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Testimony of CW2 Dan R. Millians, W3155321, US Army Primary Helicopter School and Center, Flight Division A, Flight A-3, Fort Wolters, Texas, taken at the Office of The Inspector General, Department of the Army, Washington, D. C., at 1310 to 1510 hours on 18 June 1969, by COL William V. Wilson, IG.

Q. This investigation concerns the alleged destruction of a village in South Vietnam nicknamed "Pinkville", which was My Lai (4), approximately five or six miles north of Quang Ngai City. The incident allegedly occurred in March of 1968 during the time Company C, 1/20th Infantry, Task Force Barker, conducted search and destroy operations on the Batangan Peninsula. The investigation is official and is being made at the direction of the Chief of Staff or the Army. The investigation is privileged in the sense that the report will be made to the Chief of Staff of the Army. The substance thereof should not be discussed with others. It will carry a CONFIDENTIAL classification. The purpose of the investigation is to determine the facts relative to the particular operation.

I would like to place you under oath.

(The witness was sworn.)

Will you state your full name, grade and serial number?

A. Dan Richard Millians, CW2, W3155321.

Q. Organization, station and present duty assignment?

A. US Army Primary Helicopter School and Center, Fort Wolters, Texas, Flight Division Alfa, Flight A-3.

Q. What was your duty assignment in March 1968?

A. Aircraft Commander, UH 1-B, B Company, 123d Aviation Battalion.

Q. The operation in question took place 16, 17, 18 March. Please describe in detail the events which occurred when C Company, 1/20th Infantry, Task Force Barker, conducted search and destroy operations in the vicinity of a village nicknamed "Pinkville", Vietnamese name, My Lai (4). Please indicate dates, being as

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1 specific as possible?

2 A. I couldn't even remember the dates, sir. The
3 dates you just gave were as close as I could get to it.
4 To the best of my knowledge, that wasn't the Pinkville.
5

6 Q. That's correct, it was not.

7 A. It was southwest of Pinkville, and I am not
8 sure of the name of the village, but I could point it
9 out on the map. It is just north of some small hill.
10 I believe it was 88, or something. I believe the opera-
11 tion started fairly early in the morning. I am not sure
12 of the time. We had one gun team and a scout from my
13 company, B Company, and as best I recall, there was one
14 other gun team from another company I am sure of, but I
15 don't know if there were any more gun teams out there.
16

17 In the initial insertion there were a lot of
18 people leaving the village. I can't say who I was
19 flying with. I was flying with MAJ Watke, the company
20 commander, at that time for the first part of the opera-
21 tion that morning, and in the initial insertion there
22 were a lot of people leaving the village. We only saw
23 one man that looked like he might be VC. We took him
24 under fire but he got into the bushes. I believe he
25 was wearing a pack and carrying a weapon, I believe.
26 And as best I remember, we broke off station for awhile --
27 there wasn't any action -- and went back to LZ Dottie
28 on standby, I believe. I changed pilots. MAJ Watke
29 got out of the aircraft and I don't remember who I picked
30 up as my pilot at that time, and I can't even remember
31 what time we got back on station that day, but during
32 the initial insertion we did not take any fire. I wasn't
33 in ground contact. We used to run our operations with
34 an OH-23 down low level, one gun ship low level behind
35 him in contact with 23, and another gun ship higher in
36 contact with the ground unit, and I was in contact with
37 the H-23.
38

39 As best I can remember, we did break station
40 and stand by at LZ Dottie until we were called back out.
41 Do you want me to go into what was out there when we got
42 back out, sir?
43

44 Q. Yes.

45 A. OK. There seemed to be a lot of civilians that

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1 were killed and wounded. It looked needless from the
2 air. I don't know what the situation was on the ground,
3 but while we were there the entire day we did not take
4 any fire. There were several drainage ditches, I guess
5 they were, irrigation ditches or something, large ditches
6 filled with people -- women, kids, all ages -- and the
7 entire village was just about ablaze, I believe. We
8 stayed out there all day and never did draw any fire.
9

10 On one occasion the scout aircraft did see
11 some people in a bunker. It appeared to be an old man
12 with his family, inside. He was toward the direction
13 of the infantry was moving. The scout aircraft was
14 piloted by Mr. Thompson, and he called back to me and
15 wanted to lift those people out of the area, so he was
16 under the impression that the infantry would shoot them,
17 too, when they got there. So we landed and put the
18 people on my aircraft and put them behind the infantry
19 lines -- women, kids and one old man. And that's about
20 all I remember about it, sir.
21

