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2 rh 1 Testimony of Mr. Roger D. Murray,
 2 _____, Waukegan, Illinois,
 3 taken at Karcher Hotel, Room 909,
 4 Waukegan, Illinois, at 1830 to 2000
 5 hours on 14 June 1969, by COL William V.
 6 Wilson, IG.
 7

8 Q. As you know, I am from the Department of the
 9 Army and with The Inspector General's office there. This
 10 investigation concerns the alleged destruction of a village
 11 in South Vietnam nicknamed "Pinkville", and we are talking
 12 about My Lai (4). Pinkville itself was My Lai (1), but
 13 this area is referred to as the Pinkville complex, and
 14 this was approximately five or six miles north of Quang
 15 Ngai City. The incident allegedly occurred in March of
 16 1968 during the time C Company, 1/20th, Task Force Barker,
 17 conducted search and destroy operations on the Batangan
 18 Peninsula, or just south of it. The investigation is
 19 official and is being made at the direction of the Chief
 20 of Staff of the Army. The investigation is privileged in
 21 the sense that my report will be made to the Chief of
 22 Staff of the Army for such purpose as he deems necessary.
 23 The substance of this investigation should not be dis-
 24 cussed with others because it is privileged. It will
 25 carry a CONFIDENTIAL classification. We consider it a
 26 sensitive case. The purpose is to determine the facts
 27 involved in this particular incident which covered a
 28 period of three days, really, but we are interested
 29 primarily in what happened the first day.
 30

31 I would like to place you under oath. Would
 32 you stand and raise your right hand.
 33

34 (The witness was sworn.)
 35

36 Please state your full name, position and
 37 present status?

38 A. My full name is Roger Donald Murray. I am a
 39 civilian, discharged from the Army April 25th, 1969. I
 40 work for Sears Roebuck and Company.
 41

42 Q. What is your occupation?

43 A. Professional salesman.
 44

45 Q. And your home address?

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A. , Waukegan, Illinois.

Q. Well, what was your duty assignment in March of 1968 at the time of this operation?

A. I was radio-telephone operator, battalion radio.

Q. Were you assigned to C Company?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. You were on the battalion net?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you operate the radio for the company commander?

A. No. I operated battalion radio for the company commander, between battalion and CO, which at the time he got a call I gave the phone to him.

Q. But you were with the company commander?

A. Right.

Q. Now, prior to that were you a radio operator?

A. Right.

Q. In the same position?

A. Uh-huh.

Q. And after that, was this your job throughout the time of your tour in Vietnam?

A. Right.

Q. You really never had any other job except RTO?

A. Right.

Q. When did you join C Company?

A. I believe it was October 1967 in Hawaii.

Q. You went over with C Company?

A. Right.

Q. I am going to show you a photograph with the numbers one through six on it, and starting with number one, would you identify any of the people in that photograph that you might know?

(The witness examined the photograph.)

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A. Number three is me.

Q. OK.

A. Number five is our interpreter. I don't remember his name.

Q. Does the name Lagunoy ring a bell -- L-A-G-U-N-O-Y?

A. No. What's the name again?

Q. What we believe, a Sergeant L-A-G-U-N-O-Y.

A. That doesn't ring a bell, no.

Q. Do you know any of the others?

A. Captain Medina.

Q. That is what number?

A. Number two.

Q. Anybody else?

A. Well, most of these were new guys when I got back to the company. I was gone almost a month away from the company.

Q. Do you remember this particular incident?

A. Right.

Q. Who is that that has the bandage on his foot?

A. I can't remember his name.

Q. Do you know how he received that wound?

A. No, I don't. All I know the man was wounded up front. We came forward and called for help, a chopper.

Q. Now at the time this man was wounded, were you there?

A. I was in the rear, moving up. They called back to us and said there was a man wounded, and we came forward.

Q. How long from the time you received that call until you got to this location?

A. Oh, I couldn't tell you for sure.

Q. Do you remember the part of that village where this occurred? Was it to the east or west?

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5 rh 1 A. If I am not mistaken, I think it was the south
2 end of the village.

3
4 Q. The south end?

5 A. Right. I am not sure.

6
7 Q. Now the landing zone, as far as we have been
8 able to determine, was on the west.

9 A. Right. So this would be south, because if I'm
10 not mistaken, this was the end of the village. There
11 were a few hootches here and right to our left was the
12 main village.

