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1 Testimony of SSG Manuel Lopez,  
2 RA 50 155 639, 103d Co, 10th  
3 Student Bn, Fort Benning, Georgia,  
4 taken at Office of Inspector General,  
5 Fort Benning, Georgia, at 1240 to  
6 1345 hours on 13 May 1969, by Colonel  
7 William V. Wilson, IG.  
8

9 Q. SGT Lopez, I am from The Inspector General's  
10 Office at Department of the Army. I am here on an inves-  
11 tigation and I will read you into it.

12 A. Yes, sir.  
13

14 Q. The investigation concerns the alleged destruction  
15 of a village in South Vietnam nicknamed Pinkville which was  
16 approximately five or six miles north of Quang Ngai City at  
17 coordinates 728795. The incident allegedly occurred in March  
18 of 68 during the time Co C, 1/20th Inf, Task Force Barker,  
19 conducted search and destroy operations on the Batangan  
20 Peninsula. The investigation is official and is being made  
21 at the direction of the Chief of Staff of the Army. The  
22 investigation is privileged in the sense that my report will  
23 be made to the Chief of Staff of the Army. The substance  
24 of the report and the investigation should not be discussed  
25 with others. It will carry a CONFIDENTIAL classification.  
26 The purpose of the investigation is to determine the facts  
27 relative to this incident. SGT Lopez, I have no reason to  
28 believe, or no evidence to indicate, that you are suspected  
29 of anything in this case. If you do provide evidence that  
30 would be self-incriminating to you I will so warn you.  
31 Remember you do not have a requirement to incriminate yourself.

32 A. Yes, sir.  
33

34 Q. I'd like to place you under oath. Please stand and  
35 raise your right hand.  
36

37 (The witness was sworn.)  
38

39 A. Please state your name, grade and serial number.  
40 SSG Manuel Lopez, RA 50 155 639.  
41

42 Q. Organization, station and present duty assignment.

43 A. The Charlie Co, 1st Bn, 20th Infantry, 11th Inf  
44 Brigade, Americal Division.  
45

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~~HEADQUARTERS, THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY  
Office of the Army Staff Judge Advocate  
Fort McPherson, Georgia 30330~~

1 Q. Now.  
2 A. 103d Co, 10th Student Bn, Fort Benning.

3  
4 Q. What was your duty assignment in March 1968?  
5 A. I was platoon sergeant.

6  
7 Q. What platoon?  
8 A. I was with the 2d Platoon--correction, 3d Platoon.

9  
10 Q. What company?  
11 A. Charlie Co, 1/20th

12  
13 Q. Please describe in detail the events which occurred  
14 when Co C, 1/20th, Task Force Barker, conducted search and  
15 destroy operations in the vicinity of a village nicknamed  
16 Pinkville.

17 A. Well, I can't describe it too much because we went  
18 to the area many times. I don't know which time, about the  
19 time. We went to the Pinkville many operations, so I can't  
20 tell you much unless I get a little more explanation of what  
21 you are referring to.

22  
23 Q. This is the 1:50,000 map sheet. This operation  
24 was concerned with the combat assault on My Lai (4) by C Co.

25 A. I believe that it was--I don't remember the exact  
26 date, but it was the CA operation to that village. We re-  
27 ceived an operation that it was suspected enemy area and we  
28 was supposed to search and destroy that village, which we  
29 did. I don't really recall what other units were attached  
30 to us, but there was some other units that I know of, but  
31 anyway our company with the 1st, 2d and 3d Platoons were  
32 landed in that area, or near to that village, and I can't  
33 recall the time, but it was early in the morning. From  
34 there we went into the village, and breakdown by platoon,  
35 and my platoon was not even in the village. As we passed  
36 the village, the right-hand side of the village--

37  
38 Q. (Interposing) That would be east?