22 I don't -- well, there was one other incident.
23 These drainage ditches I was telling you about, irriga-
24 tion ditches, whatever, where the people were filled up
25 or laying in it, I saw one colored sergeant like he was
26 trooping a line walking down there, and saw him shoot
27 one person in a ditch, and that's the only one I saw shoot.
28 And that's about it, sir.
29

30 Q. Were you the first team on station that day?

31 A. Yes, sir, we were there for the initial insertion.
32

33 Q. Was MAJ Watke in your aircraft?

34 A. Yes, sir, he was. He was flying as his pilot.
35

36 Q. When MAJ Watke went back to Dottie, were you
37 the command pilot then or did you take on the command
38 pilot?

39 A. Yes, sir, I was the command pilot the entire
40 day.
41

42 Q. MAJ Watke was the co-pilot?

43 A. Pilot, yes, sir, co-pilot.
44

45 Q. Who piloted the scout aircraft for the initial
insertion?

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A. CW2 Thompson, sir -- I believe it was him -- for the initial insertion. I know he was there when we got back on station that afternoon.

Q. How long were you on station that morning?

A. Oh, I would say an hour and a half, two hours.

Q. And after that period is when you took MAJ Watke back to Dottie?

A. I believe it was, sir.

Q. You mentioned another gun team from another company. Do you mean in the air at the same time or alternating?

A. For the initial insertion we were there at the same time, sir. I believe they were to the northwest of us and we were covering more the south side of the village. I believe it might have been 174th. It was either 174th or 176th Company.

Q. Would this have been part of the combat assault?

A. Yes, sir, I believe they escorted the slicks more than we did. We were just there to catch anyone running out of the village, to herd people up, and they were escorting the slicks in.

Q. You mentioned initially a lot of people leaving the village. Was this during the assault or before the assault?

A. Just as soon as they saw the ships coming in, sir, they started getting out of the village, I believe. It was like that on every operation. As soon as aircraft would start going in, people would start leaving the village. So that's the way it was this day, just streamed out of it.

Q. Were you on station before the slicks came in with the troops?

A. We were all supposed to get there at the same time, I believe, sir. It was supposed to be a surprise.

Q. Did you see an artillery preparation?

A. Yes, sir, there was one.

Q. Did you note the location of the concentration?

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A. There was something about it. I believe it missed the target or something. It was more in the rice paddies than it was in the village. There was something unusual about it, though. It wasn't on target, I believe.

Q. Did any of the artillery go into the village?
A. I couldn't say, sir.

Q. Did you see the gun ships escorting the slicks?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Were they firing?
A. They went in high. Yes, sir, they were firing.

Q. What was the direction of their fire?
A. I believe we came in over the village and landed to the north. The whole area there, there were quite a few hootch complexes. I believe they kind of went into the center of a complex. It was open paddies and it seemed the gun ships were concentrating their fire in the paddies, maybe hitting the tree line around the rice paddies. At that time I don't believe I saw anyone put any fire into the village. Like I say, I couldn't even remember the date.

Q. Do you remember a road to the south of the village running east-west?

A. There was a road running east-west on the south side of the village, and after it got west of the village a ways, it turned kind of southwest. It ran north of a small hill just south of the village.

Q. Eighty-five?
A. Eighty-five.

Q. Did you notice any bodies along that road?
A. Yes, sir, there were a few on the south side. The drainage ditch I was referring to ran north and south and was on the north side of the road, ran from the road to the north. There were a few bodies scattered along that road.

Q. Did you notice the gun ships firing on that road?
A. Yes, sir.

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1 Q. Was this before the assault or during the
2 assault?

3 A. Right after the troops got on the ground, I
4 believe, sir, when the people were leaving the village.
5

6 Q. Still during the phase of the combat assault
7 landing operation?

8 A. There could have been more ships coming in.
9 I am not sure. It seemed like it was after the ships
10 were out of the area, I believe.
11

