

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

ROONEY

PLACE Ft Rucker, AL	DATE 22 Jan 70	TIME 1415 Hrs.	FILE NUMBER
LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME ROONEY, Robert (NMN)	SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NO.		GRADE SSG (E6)
ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS US Army Avn School Regt, 2d School Spt Co, PIMD, Ft Rucker, AL			

SWORN STATEMENT

I, Robert (NMN) Rooney, WANT TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT UNDER OATH.

I went to Vietnam on 5 Jul 67, and rotated to CONUS on 22 Jun 68. I was initially assigned to the 101st Airborne in Vietnam. On/or about 12 Dec 67, I was assigned to the 161st Avn Bn, in Chu Lai as a maintenance man on choppers. In February 1968, the 161st Avn Bn was split up and the 123d Avn Bn was formed. The 123d Avn Bn was composed of Co B, Aero Scouts. When the unit was organized I was with the Aero Scouts as a Platoon Sergeant and maintenance supervisor. We were still based at Chu Lai and flew support missions for the Americal Division. My main job was that of maintenance supervisor and keeping the aircraft flying, however, I flew as a door gunner occasionally.

I'm not familiar with Task Force Barker, but sometime during the first quarter, possibly around March, 1968, our choppers were supporting an infantry mission in the My Lai area. When our choppers returned from this mission I was on the flight line and I recall seeing CW2 THOMPSON get out of his OH-23 aircraft and he was noticeably angry. I overheard him remark that while he was on the mission that he had landed his aircraft and talked with some officer, possibly a lieutenant or Platoon Leader and told him that if he didn't stop killing the people that he was going to tell his (THOMPSON's) gunners to cut his (the infantry platoon) platoon down. THOMPSON stated something to the effect that the infantry were acting like animals, because they were killing everything that walked. THOMPSON stated that he was going to report what he had observed through channels. I recall hearing someone state that a person, believed to be a Captain, shot a young girl, about 14 years old, and killed her. I also recall hearing someone state that they saw a sergeant, possibly a SFC, beat a baby in the head with the butt of a rifle. I can only assume that the above type incidents is what prompted Mr THOMPSON to get angry and say that he was going to make an official report of the infantry operation. These are the only remarks that I can recall hearing, and I just can't recall who it was that made the remark about seeing the baby being beat in the head with the rifle butt, and who it was that said they saw the 14 year old girl being shot. Like I stated before, I was not on the operation and all that I have stated is only what I heard. I do know that Mr THOMPSON was really mad when he landed his chopper and got out, and this was unusual for him because he was a very cool headed individual.

Q: Do you recall hearing THOMPSON state where he landed his chopper and talked with the Platoon Leader, or who ever it was that he talked with?

A: No sir, I don't.

Q: Do you know what Infantry Company Mr THOMPSON was flying support for at the time of the above incidents?

A: No, I don't.

Q: Do you know specifically where the above incidents occurred?

A: No, but I'm quite sure it is the same My Lai incident that I've been questioned about. *RR*

(Continued on page #2).

EXHIBIT	INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT <i>RR</i>	PAGE 1 OF 2 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.

Q: Were you ever in My Lai (4) on, or after, 16 Mar 68 ?  
 A: No sir.  
 Q: Was an investigation conducted following Mr THOMPSON's report ?  
 A: Not to my knowledge.  
 Q: Was any of the helicopters damaged from enemy fire during the operation that Mr THOMPSON was flying when he observed the foregoing incidents ?  
 A: I can't remember any ships being damaged.  
 Q: Do you recall Mr THOMPSON or any of the other pilots or crews stating that they did, or did not receive enemy ground fire during the operation ?  
 A: I can't recall anyone receiving any fire on that mission.  
 Q: Do you know of anyone that has any photographs or tape recordings of the above mission ?  
 A: No sir.  
 Q: Do you possess any further knowledge relative to this incident ?  
 A: No, sir, I don't. *PR*

**AFFIDAVIT**

I, Robert Rooney, HAVE READ OR HAVE HAD READ TO ME THIS STATEMENT WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 1 AND ENDS ON PAGE 2. 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:

*Robert Rooney*  
 (Signature of Person Making Statement)

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this 22d day of January, 19 70 at Pt. Rucker, AL.

ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS

*James E. Mercer*  
 (Signature of Person Administering Oath)

JAMES E. MERCER, CID

(Typed Name of Person Administering Oath)

Article 136 (b), (1) UCMJ

(Authority To Administer Oaths)

ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS

INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

*PR*