39 A. Right, it would be on the east, and the--what was  
40 the platoon--I believe the 2d Platoon was the one that went  
41 right into the village. We had a lot of casualties there,  
42 enemy type. After that we reorganized and continued the  
43 operation, we continued forward. I can't recall how much  
44 farther we went forward, but we did walk that day until  
45 about five or six o'clock in the evening. That is when we

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1 stopped for overnight.  
2

3 Q. When you received the order to destroy the  
4 village, how was this order given?

5 A. I don't remember, sir. I don't even remember.  
6

7 Q. Were any instructions given regarding the de-  
8 struction of the inhabitants?

9 A. Well, if I recall right, yes, it was. We was  
10 supposed to go in and search the village and if there was  
11 any civilians we was supposed to move them aside, search  
12 them, of course, and after we cleared the village we was  
13 to turn them loose unless they were young men anywhere from  
14 12 to 35 or so, we brought them back to the rear, and old  
15 ladies or something like that, to search them and leave  
16 them in the village.  
17

18 Q. There were no instructions given regarding this  
19 combat assault which differed from any other combat assault?

20 A. I don't remember, sir.  
21

22 Q. What was the sequence of movement of your platoon  
23 into the landing zone? Which platoon--

24 A. (Interposing) Landed first?  
25

26 Q. You were the first platoon to land?

27 A. No, sir. Let me see. We had an air strike and  
28 artillery. Then after that we were brought down into sec-  
29 tions, broken down into sections, and we landed, I believe,  
30 with the first platoon that came in first, or--no, sir, I  
31 am quite sure we all landed at the same time. We all came  
32 down at the same time.  
33

34 Q. Was the LZ hot or cold?

35 A. LZ? Well, in my section it was not, but I do  
36 believe there was sniper fire there when we got there.  
37

38 Q. Who was your platoon leader?

39 A. (Pause) I believe at that time it was CPT Hauck.  
40 He was a lieutenant at that time.  
41

42 Q. Who were the squad leaders?

43 A. (Pause) Let me see if I remember. (Pause) I  
44 don't remember really because we changed so many people  
45 around.

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1 Q. Was a PFC Gruver in your platoon?

2 A. Yes, he was.

3  
4 Q. Did you observe him on this operation?

5 A. Well, I observe everybody, but I have so many  
6 people that, you know, I don't--

7  
8 Q. (Interposing) Do you know a LT William Calley?

9 A. Calley?

10  
11 Q. C-A-L-L-E-Y.

12 A. Yes, sir.

13  
14 Q. Did you observe him on this operation?

15 A. No, sir. He was platoon leader of either the 1st  
16 or 2d Platoon.

17  
18 Q. You didn't see him?

19 A. No, sir, I did not.

20  
21 Q. Did you see his platoon?

22 A. Yes, sir. We had to coordinate with one platoon  
23 and the other, but I have seen them from a long distance  
24 going through the village. We had different sections.

25  
26 Q. Did you see his platoon round up villagers and  
27 machine-gun them?

28 A. No, sir, I did not.

29  
30 Q. Did you see anybody do this?

31 A. No, sir. On that day we--that I know of--we  
32 captured, I believe, about four or five weapons in my  
33 section and there was a lot of bullets going around, so I  
34 couldn't pay attention to everybody and I didn't receive  
35 a complete report.

36  
37 Q. Was this action at My Lai (4) any more intense  
38 than the normal operations which you participated in?

39 A. In a way it was, yes, sir.

40  
41 Q. Was the enemy action more severe?

42 A. Yes, sir.

43  
44 Q. Was PFC Doherty in your platoon?

45 A. Yes, sir, he was.

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Q. Did you observe him on this operation?

A. At times I did, yes, sir.

Q. Did you ever see him fire on wounded civilians?

A. No, sir. All the civilians that we had wounded we usually tagged them and sent them back to the rear to the hospital.

Q. Do you know PFC Bernhardt?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you see him on this operation?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you see him fire on any wounded civilians?

A. No, sir.

Q. Was Pinkville burned or My Lai (4) burned?

A. Part of it was, yes, sir.

Q. Were any other villages burned on this operation?

A. Probably was, sir. We stayed in operation for a long time, more than two or three days. It probably was, but I can't remember.

