

PLATE	DATE	TIME	FILE NUMBER
70-CID011-00013	25 Jan 70	2135	
LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME		GRADE	
70-CID011-00013		Civilian	
ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS			

PART I - DRIVER CERTIFICATE

I HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY WILLIAM H. HARRIS
OF THE ARMY
THAT HE WANTS TO QUESTION ME ABOUT VIETNAM AND PERS
OF WHICH I AM A MEMBER OF THE ARMY AND THAT I AM NOT TO REMAIN SILENT AND THAT ANY STATEMENT I MAKE MAY BE
USED 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. I MAY STOP AT ANY TIME TO THE INFORMATION OF MILITARY JUSTICE. APPOINTED COUNSEL
MAY BE MILITARY OR CIVIL OR BOTH. I DECIDE IF HE IS REASONABLY AVAILABLE.
I UNDERSTAND THAT EVEN IF I DECIDE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS NOW WITHOUT HAVING COUNSEL PRESENT,
I MAY STOP ANSWERING QUESTIONS AT ANY TIME. ALSO, I MAY REQUEST COUNSEL AT ANY TIME DURING QUESTIONING.
Fdr I STOP (DO NOT WANT COUNSEL)
Fdr I DO (I WANT TO MAKE A STATEMENT AND
ANSWER QUESTIONS.)
William H. Harris
(Signature of Person To Be Questioned)

INTERROGATOR:	WITNESS:
<u>William H. Harris</u>	<u>William H. Harris</u>
(Typed Name and Organization)	(Typed Name and Organization)

PART II - SWORN STATEMENT

I, WILLIAM H. HARRIS, WANT TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT UNDER
OATH:
Q. On 17 Jan 70, you made a written statement concerning your participation in a
combat assault on the village of My Lai (A) in RVN on 16 Mar 68. This statement is
being made to further discuss items not previously covered in this prior statement.
In your statement of 17 Jan 70, you stated that you received a briefing by CPT PERINA
on the evening prior to the mission. Will you relate to me the substance of this
briefing?
A. CPT PERINA told us that this was to be a search and destroy mission. He said that
a plane had flown over the village and told the people that we were going to conduct
an ARVN mission in that area and for the villagers to leave. He said that this
was a Viet Cong stronghold and that we could expect heavy contact with them. He said
that the only people that would be there would be either VC or VC sympathizers. He
told us that we were to destroy the village and everything in it.
Q. What is your impression of a search and destroy mission?
A. It is to find the enemy and to destroy him and his supplies.
Q. What does this include?
A. It would include his food supplies, houses that he may use and about anything that
give him support.
Q. Does this include civilian non-combatants that may be supporting him?
A. I imagine that it does, yes.
Q. Is this impression of a search and destroy mission the same impression that you had
of the coming mission at the time that CPT PERINA briefed you?

EXHIBIT	INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT	PAGE 1 OF 3 PAGES
<u>D4</u>	<u>W.H.H.</u>	

ADDITIONAL PAGES MUST CONTAIN THE HEARING STATEMENT OF TAKEN AT DATED CONTINUED THE
LOCATION OF THE HEARING MUST BE SET FORTH IN FULL OF THE PERSON MAKING THE STATEMENT AND BE
INITIALED BY THE OFFICIAL WHEN ADDITIONAL PAGES ARE UTILIZED. THE BACK OF PAGE 1 WILL BE
RECEIVED AND THE STATEMENT WILL BE COPIED ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF ANOTHER COPY OF THE FORM.

Q. At the time of the briefing, what was your impression of what you were to do with civilians that you found in the village?

A. I imagine, kill them.

Q. Why did you feel that you were to do this?

A. I felt that we had to kill them because CPT MEDINA had said in his briefing that we were to destroy the village and everything in it. I felt that this included any people that we found there.

Q. What would you say the feelings of the rest of your company was concerning the killing of civilians that you found in the village?

A. I really couldn't say what their feelings were. I just think that they were the same as mine that we were to destroy the people that we found.

Q. What gave you the impression the the others felt this way?

A. I don't know how to answer that, I just don't know.

Q. Did you have some type of service prior to this mission?

A. Yes, it was for CPT COX who had been killed in the same area as the mission was to be conducted in.

Q. Was this a revenge mission ^{for him} in this service?

A. Yes it was. CPT MEDINA said that this was a chance for us to get revenge for the men we had lost there.

Q. Did you receive any other briefing, other than the one by CPT MEDINA?

A. Only a squad briefing as to what our specific assignments would be.

Q. Did anyone ever specifically tell you to destroy all of the civilians that you found in the village regardless of their sex, age, etc?

A. CPT MEDINA said "to destroy everything in the village", and we took this to mean people too.

Q. You have previously stated that at first you didn't know what to do with the people. Will you further explain this statement?

A. I meant that there wasn't anything else that we could do with the people except kill them. This is what we were supposed to do with them.

Q. What had your procedure been in dealing with civilians on previous missions?

A. We were to round them up and bring them in to the CP. This was the usual collecting point.

Q. Had you ever been told to kill civilians on any missions prior to this one?

A. No.

Q. On this mission, was there a collection point set up for the civilians?

A. Not that I remember.

Q. Why wasn't there any collection point?

A. I guess that we weren't supposed to collect any.

Q. What were you to do with them?

A. I guess kill them.

Q. Why do you think that you were to kill the civilians on this particular mission?

A. I really don't know.

Q. Did you receive a cease fire order?

A. Yes, from CPT MEDINA.

Q. Did you hear him say to cease fire?

A. Yes I did.

Q. At the time that he told you to cease fire, from his ^{from} ~~position~~ vantage point at the time that he gave this order would he have seen the bodies of the civilians that had been killed?

A. There were bodies there but I don't remember if they were women, children or what.

Q. Did CPT MEDINA know that the unit was killing civilians?

A. I believe that he did because he was walking behind us and he would have had to see what we left behind.

that you then killed them. Who made the decision or gave the order to shoot them?

A: It was orders before we left that if we found anyone to kill them.

Q: Who gave this order?

A: It was probably GUY BROWN.

Q: Did he specifically say to kill them?

A: He did come right out and say kill but that is what he meant.

Q: Was there ever any doubt in your mind that you should kill the people that you found in the village?

A: No there was not. I thought that I was doing what I was supposed to and carrying out orders.

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

A: No. // // // // // END OF STATEMENT // // // // //

AFFIDAVIT

I, Thomas D. Wright

HAVE READ OR HAVE HAD READ TO ME THIS STATE-

MENT WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 1 AND ENDS ON PAGE 3. 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.

Thomas D. Wright

(Signature of Person Making Statement)

WITNESSES:

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this 25 day of June, 1970 at Greenville, SC

Donald H. Taylor

(Signature of Person Administering Oath)

DONALD H. TAYLOR

(Typed Name of Person Administering Oath)

ART 136, (3), (4), NOV 1969

(Authority To Administer Oaths)

ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS

ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS

EXHIBIT D4

INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

T.D.W.