12 Q. Would this firing have been associated with
13 securing the landing zone, on the road, the firing on
14 the road?

15 A. No, sir, the LZ was north of the road, quite
16 a ways north of the road -- I don't know.
17

18 Q. At what time were these gun ships firing on
19 the road?

20 A. It was after the infantry was on the ground.
21

22 Q. How long after?

23 A. How long?
24

25 Q. Yes.

26 A. Oh, five to ten minutes, I'd say, fifteen.
27

28 Q. After all the slicks had come in?

29 A. I believe they were all out, sir.
30

31 Q. How many gun ships were involved in this
32 strafing on the road?

33 A. I would say two, one gun team.
34

35 Q. Was there a scout ship with them?

36 A. No, sir. It was either the Sharks or the Muskets.
37

38 Q. I don't know the Muskets.

39 A. Well, the muskets were the 176th; the Sharks
40 were the 174th.
41

42 Q. The 176th is an Aviation Company?

43 A. Yes, sir, both of them are Aviation Companies.
44 I remember one gun ship was hovering right along the
45 road, just hovering over the trees, and he put fire down

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1 on the trees just south of the road.
2

3 Q. You mentioned a large number of civilians
4 killed and wounded. What is your estimate as to the
5 number?

6 A. I would estimate around a hundred, a little
7 more than a hundred maybe. They weren't all in this
8 ditch. They were scattered in the whole hootch complex,
9 actually. There would be a hootch complex here, just
10 real small complexes, but the majority of them were in
11 the ditch, and there were a few still scattered in the
12 hootch complex.
13

14 Q. When you returned this afternoon, did you
15 see the people that were there in the morning?

16 A. Not in the ditch; there were a few laying
17 in the road when we left that morning. I wish I could
18 tell you when we left station and when we got back. It
19 seems it was quite a bit of time between. I am not sure.
20 We might have been on station all day, but it seems like
21 there was a break in between the morning and the after-
22 noon.
23

24 Q. How about the bodies that you saw in the
25 village itself? Were they there that morning?

26 A. No, sir.
27

28 Q. They were there that afternoon?

29 A. Right, sir.
30

31 Q. Did you fly over the village at the time the
32 troops were conducting the combat assault?

33 A. Yes, sir. We were on the south side of the
34 village. Like I said, the ships were landing to the
35 north, and I believe they had a gun team on both sides
36 of the slicks, and we were to the south watching the
37 people coming out of the village to the south, and on
38 the south side -- on the northern slope of Hill 85 was
39 where we took under fire that one Vietnamese that was
40 wearing a pack and appeared to have a weapon.
41

42 Q. Did you have a clear view of the village?

43 A. Yes, sir.
44

45 Q. Did you see the village as it was being swept

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by the troops?

A. I believe they did most of the sweeping while we were off station, sir. I don't really understand the direction they were sweeping it. It seemed like they landed to the north of the village and then kind of fanned out to the southwest and then started moving east, I believe.

Q. And you didn't notice the bodies in the village at the first part of the operation?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you notice any bodies in the village?

A. Not on the north side of the road, sir. When we left station there were a few bodies scattered along the road, but I -- until we broke station I think we just stayed mostly on the south side, and then when we came back on station, we were the only gun team in the area at that time, and then we started circling the whole village.

Q. I am trying to establish if you had as clear a view when you first went on station as when you came back later and saw those bodies?

A. Not of the northern hamlets up in the area. When we came back on station we were making a lot of circling, sweeping turns over the entire village. That's when I saw the bodies up in the northern portion.

Q. These drainage ditches which you referred to, where were they located?

A. They were on the eastern side of the village, of the objective, I believe, and they ran from the road to the north. There was only one drainage ditch, I believe, that they had people in. It started at the road and ran 50 to 75 meters north. It might have been just a little bit to the east of Hill 85.

Q. How many people do you estimate were in this ditch?

A. Possibly 75.

Q. Seventy-five?

A. Yes.

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Q. Any alive?

A. We couldn't tell from the air, sir. That's the ditch where I saw the sergeant appear to be finishing one off.

Q. Firing into the ditch?

A. Yes.

Q. How many rounds?

A. I saw one. That's the only actual shooting I did see.

Q. From what distance did you see this?

A. We were about seventy-five to a hundred feet, I guess.

Q. Was this while you were on the ground?

A. No, sir, this was while we were in the air.

Q. Had you landed?

A. I don't know if that was before or after I landed. It was probably, I would say, before. That happened before I landed to pick up the civilians.

Q. Did you have a clear view of this sergeant?

A. Yes, sir. As I recall, we were in a right turn and I looked back over my left shoulder and saw him out of the cargo door, I believe, sir. The aircraft commander in a gun ship sits in the right seat, and I believe we were in a right turn, turning to the east, and I looked back over my left shoulder.