Q. How many casualties did you have in your platoon from this operation?

A. None, sir.

Q. Did you ever go through the village?

A. No, sir, I did not.

Q. Did you ever notice piles of bodies stacked or in groups?

A. Yes, sir, I did.

Q. Where were these?

A. The ones that I seen were on a trail or road right across--

Q. (Interposing) They were in the road?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. How many?

A. That I cannot tell you, sir.

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1 Q. Was it normal to see bodies in groups like this?

2 A. No, sir.

3  
4 Q. Could you tell how they were killed?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6  
7 Q. How were they killed?

8 A. Some were killed by the air strike or artillery  
9 and some were killed by rifle.

10  
11 Q. How many groups did you notice like this?

12 A. Well, sir, maybe one or two groups, but there were  
13 bodies in different places--not a stack, but just one or two  
14 bodies in different places.

15  
16 Q. How could you tell that some of these people in  
17 the stacked group of bodies were killed by artillery?

18 A. The way they were messed up, sir. Some of the  
19 people the feet blown off or gone, or the leg or arm was  
20 gone. If hit by a bullet there was just a small hole.

21  
22 Q. Did any of these individuals in the stack of bodies  
23 appear to be alive?

24 A. No, sir. Sir, in our company we had something like  
25 an SOP. We searched the bodies and people that were wounded  
26 we sent them back to the rear. We tag them up, call the  
27 dust-off, and the dust-off comes and picks them up and takes  
28 them to the rear. Every time we went to a village we  
29 searched every body to see if they were dead.

30  
31 Q. Did your platoon search this group?

32 A. No, sir, we have different people searching  
33 throughout the whole company.

34  
35 Q. Do you know who was designated to perform this  
36 mission during this operation?

37 A. No, sir. What we did, we had a squad. If a squad  
38 came through it the squad leader would designate one or two  
39 guys to go in and search these people.

40  
41 Q. Had you been on an operation where the village  
42 had been prepped by artillery before My Lai (4)?

43 A. Yes, sir.

44  
45 Q. Did the casualties seem to be as high as they

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1 did in My Lai (4)?

2 A. No, sir.

3  
4 Q. Do you attribute the large number of casualties  
5 to artillery and air strikes?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7  
8 Q. Did you hear an abnormal amount of small arms  
9 fire when the lead platoon was sweeping the village?

10 A. Yes, sir, I did.

11  
12 Q. Could you tell from which direction the enemy  
13 fire was coming?

14 A. No, sir. It was a lot of confusion going on  
15 because it was maybe the second or third time that we had  
16 a hot LZ like that and the confusion was hard to control,  
17 so we couldn't tell, I couldn't tell where it was coming  
18 from.

19  
20 Q. Did you see CPT Medina on this operation?

21 A. Yes, sir, I did.

22  
23 Q. Did you land at about the same time that he went  
24 in, or was he there when you arrived?

25 A. I don't remember for sure, sir, but I am quite  
26 sure we all landed at the same time.

27  
28 Q. Were you given a company briefing prior to this  
29 operation?

30 A. Yes, sir.

31  
32 Q. For the whole company?

33 A. Yes, sir.

34  
35 Q. Was it, at the time, stated that the inhabitants  
36 were to be destroyed?

37 A. Pardon me?

38  
39 Q. That the villagers were to be destroyed--the people?

40 A. Yes, sir.

41  
42 Q. How was that stated?

43 A. I don't recall, sir, how it was stated, but this  
44 village was known to be an enemy, say, where they had an  
45 enemy base area, and we was told that they were all supposed  
46 to be enemy, they were all enemy.

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1 Q. Were your instructions to kill these people?

2 A. Well, yes, sir, we were instructed to kill these  
3 people, yes, sir. We were instructed to--if we captured  
4 people--not just kill everybody, if we could capture these  
5 people, to capture them and search them and send them back  
6 to the rear.

7  
8 Q. You were not told then to go in there and kill all  
9 the people?

10 A. No, at no time.

11  
12 Q. Have you ever seen a document on Rules of Engage-  
13 ment?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15  
16 Q. Did you read this document?