13
14 Q. So that would have been, to your north was the
15 main village and this was on the southern end of it?

16 A. Right.

17
18 Q. Does the name Carter mean anything to you?

19 A. Carter -- that is his first name?

20
21 Q. Last.

22 A. Huh-uh.

23
24 Q. How about a SP5 Capezza?

25 A. He might have been the medic. I'm not sure,
26 though. I knew most everybody by their first name.

27
28 Q. I have a roster. This thing is by grade.
29 The PFCs start here. These are SP4s and the SP5s start
30 there (indicating on roster).

31
32 (The witness examined the roster.)

33
34 A. What was that name?

35
36 Q. Well, the name Capezza -- C-A-P-E-Z-Z-A -- that's
37 a SP5. The roster is a month later.

38 A. If I am correct, if he was a medic, he wouldn't
39 be on the roster. They had their own roster, if I am
40 not mistaken.

41
42 Q. Do you remember who the company medic was?

43 A. That was who I was thinking might be him.

44
45 Q. In the photograph?

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1 A. Right. But he was new when I got there.
2

3 Q. Would you describe in detail the events which
4 occurred when C Company, 1/20th of Task Force Barker
5 conducted search and destroy operations in the vicinity
6 of a village called My Lai (4)? Now, I will give you
7 a map which might assist you in recalling, and I will
8 explain this area. This is Sheet 6739 II Series L7014,
9 title: Quan Ngai. This is My Lai (1), the pink area
10 (indicating on map), the road. This is what is called the
11 Citadel. LZ Dottie was up in this area (indicating).
12

13 A. Right.

14 Q. Uptight was about here (indicating), and then
15 of course you have your two rivers Song Tra Khuc, Song
16 Diem Diem. This is the Cape Batangan.

17 A. This is the village right here, sir, that we
18 hit (indicating on map).
19

20 Q. Right.

21 A. Then we came in from here. I know we landed
22 from the west after the artillery had ceased from the
23 gun ships. We came in here and went through the
24 village and then worked right around this village in
25 here (indicating on map), and by mid-afternoon, or late
26 afternoon, excuse me, late afternoon we ended up here
27 (indicating on map).
28

29 Q. Where is that, My Khe (2)?

30 A. We were going to stand the night and landed
31 on here (indicating on map). If I remember this
32 correctly now, we moved -- that's right, we moved all
33 the way down to there and we caught one -- we called him
34 Victor Charlie, and I believe he was a big wheel. I
35 don't remember his status. It would be like a colonel
36 to us. I am not quoting. I am not sure. And they
37 turned him in and they said we were out of artillery reach,
38 and we moved back, and I think it was back in here, If
39 I am not mistaken, it is right in here (indicating on map).
40

41 Q. It is near My Khe (1). Are you describing one
42 day or three days?

43 A. Oh, that's three days. You want just the
44 one day. We moved through the village and stayed
45 right here by a cemetery, pretty close to (3).

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1 Q. My Khe?

2 A. My Khe (3). That's where we stayed the first
3 night after we went through the village, and stayed
4 right about in there somewhere (indicating on map). The
5 second day we went all the way down here.
6

7 Q. South?

8 A. South, to My Khe (2). We didn't stay there,
9 though. We came back to My Khe (1). Then we moved out
10 the next day. They picked us up -- I can't remember -- I
11 think it was right along, if I am not mistaken, across a
12 river; I know that. It was right in this area they
13 picked us up (indicating on map).
14

15 Q. This would be the Song Diem Diem where the pick-
16 up was? Was there a briefing before this operation took
17 place?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Who briefed you?

20 A. The CO.
21
22

23 Q. What was the briefing?

24 A. He told us -- as a matter of fact, he told
25 us where we were going to land, what was going on. He
26 kept the company well informed on what was going on all
27 the time. He was a good CO, and he told us it would be
28 a search and destroy mission, if I am not mistaken, and
29 what the operation was for and who to look for, and that
30 the information was that Charlie had been staying in this
31 village and we better find him.
32

33 Q. Did he give any specific instructions on how
34 the operation should be conducted?

35 A. By telling which platoon to go where?
36

37 Q. Well, yes, and whether the village was to be
38 destroyed?

39 A. I don't remember.
40

41 Q. Was this briefing associated in any way with a
42 funeral or a memorial ceremony?

43 A. I am not sure. See, I only stayed there for a
44 few minutes.
45

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Q. That first briefing?

