of range, I used my radio for air to ground communications. As I recall, I received only two calls all day, but I do not know what they were about, nor do I recall the frequencies used.

Q: Had the Vietnamese woman shot by CPT MEDINA been marked by smoke?

A: No.

Q: Do you recall CPT MEDINA's expression at the time he shot the woman?

A: Same as always, somewhat of a scowl on his face.

Q: Is there anything that you would like to add to or delete from this statement?

A: No. X X X X X X X X X X X X X END OF STATEMENT X X X X X X X X X X X X X X

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STATEMENT (Continued)

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EXHIBIT

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1964-03-06 10:00:00 1964-03-06 10:00:00

NOT UTILIZED

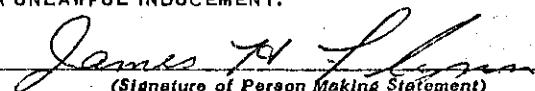
JHF

AFFIDAVIT

I, JAMES HAROLD FLYNN

HAVE READ OR HAVE HAD READ TO ME THIS STATE-

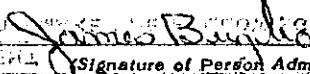
MENT WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 1 AND ENDS ON PAGE 1. I FULLY UNDERSTAND THE CONTENTS OF THE ENTIRE STATEMENT MADE BY ME. THE STATEMENT IS TRUE. I HAVE INITIALED ALL CORRECTIONS AND HAVE INITIALED THE BOTTOM OF EACH PAGE CONTAINING THE STATEMENT. I HAVE MADE THIS STATEMENT FREELY WITHOUT HOPE OF BENEFIT OR REWARD, WITHOUT THREAT OF PUNISHMENT, AND WITHOUT COERCION, UNLAWFUL INFLUENCE, OR UNLAWFUL INDUCEMENT.



(Signature of Person Making Statement)

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this 6th day of March, 1970
at Fairmount, Minnesota

WITNESSES:



(Signature of Person Administering Oath)

ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS

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PROVISIONS FOR ADDRESS

JAMES BUGLIO

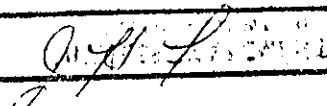
(Typed Name of Person Administering Oath)

ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS

EDITION 1970 107-1744-144, UOMJ

(Authority To Administer Oaths)

INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT



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