17 A. Yes, sir, I did.

18  
19 Q. Do you know who published it?

20 A. No, sir, I do not.

21  
22 Q. Do you remember what it said?

23 A. No, sir.

24  
25 Q. What were your instructions regarding the capture  
26 or detention of civilians?

27 A. I don't remember that today, sir, but every time  
28 that we captured civilians--in this case the village was  
29 supposed to be an enemy base camp. What we did with  
30 civilians, we search them and send them back to the rear.  
31 What they did at the rear I don't know.

32  
33 Q. What did you do, or what were your instructions,  
34 if somebody ran from you?

35 A. Well, our instructions was, sir, to be sure. If  
36 there was any enemy captured we had an assembly area where  
37 they had all the civilians together and we had guards there  
38 and from there the company commander took over and he called  
39 back to the rear and somebody come up and picked them up.  
40 Of course, our instructions was to stop the man, say dung  
41 lai three times--dung lai, dung lai, dung lai--and if they  
42 continued on we had to shoot them.

43  
44 Q. Did this occur on this operation?

45 A. This I don't know, sir.

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1 Q. Did it occur with you?

2 A. No, sir, it did not.

3  
4 Q. Where was this holding center for the captured  
5 or detained civilians located for this operation?

6 A. Well, sir, it was up to our platoon where we  
7 wanted to have it, so we would usually have it back to the  
8 rear. After we left the area and knew it was clear, we  
9 left three or four guards and sent all the people back there  
10 and assembled them.

11  
12 Q. Were these people normally turned over to company  
13 control?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15  
16 Q. How many people did you round up in this fashion  
17 at My Lai (4)?

18 A. None, sir.

19  
20 Q. Why?

21 A. The most of the people were in the village and my  
22 platoon did not went (sic) to the village because we had  
23 the east section of the village. We ran into a lot of enemy  
24 that would fire at us and we killed three or four, I guess.  
25 We captured three or four weapons. We did not run into a  
26 large amount of people, personnel. Most of the people were  
27 in the village.

28  
29 Q. Was LT Calley's platoon the platoon that was in  
30 the village?

31 A. Yes, sir.

32  
33 Q. These individuals that you killed, that your unit  
34 killed, were they armed?

35 A. Well, sir, some of them were, yes, sir, but we  
36 run into many cases in Vietnam that maybe there are 10 or 15  
37 people armed with weapons. If you killed only maybe five,  
38 the others took the weapons away and made it.

39  
40 Q. You were receiving fire from these individuals?

41 A. Yes, sir.

42  
43 Q. Was the fire coming from the village?

44 A. Yes, sir, it was.

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1 Q. And your fire was directed back into the village?

2 A. Yes, sir, it was.

3  
4 Q. Which, I suppose, could be considered cross fire.

5 A. Yes, sir.

6  
7 Q. Did you see any medical attention being given to  
8 civilians?

9 A. Yes, sir, I did.

10  
11 Q. By whom?

12 A. I do not remember my medic, but he did.

13  
14 Q. Was your medic Flores?

15 A. It could have been at that time. He was my medic  
16 about then.

17  
18 Q. What type of medical attention was being given?

19 A. Well, I don't know about the other platoons, but  
20 if we found a man or lady or kid that was wounded, we did  
21 our best to give them first aid. If we could not take care  
22 of it we tagged the man and called the dust-off to pick him  
23 up back in the rear.

24  
25 Q. Did you see this happening?

26 A. No, sir, I did not.

27  
28 Q. Did you ever receive an order to stop the slaughter?

29 A. I don't remember, sir.

30  
31 Q. Or not to kill any more civilians?

32 A. I don't remember that either, sir.

33  
34 Q. Was any attempt made to warn the villagers of this  
35 operation?

36 A. Well, sir, I don't know because there was an air  
37 strike going on right next to the village and the artillery  
38 and I am sure they knew we were coming.

39  
40 Q. What type of munitions were used for the air strike?

41 A. I don't know, sir.

42  
43 Q. Was it napalm?