A. Right, because I had to take care of the radios, and I don't remember too much about it.

Q. Do you know a LT William Calley?

A. LT Kelly?

Q. Calley?

A. Right.

Q. Did you see him on this operation?

A. No.

Q. Not during the three-day period?

A. I seen him that night. That was the only time I seen him.

Q. The first night?

A. Yes.

Q. Where was this?

A. This was where we set up our RO at, but during the day I wouldn't see him at all unless the CO would call him back to our position.

Q. What wave of the combat assault were you with?

A. The first bunch, the first load that went in, because I carried the radio.

Q. You were with CPT Medina?

A. Yes.

Q. What was your position in the aircraft? Were you by the door or on the inside?

A. I think I was sitting on the inside. I sat on the inside.

Q. Could you see out of the doors?

A. Uh-huh.

Q. Were the door gunners firing?

A. I don't remember if the -- no, because we were right in the center. If they were firing, they wouldn't be in the center because we ride the center shift usually.

Q. Did you receive any fire?

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A. When we hit the ground?

Q. Before you hit the ground?

A. I don't know.

Q. Did you receive any fire when you hit the ground?

A. I heard somebody firing but I don't know who was firing.

Q. Did you hear the artillery?

A. Just before we landed I did.

Q. Did you see the artillery?

A. No -- coming in, do you mean?

Q. Yes.

A. No.

Q. Did you see the results of where the artillery landed?

A. Just out in the rice paddies mostly. What I saw, I only saw a few craters, and that's all.

Q. Did you see any of the gun ships firing?

A. I was sitting in the middle. I couldn't see them all.

Q. How about when you hit the ground?

A. They stopped firing after we hit the ground, if I am not mistaken. I am not sure, though.

Q. Did you know a PFC Terry?

A. PFC Terry -- I presume that's his last name?

Q. Yes, Michael B. Terry is his full name.

A. I don't know offhand.

Q. How about a PFC Doherty -- D-O-H-E-R-T-Y?

A. Not offhand. A lot of guys had nicknames.

Q. Did you know a PFC Bernhardt?

A. Yes. I can't picture what he looks like, though.

Q. Did you see him on this operation?

A. Bernhardt -- what was he in? I don't think I

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10 rh 1 seen him that night, if I saw him at all, because I didn't
2 see too many guys from the headquarters section, but the
3 name sounds familiar. I just don't know what he looked
4 like.
5

6 Q. From the time you got off your aircraft, how
7 long did it take to complete the sweep of My Lai (4)?

8 A. The village we hit?

9
10 Q. Yes.

11 A. Oh, just guessing, maybe three hours because we
12 were searching everything out.
13

14 Q. Was the village burned?

15 A. Some buildings were set afire.
16

17 Q. Some of them were burning?

18 A. Yes.
19

20 Q. Was the village burning when you went in it?

21 A. Well, I actually didn't walk right in the
22 heart of it, but we came up last, so there were a few
23 burning when we came into it. I couldn't tell you if
24 it was nothing but artillery or gun ships.
25

26 Q. So actually the village was under attack for
27 about three hours, you estimate?

28 A. I wouldn't say they were under attack for
29 three hours, but we searched it. I am not positive.
30 This is back a year, year and a half ago. I am just
31 guessing, because we had a late start to begin with, too.
32 I am trying to think where we ate lunch at, because
33 we set up and searched the village. When we come through
34 we always search it thoroughly for weapons and such.
35

36 Q. Did you eat lunch in the village?

37 A. That is what I am trying to think. I don't
38 think we did. I think we were on the outskirts of it.
39

40 Q. This would be on what section, what part?

41 A. It would be the east. We were heading east.
42

43 Q. You had moved through then by the time you
44 ate lunch? You had cleared the village?

45 A. I think we had. I am not sure, now.

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Q. Who was with you when you were eating lunch?
A. Headquarters section, and the company was around us.

