

BUNNING

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 Raymond, CA	DATE 23 Feb 70	TIME 1700	FILE NUMBER
LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME SMITH, Darrell Edward	SECURITY ACCOUNT NO.		GRADE CrimInves
ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS 1st MP Detachment (CI), Washington D. C. 20315			

SWORN STATEMENT

I, Darrell E. SMITH, WANT TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT UNDER OATH.

INVESTIGATORS STATEMENT

This statement is made to document the reinterview of Mr. Dennis Martin BUNNING, , Raymond, CA for the purpose of obtaining additional information reference to his written statement, dated 7 Dec 69, concerning his knowledge and/or participation in the Combat Assault Operation at My Lai (4), RVN, on 16 Mar 68.

On 23 Feb 70, BUNNING was interviewed at his residence located at the above address. BUNNING stated in substance as follows regarding his knowledge of the activities of TORRES during the operation at My Lai (4). TORRES was not a member of his squad(1st) during the operation, therefore he did not witness the activities of TORRES. He further explained that his (BUNNING's) position while proceeding thru the village placed him traveling thru the rice paddies just outside the northern perimeter tree line of My Lai (4) and that he requested this position through SGT HODGES, 1st Squad Leader, as he (BUNNING) did not want to do any shooting. He further stated that he had no knowledge of TORRES hanging a Vietnamese man in a village near LZ UPTIGHT during Feb 68.

BUNNING stated the following additional information regarding his knowledge and witnessing SCHIEL and four or five American soldiers believed to be members of SCHIEL's squad, shoot and kill about nine Vietnamese men, women and children in front of a hut located about three fourths of the way thru My Lai (4) just inside the north perimeter tree line. That about thirty minutes after Co C started the operation into My Lai (4) and while he was traveling southeast, he came upon a hut where about nine Vietnamese were standing in front of the hut in a small group. He was standing at a distance of about forty feet from SCHIEL and the soldiers and Vietnamese, looking at them from a hedgerow. Immediately upon his arrival, SCHIEL and the soldiers fired into the group of Vietnamese with their M-16's on automatic fire and one soldier was firing an M-60 machine gun. He could not identify the soldier that was firing the M-60 machine gun. Prior to the shooting, he did not hear SCHIEL or see him make any gesture or give an order to the other soldiers to shoot the group but that they all fired at will. He did hear SCHIEL say words to the effect, I don't want to shoot them, I don't want to shoot them but I have to because we were ordered to, immediately prior to the shooting. Prior to the shooting he noted that the Vietnamese were not previously wounded but they all appeared to be very scared. Upon firing into the group of Vietnamese at a distance of about twenty five feet, they all fell to the ground and appeared to have died as the result of the shots fired. He did not recall of SCHIEL or the soldiers finishing off any of the wounded Vietnamese after they fell to the ground. He stated that in his opinion the Vietnamese died from the wounds.

EXHIBIT	INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT JES	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.

DA FORM 2823  
JAN 68

BUNNING described the Vietnamese victims as follows: Three were elderly men, three were elderly women, two were children between the ages of six and nine years and one girl was about ten or eleven years of age. The sex of the two children between six and nine years he could not recall. He could not recall how they were dressed nor describe the wounds other than that they were severely wounded. Further, he did not remember of SCHIEL and the soldiers making any verbal remarks or conversation subsequent to the shooting.

BUNNING explained that since his position placed him in the rice paddies while proceeding through the operation, he did not witness the activities of ROSCHEVITZ, MCBREEN, BROUSSARD, GONZALEZ, MAKEY and M. BROWN who were members of the 1st Squad.

BUNNING concluded that he did not recall of HUTSON being one of the four or five soldiers with SCHIEL when they killed the nine Vietnamese previously mentioned.

/////////////////////////////////NOTHING FOLLOWS/////////////////////////////////

## AFFIDAVIT

I, Darrell E. SMITH 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:

ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS

ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS

(Signature of Person Making Statement)

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature of Person Administering Oath)

(Typed Name of Person Administering Oath)

(Authority To Administer Oaths)

INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

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