44 A. I am quite sure it was.

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Q. Was this on the village or away from the village?  
 A. Well, it was near to the village. I don't know how close it was, but it was near the village.

Q. Did you see the napalm?  
 A. No, sir, I did not. I seen a lot of holes made by the artillery.

Q. Where was this?  
 A. Right at the village.

Q. In the village?  
 A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you ever known the men to complain about restraints being imposed on them during combat action?  
 A. No, sir.

Q. Do you know SP 4 Paul?  
 A. I don't remember his name either, sir.

Q. Were there any South Vietnamese Nationals on the operation, and I mean National Police, Popular Force, or ARVN?

A. I am quite sure there were, yes, sir.

Q. Do you remember seeing any?

A. Yes, sir, I believe--yes, sir, we had some, three or four of them.

Q. What were they?

A. I believe they were National Police and, plus, we had an interpreter in the company.

Q. What was the interpreter's name?

A. I don't remember him either.

Q. Did you see the National Police commit any atrocities?

A. Yes, sir, I did.

Q. What did they do?

A. I seen the National Police after we captured people just take them out and kill them.

Q. On this operation?

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1 A. No, sir, I don't remember on that operation,  
2 but I have seen it on another operation.  
3

4 Q. Did you know any of the National Police that were  
5 on this operation?

6 A. No, sir.  
7

8 Q. Did you see or hear of a group of field grade  
9 officers interviewing company personnel at the base camp  
10 a few days after the operation concerning the Pinkville  
11 incident?

12 A. No, sir.  
13

14 Q. Did you know CPT Medina's radio operator?

15 A. I may. I don't recall at this time at that time.  
16 I can't recall, sir.  
17

18 Q. When you saw CPT Medina was his radio operator  
19 with him?

20 A. Yes, sir.  
21

22 Q. Did you see the radio operator at any time fire  
23 a weapon?

24 A. No, sir, I did not.  
25

26 Q. Did you hear, or do you know of a man who shot  
27 himself in the foot in the Pinkville area?

28 A. No, sir. Oh, yes, sir. Yes, sir, I did. It was  
29 in the same operation, too. He shot it with a .45.  
30

31 Q. How did this occur?

32 A. I don't know how it occurred, sir, but anyway it  
33 happened because I was there at the time.  
34

35 Q. Did you later hear, or at any time hear, that  
36 atrocities had been committed in this village?

37 A. No, sir.  
38

39 Q. Did you see any interrogations going on?

40 A. No, sir.  
41

42 Q. How many South Vietnamese would you estimate were  
43 killed in this village?

44 A. South Vietnamese? None.  
45

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1 Q. How many civilians would you estimate were killed  
2 in this village?

3 A. I can't tell, sir. I don't know, sir. I believe  
4 they were not South Vietnamese, sir.  
5

6 Q. I am referring to the inhabitants of the village.

7 A. No, I don't know, sir. In some cases, sir, like  
8 I say, I don't know how many civilians there were because  
9 some of these Vietnamese there were actually North Vietnamese,  
10 but they were dressed in civilian clothes and didn't have  
11 any identification except weapons.  
12

13 Q. Was the enemy in this area NVA or VC?

14 A. Both, sir. We found a bunker built there. We  
15 can tell they were very well ready to fight, sir. There  
16 were bunkers all over the area.  
17

18 Q. Did you see a photographer on this operation?

19 A. Yes, sir, I did.  
20

21 Q. Do you know who he was?

22 A. No, sir. It was the first time I saw him that  
23 date.  
24

25 Q. Did you notice any men crying at the meeting held  
26 in the company prior to the operation?

27 A. No, sir. I heard somebody mention it, but I  
28 didn't notice nobody.  
29

30 Q. Why were they crying?

31 A. Well, they say it was one or two men who just  
32 didn't want to go.  
33

34 Q. Fear?

35 A. Yes, sir.  
36

37 Q. Do you feel that your unit conducted this operation  
38 with a feeling of vengeance?

39 A. Yes, sir.  
40

41 Q. Do you think the personnel shot or killed the  
42 inhabitants of the village because of vengeance?

43 A. No, sir.  
44

45 Q. Did you hear at any time that a four year-old

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1 Vietnamese wounded boy was machine-gunned?