Q. Do you remember who was in the headquarters section?

A. Do you mean in the way of names?

Q. Yes.

A. Oh, jeez -- Captain Medina, myself. The last names I am lousy on. First names I could give you.

Q. Who else by first name?

A. John.

Q. What was his job?

A. He was company RTO. Between him and -- what was his name? He was company RTO and the one who was carrying the radio.

Q. How about LT Storms? Did you know a LT Storms?

A. He was our XO.

Q. Was he with you?

A. No.

Q. Was he on the operation?

A. No, not LT Storms, no, I am pretty sure he wasn't.

Q. Does the name Widmer mean anything?

A. There we go. He was the other one.

Q. Other what?

A. RTO.

Q. And he was the company RTO?

A. No, it was between him and John.

Q. Does the name "Paul" mean anything?

A. I am not sure if his last name was "Paul" or not.

Q. Last name "Paul". Let me show you the roster..
Let me see the roster. "John H. Paul" -- does that ring a bell?

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A. That might be him.

SP4. Q. At least at the time of this roster he was a

A. Uh-huh, so was John.

Q. Was he with you? John was there?

A. Right.

Q. The John but you don't know whether his name was John Paul or not?

A. I think that might be it.

Q. And he was what? He was the company --

A. (Interposing) He would be company RTO.

Q. And what was Widmer?

A. Well, they switched back and forth.

Q. But there were only two radios?

A. Right. We had a third one but that was artillery.

Q. This man was always attached, I suppose, the artillery RTO?

A. Right.

Q. Was he the same man each time or was he different?

A. No. We keep them -- I would say they stay out in the field sometimes three to four months and then they rotated them.

Q. Do you remember the radio-telephone operators that were in the platoons?

A. Oh, no. They rotated them. They switched them around.

Q. What was the radio that you were using at that time?

A. What kind or what?

Q. The nomenclature?

A. I don't remember.

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Q. It was a back pack?

A. It was a 25.

Q. It was a 25, PRC-25?

A. Right, PRC-25.

Q. And this was the radio that was on the company net and the battalion net, or the type of equipment?

A. Right, the only radios we used were PRC-25s.

Q. Did you ever use your radio on the frequency that the platoons were on?

A. No, unless something happened to the other radio. That was in case of emergency, like rain would hit you with the radios, and right away I tell battalion I am leaving on 5 and call the platoons up, but I didn't use it with company at all; I used it with battalion.

Q. You did not? That day you did not change frequency?

A. No.

Q. Did you ever communicate with any of the supporting aircraft?

A. I don't remember that at all. The CO might have. I don't remember calling them.

Q. Was it common to talk frequently with the supporting helicopters?

A. It depended on whether -- if we were going into a "hot" LZ or something, sometimes we talked to them and sometimes we didn't. I think we did talk to one chopper, if I am not mistaken, and we got a rifle out. They had shot a VC and he had a rifle, and we got the rifle.

Q. Who got the rifle?

A. We got the rifle.

Q. Do you mean the command group?

A. Right, they bring the rifle up to us.

Q. Who brought it up to you?

A. One of the companies. I don't know which one, sir.

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Q. Do you mean someone in one of the platoons?
A. Right. They sent somebody out to pick it up. If I am not mistaken, I don't know whether he talked to the chopper or not. I don't remember.

Q. Did CPT Medina ever go after a weapon based on a request from a helicopter?
A. I don't think he did personally. I think he sent a squad out. Now I am not sure. I know we got a weapon that day. We got a couple, as far as I can remember, and a chopper had called that they had shot one running and they had called us and told us where the location was and we sent a squad or a half platoon out to get it.

Q. Did you go through the village?
A. Parts of it I did.

Q. Did you see a lot of dead or wounded?
A. I seen a few men laying there.

Q. Men?
A. Uh-huh.

Q. Where were they?
A. In the village.

Q. Were they in a group or scattered?
A. The ones I seen were scattered.

Q. Did you ever see a ditch with bodies in it?
A. Huh-uh.

Q. Did you fire your weapon during this operation?
A. No.

Q. Did CPT Medina fire his weapon during this operation?
A. No, because the company was in front of us. If I remember correctly, he didn't fire his weapon at all.

Q. How about Widmer?
A. I don't think so.

Q. How about Paul, John Paul, or John?
A. No.

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15 rh 1 Q. Did the command group at any time fire their
2 weapons for any purpose?

3 A. As far as I remember, we didn't fire our
4 weapons at all because the company was in front of us,
5 so we couldn't fire because the company was in front of us.
6

7 Q. Were you with the supporting platoon, which
8 according to our information, was the 3d Platoon?

9 A. I think the 3d Platoon was around us.
10

11 Q. Did you see a helicopter set down to your
12 front anywhere?

13 A. No.
14

15 Q. Was there a good bit of foliage in the vicinity
16 of the village?

17 A. Right, there was.
18

19 Q. Were the various huts screened by foliage? I
20 mean from one hut to the other was there a lot of trees
21 and hedges in there?

22 A. Do you mean from the air?
23

24 Q. No, from the ground. If there was a hut here
25 and a hut here, were they separated by foliage?

26 A. More or less they were, I'd say.
27

28 Q. Did you see any civilians, either VC or anyone,
29 moving to the rear, or being rounded up by American
30 personnel?

31 A. Huh-uh.
32

33 Q. You never had any turned over to the command
34 group, groups of men?

35 A. Oh, we have had people, you know, turned over
36 and then we would search them, and then our interpreter
37 would question them and say, "Is Victor Charlie in the
38 area?" And they always gave us the same answer, "No."
39

40 Q. How many came through your command group that
41 morning?

42 A. I can't tell you for sure.
43

44 Q. Well, normally were they brought back, or did
45 they come back individually, or were they escorted by

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1 U. S. personnel?

2 A. They were usually escorted by personnel because,
3 you know, if you take them back they just walk away, and
4 we want to talk to them and see if there is any Charlie in
5 the area. They brought them back and the interpreter
6 would question them, and he would tell us what they knew,
7 which was most of the time nothing, and then we would
8 let them go.

9
10 Q. When you let them go, did you tell them where
11 to go or just let them go?

12 A. I sat to one side so I didn't listen, because
13 I listened to the radio. That was my job. That is all
14 I did.

15
16 Q. Do you remember who the interpreter was?

17 A. I can't think of his name.

18
19 Q. Did you see any medical attention being given
20 to civilians, I mean South Vietnamese, other than U. S.
21 personnel?

22 A. Not right offhand, no.

23
24 Q. Did you ever receive an order on the radio,
25 or while you were handling the radio, to stop killing
26 civilians, stop the slaughter, anything in that content?

27 A. Not to my recollection. They called my call
28 sign and I'd say, "Wait", and I would hand the phone
29 to the CO.

30
31 Q. Do you remember the CO ever passing down an
32 order like that?

33 A. I can't remember.

34
35 Q. Do you know if a helicopter pilot ever
36 threatened to report the Pinkville operation?

37 A. I never heard anything like that.

38
39 Q. Were there any South Vietnamese Nationals
40 working with C Company, and I want to clarify that as
41 National Police, ARVN, or Popular Force personnel working
42 with the company?

43 A. No. If I remember, that night -- I can't
44 remember if they went with us. We met with another
45 company for an RN. I don't know if they came with our

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company or the other company, but they were there that night. I remember that.

Q. Did you see them during the day?

A. That, I can't think, because they didn't come on our ship and I don't know who was on the rest of the ships, and there might have been. I can't remember.

Q. Well, how many of these people did you see that night?

A. I think, if I am not mistaken, I seen roughly about six. I am not sure, though.

Q. Were they ARVN or National Police?

A. I think they were National Police or Local Forces, whatever you want to call them.

Q. Did you see any of the interrogations being conducted by these people?

A. Huh-uh.

Q. Did you see or hear of a group, an individual or group of field grade officers, after the operation was over, asking questions about it?

A. No.

Q. Were you questioned about the operation?

A. This is the first time I was ever questioned about it.

Q. Have you ever heard of the Rules of Engagement? Were you ever briefed as to what to do if a South Vietnamese in a combat assault operation was running away from you?

A. Do you mean like a VC?

Q. Yes.

A. You always tell them to stop.

Q. What do you say?

A. I can't remember the words. Asked them to stop, say, "dung lai".

Q. Dung lai?

A. Dung lai, stop.

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Q. Then what?

A. If he kept running, fire a warning shot.

Q. A warning shot?

A. Yes.

Q. Then what?

A. This is what I learned in basic, you know.

Q. Then what?

A. Then if he kept running, then you try to hit him. But if a guy is running away, you tell him to stop. Of course, he's scared, too, and if it is an old man --

Q. (Interposing) Were you briefed that people were not supposed to run from US Forces?

A. Do you mean before the operation?

Q. During the operation?

A. I don't remember anything.

Q. What was your understanding of the enemy situation in this area?

A. I heard it was quite -- it was supposed to be quite heavy in there. Well, that's all I knew about it, because I had only been back a short time and I hadn't worked that area. I hadn't been with the company in this area.