2 A. No, sir. That never happened that I know of,  
3 not to my knowledge.

4  
5 Q. Who was SGT Gary Roschevitz? Have you ever heard  
6 of him?

7 A. No, sir.

8  
9 Q. Did you ever hear anybody say that anything alive  
10 should be killed?

11 A. I never did.

12  
13 Q. Was the livestock in the village killed?

14 A. I don't remember that either, sir.

15  
16 Q. Was it ever referred to, as to whether or not they  
17 should kill the livestock?

18 A. No, sir.

19  
20 Q. Was there any reference to poisoning the water?

21 A. No, sir.

22  
23 Q. Did you see any men of military age in the village  
24 or from the village?

25 A. Yes, sir, I did. They were not alive at the time  
26 I got down there.

27  
28 Q. They were not?

29 A. No, sir.

30  
31 Q. How many would you say that you saw?

32 A. I don't know, maybe 10 or 15 or 20. There were a  
33 lot of them around. There were a lot of them running of  
34 that age, too, 15 to 25, and they had a lot of weapons, too.

35  
36 Q. Did you see this?

37 A. Yes, sir, I did.

38  
39 Q. Were they running through the village or outside?

40 A. This was outside the village, sir. This was not  
41 in the village.

42  
43 Q. Did CPT Medina ever say that the inhabitants of  
44 this village were responsible for former casualties in C Co?

45 A. No, sir, he never did.

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1 Q. Did you know PFC Widmer?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3  
4 Q. Did you see him on this operation?

5 A. I don't remember, sir. He used to be our RTO.

6  
7 Q. Was this group of bodies that were stacked to-  
8 gether in a ditch or on a road?

9 A. I am sure it was in the road, but once again,  
10 sir, we were in different places. It might have been  
11 another one some place. I don't know. This one I seen  
12 was in the road.

13  
14 Q. Do you remember stopping to eat at noon?

15 A. Yes, sir, we did.

16  
17 Q. Did you stop near this group of bodies?

18 A. No, sir, I did not.

19  
20 Q. Did your platoon stop near that group?

21 A. No, sir.

22  
23 Q. Had you already passed them?

24 A. Yes, sir, my platoon had already passed them.

25  
26 Q. Did you see the artillery preparation?

27 A. I don't remember, sir.

28  
29 Q. Did you have a radio with you?

30 A. Yes, sir.

31  
32 Q. Did you hear any communication between battalion  
33 and the company--not battalion, but task force headquarters  
34 and the company?

35 A. No, sir.

36  
37 Q. You were on the company net?

38 A. Yes, sir, the company net.

39  
40 Q. I may have asked you this before, but I am not  
41 sure. Did you receive instructions from the company com-  
42 mander to stop killing civilians, or were these instructions  
43 passed out to the company?

44 A. If they were, sir, I don't remember.

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1 Q. Did you at any time observe a loud-speaker air-  
2 craft?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. During this operation?

5 A. Again I don't remember because they used to go  
6 around so many times.

7 Q. Did you see any leaflets dropped prior to or  
8 during this operation?

9 A. I don't remember any leaflets.

10 Q. Did you see any on the ground?

11 A. I don't remember either.

12 Q. Do you know the population of My Lai (4)?

13 A. Sir, I believe it was given to us. I can't re-  
14 member it now.

15 Q. Did you ever go back to that village?

16 A. No, sir, we did not.

17 Q. Did you ever hear that PFC's Terry and Doherty  
18 finished off a group of wounded civilians left behind by  
19 the leading platoons?

20 A. No, sir.

21 Q. Did you know SP 4 Torres?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. Do you know if he was ever given an order to fire  
24 on a group of assembled villagers?

25 A. I don't know, sir. He was not in my platoon.

26 Q. Was Bernhardt in your platoon?

27 A. Yes, sir.

28 Q. Did Bernhardt complain very much?

29 A. Yes, sir, he did.

30 Q. What types of complaints did he have?

31 A. The only complaint that he had was too much time  
32 in the field and not enough time back in the base camp.  
33 That was it.