Q. You had not?

A. No.

Q. Where had you been?

A. Xa Ninh.

Q. How do you spell it? Is this a town or hospital?

A. No, it is a town.

Q. Is it south of Quang Ngai City?

A. It is south of Duc Pho.

Q. The name is not important. And how long were you down there?

A. I would say about a month, because I sprained my thumb. I was jumping over a ditch one time and my

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M16 came down and hit the back of my nail and tore it off, and it was open and got infected, and the doctor wouldn't let me go back in the field after that.

Q. And you were down there about a month?

A. I would say roughly a month.

Q. When did you join the unit?

A. October.

Q. No, after you came back from the --

A. (Interposing) The month?

Q. Yes. Right before this operation?

A. No, I didn't, come to think of it. If I am not mistaken, I think I joined them just before this operation, but I am not sure because we went out on a couple things afterwards and I am not sure.

Q. Was it in March or February?

A. I think it was in February. I may be mistaken now. I have been on so many operations over there I didn't know whether I was coming or going.

Q. Was this a hospital?

A. No.

Q. What was it?

A. A company of us were down there. It was just guys that were on light duty, and stuff like this. We got on this island.

Q. What were you doing down there?

A. I was the telephone operator down there for LT Maxon at the time. His name was LT Maxon.

Q. What company was that?

A. It was men of all four companies, really, people who had real light duty, and they sent them down there.

Q. Was this near the brigade headquarters?

A. It was just about, I would say -- Duc Pho was the headquarters.

Q. Well, you must have been on special duty?

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20 rh

1 A. Right, I was. They wouldn't let anybody sit on
2 the base camp, so they sent me down there. So they
3 recovered down there.

4
5 Q. Do you know if the artillery that was normally
6 fired on these operations was V1 or surface detonated?

7 A. I don't know what the artillery was.

8
9 Q. What was the procedure for calling artillery
10 through the artillery RTO.

11 A. (Witness shakes head negatively.)

12
13 Q. Do you know the approximate distance from your
14 helicopter to the edge of the village?

15 A. Maybe 300 meters.

16
17 Q. Was the 3d Platoon given the mission of burning
18 the village?

19 A. I don't know.

20
21 Q. Was there a photographer with the company
22 during this operation?

23 A. I can't remember.

24
25 Q. Somebody took that picture.

26 A. There might have been. I don't remember whether
27 there was or not. I don't remember seeing a man with
28 a camera, let's put it that way.

29
30 Q. You do not or you do?

31 A. I just can't remember. I can't place him,
32 because he might have come with one of the platoons.

33
34 Q. Did you observe any U. S. personnel in-
35 discriminately firing on civilians?

36 A. No.

37
38 Q. Did you know a PFC Torres?

39 A. What was his first name?

40
41 Q. Esequiel.

42 A. Pardon?

43
44 Q. Esequiel. He would probably have a nickname.

45 A. Yes, I probably know him by his nickname. Torres

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(MURRAY)

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sounds familiar because I used to once in awhile hand out the mail, and the name sounds familiar, that is all.

Q. Did you see him on this operation?
A. No.

Q. Did you see any of the inhabitants of this village in military uniform?
A. Do you mean the people we caught?

Q. Yes.
A. I can't remember.

Q. Did you see any bodies which you saw in military uniform.
A. I don't remember.

Q. I mean did they have any web equipment or anything like that?
A. The only time I seen them, they would have been stripped of their web gear, and stuff like this.

Q. How many do you think you saw? How many do you remember seeing?
A. Not too many.

Q. Would you be talking about five, fifteen, or twenty, or more?
A. I couldn't say right offhand.

Q. Do you remember anyone having "California" written on their helmet?
A. A lot of guys were from California. I can't remember.

Q. You know, I mean written somewhere on the helmet cover?
A. I guess if they come from -- a lot of guys come from California had done that.

Q. Is that right?
A. Right.

Q. Did you ever go back into My Lai (4)?
A. No, not me.

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22 rh 1

2 Q. What?

3 A. Not me. I don't think the company went back
4 there actually. Do you mean the same village?

5 Q. No.

6 A. As far as I know, they didn't. I can't remember.

7
8 Q. After you cleared the village and you moved
9 forward to the east, did CPT Medina or anybody from the
10 command group go back through the village for any reason?