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1 Q. Did you ever have any indication that he was upset  
2 about this particular operation?

3 A. No, sir.  
4

5 Q. Or that any of the men in your platoon were upset  
6 about this operation?

7 A. No, sir.  
8

9 Q. What sequence of return to the base camp from this  
10 area? Now I mean by that was your platoon the first to go  
11 back or the last to go back?

12 A. Again, sir, I don't remember. We usually go out  
13 to the field and stay out for a long time. I don't really  
14 remember. We usually rotate platoons.  
15

16 Q. Do you remember SGT Small?

17 A. Yes, sir.  
18

19 Q. Was he a squad leader at that time?

20 A. Yes, sir.  
21

22 Q. SGT Cox?

23 A. I don't know, sir. He might have got killed before  
24 that. I don't remember for sure. He got killed.  
25

26 Q. Which squad did SGT Small have?

27 A. I believe it was the 2d Squad, sir.  
28

29 Q. SP 4 Grimes?

30 A. He was in 3d Squad.  
31

32 Q. Was he a squad leader?

33 A. Yes, sir, he was.  
34

35 Q. How do you spell the first sergeant's name?

36 A. Who was that first sergeant?  
37

38 Q. I have Hobscheid.

39 A. Hobscheid. I can't spell his name either.  
40

41 Q. Have you ever observed LT Calley in combat?

42 A. Yes, sir.  
43

44 Q. Did he appear to handle himself well?

45 A. Certainly, a good lieutenant, a good officer.

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1 Q. Did you ever see him commit any atrocities?

2 A. No, sir.

3  
4 Q. Do you have any reason to feel that the action  
5 at My Lai (4), except for the enemy resistance, was any  
6 different from any other operation that you conducted while  
7 you were in Vietnam?

8 A. No, sir, but it was a lot of enemy resistance  
9 there and it was not like going to some other village that  
10 we went to where there was no enemy fire and if there was  
11 civilians we would help them and keep them from getting  
12 pounded. In here we had to fire back because of the enemy  
13 fire. We probably did kill some people that we didn't want  
14 to kill.

15  
16 Q. You said there were a large number of dead in the  
17 village area?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19  
20 Q. Larger than normal?

21 A. Yes, sir, there were.

22  
23 Q. Did you notice that this impressed the men of your  
24 platoon in any way?

25 A. No, sir.

26  
27 Q. Did they discuss it later?

28 A. No, sir.

29  
30 Q. Do you have any further information concerning the  
31 matters we have discussed?

32 A. No, sir.

33  
34 Q. Do you have any further statements to make re-  
35 garding the subject under investigation?

36 A. No, sir. The only think I would like to ask is  
37 what am I being investigated for?

38  
39 Q. You are not being investigated. The incident is  
40 being investigated. You are merely a witness.

41 A. I mean after the investigation what happens?

42  
43 Q. As I told you, the investigation concerns the  
44 alleged destruction of a village in South Vietnam nicknamed  
45 Pinkville and the time it occurred was in March of 68.

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1 A. All right.

2  
3 Q. There are other allegations, but that is not  
4 part of it.

5 A. Yes, sir.

6  
7 Q. SGT Lopez, this is an official investigation.  
8 It is privileged in the sense that my report will be made  
9 to the Chief of Staff of the Army for such action or for  
10 such use as he deems appropriate. You are ordered not to  
11 discuss this investigation or the questions and answers  
12 covered during this interview except as you otherwise may  
13 have a right to do so in accordance with law.

14 A. Yes, sir.

15  
16 Q. O. K., Sergeant, thank you for coming in.

17 A. Yes, sir.

18  
19 (The witness was excused.)

20  
21 (The foregoing testimony of SSG Manuel Lopez was taken  
22 stenographically and transcribed by Albert F. Smith, Super-  
23 visory Shorthand Reporter, Office of The Inspector General,  
24 Headquarters, Department of the Army.)  
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