11 A. I don't remember.

12
13 Q. Do you feel that there was any "get even"
14 attitude or vengeance on the part of C Company when they
15 went into this village?

16 A. I don't think so.

17
18 Q. Do you remember a man named Medloe?

19 A. Huh-uh.

20
21 Q. Do you remember Hill 85?

22 A. Hill 85?

23
24 Q. Hill 85?

25 A. Where was that at?

26
27 Q. It is right here (indicating on map).

28
29 (The witness examined the map.)

30
31 A. Oh, yes, that was -- I think that was an
32 all Korean outpost, if I am not mistaken.

33
34 Q. Did you go on this hill while you were there?

35 A. No.

36
37 Q. Did a man get wounded up there?

38 A. If I am not mistaken, he did.

39
40 Q. Were you with CPT Medina at all times?

41 A. I was around him. I mean I wasn't standing
42 right next to him, but I'm in headquarters section.
43 As long as he was on the radio, if he got a call, I
44 could run right to him.

45
Q. You had to be pretty close to him.

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23 rh 1 A. Well, within calling distance. He was a
2 short man but he can walk fast.

3
4 Q. Did you see a number, or could you give me
5 the approximate number of walking Vietnamese that came
6 through the command group and went to the rear?

7 A. No.

8
9 Q. Would you say that there was a substantial
10 number?

11 A. I just can't remember.

12
13 Q. But they did come through? They were questioned
14 and they went to the rear?

15 A. There were some questioned -- I know that --
16 but how many I can't tell you for sure. I couldn't
17 even guess.

18
19 Q. Was there anything abnormal about this operation?

20 A. Just an operation, an operation.

21
22 Q. Nothing unusual about it from any other
23 operation?

24 A. No.

25
26 Q. And the Vietnamese moved through the area like
27 this on all operations?

28 A. Every time we come to a village we would always
29 question the people in the village, and stuff like this,
30 standard procedure.

31
32 Q. And then they would move to the rear?

33 A. Or else they would stay right in the village,
34 one of the two.

35
36 Q. Did you ever see the brigade commander out
37 there, COL Henderson?

38 A. I don't remember.

39
40 Q. Did you know COL Henderson?

41 A. Not personally, no.

42
43 Q. Look at this sketch. This sketch was made by
44 one of the squad leaders. Now, understand this is a
45 sketch. It is not to scale.

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(MURRAY)

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A. Uh-huh.

Q. But generally this is My Lai (4) right in here (indicating on sketch). The landing zone was over here -- this was north -- which would put it to the west, and the 2d Platoon and 1st Platoon on line moved through the village, the 1st Platoon on the other side. There were some more huts up in this direction, unnamed. The 2d Platoon moved north. The perimeter was established up in this area at night. B Company moved off in the morning to the coast. C Company moves south.

Do you remember some 30 civilians at some time or other coming through here as a group?

A. Do you mean during the operation?

Q. Yes.

A. This is where we approximately stayed, about right in here (indicating on sketch), and the platoons moved up.

Q. Do you remember a ditch on this side of the village?

A. No. When we moved out, I stayed out -- this is where I worked, right along in here (indicating on sketch).

Q. On the south side?

A. More or less. We went in the village a little bit and came back out and stayed along in here (indicating on sketch).

Q. That's right. You didn't see two helicopters sit down in this area?

A. No. I didn't see any choppers land.

Q. Do you remember the road which ran east-west generally from My Lai (1) back to the Citadel, just south of My Lai (4)? Do you remember that road?

A. No, I don't.

Q. It must have been a pretty good road. I think it was sort of a built-up road, you know, above the terrain.

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A. Of course a road over there, it depends really.

Q. Well, I mean by that it is not a trail like one of these others.

A. Uh-huh.

Q. You don't remember crossing that road?

A. We had to cross there -- I know that -- to get down here, but I myself don't remember going across it.

Q. The village is right there?

A. Yes, right there. I don't remember going -- I know we had to cross it but I don't remember crossing it. It takes about five seconds to cross a road.

Q. Do you have any photographs or documentary evidence, orders or anything from this operation?

A. Huh-uh.

Q. Did you hear that LT Calley had rounded up a group of civilians and machine-gunned them?

A. No.

Q. You didn't hear that? Were all of the RTOs that were with the command group all together all the time?

A. As far as I can remember, they were.

Q. Normally they were, weren't they?

A. Right.

Q. And none of them fired their weapon?

A. As far as I can remember.

Q. Did you ever know a man named Gruver?

A. The name sounds familiar. That is about all I can say to it.

Q. Sometimes referred to as "Groovie" Gruver.

A. What is his first name?

Q. Sergeant La Croix referred to him as "Groovie" Gruver. I had his name somewhere -- Charles D. He was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge on the same orders

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that you were.

A. Sounds like somebody I know, but I can't place him.

Q. When did you go on R&R?

A. The end of June, right around the end of June, 22d to the 29th.

Q. Did you know a SGT Cowan -- C-O-W-A-N?

A. I know who he was but I can't remember what he looked like.

Q. Isaiah Cown. SGT Bacon?

A. SGT Bacon, if he is the one I am thinking of, I know him.

Q. He was a colored man?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you see him on this operation?

A. Not that I can remember.

Q. SGT Mitchell?

A. He was an E-6, wasn't he?

Q. I think he was.

A. I know who he is but --

Q. (Interposing) David Mitchell -- did you see him during this operation?

A. Not during the day. I don't know if he was in that operation at all even.

Q. Did you know a man named Olsen?

A. Right.

Q. Was he ever an RTO?

A. Yes, the last part of his time over there.

Q. During this operation was he an RTO?

A. Not headquarters.

Q. Platoon?

A. I don't know. He took my job over when I was leaving Vietnam.

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Q. When did he take your job?

A. Excuse me, I correct myself on that. He took -- we needed an RTO, so they picked him for it, and I think that was right around, let's see, after I got back from the hospital. After I got back in the office I think he came into the headquarters section. I was in the hospital for three weeks.

Q. For what?

A. Malaria.

Q. Did you hear that the National Police executed two VC suspects?

A. No.

Q. Do you know a SGT Lopez?

A. Right.

Q. Did you see him on this operation?

A. I'm not sure if he was there or not that night.

Q. Did you see him in the town, the village?

A. No.

Q. Well, did you consider this a "hot" LZ?

A. I'd say yes on that. I heard some firing. I heard some whistling. Somebody was shooting; I know that.

Q. Somebody was shooting?

A. Somebody was shooting. I don't know who it was.

Q. Did you know SGT Buchanon?

A. What's that?

Q. B-U-C-H-A-N-O-N.

A. Buchanon?

Q. Yes.

A. No, I can't place him.

Q. Did you ever know a man named G-R-Z-E-S-I-K, Grzesik, or something like that.

A. Roy Grzesik?

Q. Yes.

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A. Right.

Q. Roy Grzesik, something like that. That rings a bell. What was his job?

A. I couldn't tell you for sure.

Q. Was he in the command group?

A. No. He was later on, around September or August.

Q. Ronald D.

A. Uh-huh. Grzesik it is pronounced.

Q. You don't know what his MOS was or what his job was?

A. No.

Q. Was he a medic?

A. No, I know he wasn't a medic.

Q. He was not a medic?

A. Because he belonged to our company.

Q. Well, didn't your company have in it platoon and company medics?

A. We had medics for each platoon -- that was all -- and had one for headquarters section.

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

A. No.

Q. Any further statements to make regarding the subject under investigation?

A. No.

Q. Mr. Murray, this is an official investigation. It is privileged in the sense that my report will be made to the Chief of Staff of the Army for such use as he deems appropriate. You are requested not to discuss this investigation or the questions and answers covered during this interview except as you otherwise may have a right to do so in accordance with law. We are trying to keep this thing pretty close until we get the investigation settled.

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A. Is this going to come to a court matter?

Q. A what?

A. A court matter, will this be coming to a court matter?

Q. Well, we can't say now. It won't from us. We don't investigate criminal actions. This is up to the Provost Marshal. If anything like that occurs, it will have to be investigated by the criminal people. We see no reason at this time for it to be turned over to the criminal investigation people, or it would have been before I came up here. Well, I appreciate your coming over.

(The witness was excused.)

(The foregoing testimony of Mr. Roger D. Murray was taken stenographically and transcribed by Robert I. Henderson, Shorthand Reporter, Office of The Inspector General, Headquarters, Department of the Army.)

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