Q. How did you know he was a sergeant?

A. He was wearing a patch.

Q. Sleeve insignia?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know what grade?

A. It was over E-6, or E-6 or above.

Q. I have an aerial photograph taken 22 April 68 of the objective area. I would like for you to study the photograph for a minute and see if you can identify the landing zone of the objective.

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(The witness examined the photograph.)

A. I probably can point it out better on a 1:50,000 map, or 1:1,000.

Q. Well, use both.

(COL Wilson handed the witness a map, scale 1:50,000, which the witness examined.)

A. It was right up in here, sir (indicating on map).

Q. You put the landing zone north of My Lai (4)?

A. It was north of the village. It seemed like it was in the center of a bunch of complexes, a complex here and here and here. It seemed like it was in the center of them. I know it was to the north of one main village.

(At this point an off-the-record discussion was had.)

Q. Using the photograph and the map, and establishing that the objective was My Lai (4), where were the bodies that you saw along the road?

A. There was a trail coming into the road from the north. I don't remember whether it ran on the east side of the village like this one does or came through the village, or where it passed in relation to the village, but it hit the road on just about a ninety degree angle. When we got back out there that afternoon, they had some right in the intersection there, and there were a few a little bit further east.

Q. In other words, this is probably the trail up in here (indicating)?

A. I don't believe they were that far east. I know there weren't any further east of this church, or whatever it was.

Q. This big building?

A. Yes, sir, they were all to the west of that.

Q. And over what distance did you see them?

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1 A. Well, there were, like I say, a few in the
2 intersection. That is probably the same intersection
3 here, and a few to the east, and they were as far
4 over as I'd say right in this area, a few scattered.
5 I know I saw one over here (indicating), a male -- no,
6 there were two over there.

7
8 Q. You are referring to off the road?

9 A. Yes, sir, up in this area (indicating).

10
11 Q. Now, where is the ditch that you saw this happen?

12 A. It was in this area right here (indicating on
13 map).

14
15 Q. That's close to the road?

16 A. Yes, sir. It ran north from the road.

17
18 Q. The ditch did?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20
21 Q. Did the ditch parallel the trail that you refer
22 to?

23 A. Pretty much so, sir. It was to the east of
24 that trail. These dark lines, those would be trails,
25 wouldn't they?

26
27 Q. They are trees. I don't know whether they are
28 trails or trees. You think this ditch --

29 A. That area here, sir (indicating on map).

30
31 Q. Ran what, in a northerly direction?

32 A. Yes, sir.

33
34 Q. Something like this?

35 A. Yes, sir. I don't know whether it ran due
36 north or east-west, but it did run north off to the trail.

37
38 Q. Although we can't establish where that building
39 is from this photograph. It might be the building right
40 there, could be.

41 A. The map showed the trail crossing right here
42 (indicating).

43
44 Q. It looks like it.

45 A. Coming down just west of the church. It kind .

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of goes blank right in there, unless that's it. Now, this couldn't be the same trail here. It comes too close to the river.

(The investigating officer showed two photographs to the witness.)

Q. Were either one of these individuals the one you saw?

A. I couldn't say, sir.

Q. What?

A. The fellow I saw looked larger than those two. To the best I can remember, he was pretty stocky, and I saw his back.

Q. I provided photos of SSG David Mitchell and SGT E-7 Isaiah Cowan -- no identification.

Would you say these are not the individuals?

A. I couldn't say one way or the other, sir. Like I say, we were seventy-five to a hundred feet, and all I saw was his back.

Q. Were there any other ditches besides the one that we have just discussed where you saw the sergeant fire?

A. Not that I saw, sir.

Q. That was "the" ditch?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. How many people did you evacuate?

A. I believe I made two lifts. I am not really sure. I would estimate maybe ten. I am not too sure, though, women and kids mostly.

Q. What was their condition?

A. They were in good shape, no wounds or anything. They were in a bunker when we saw them, and their papa-san, or father, he was sitting in the doorway of the bunker. He was apparently waiting for the troops to get there so he could put up his hands or something.

Q. The sergeant who shot into the ditch, you said.

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1 he was heavysset?

2 A. He appeared to be, sir, real stocky.

3
4 Q. Real stocky?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6
7 Q. About what height?

8 A. Possibly 5'8". He could have been taller
9 than that.

10
11 Q. And was he fat?

12 A. He was more on the fat side than he was lean.
13 He was real stocky, as best I can remember.

14
15 Q. This is a sketch prepared by one of the squad
16 leaders. The landing zone was west of the village. There
17 was supposedly a bunker complex, or mound of dirt, along
18 here (indicating on sketch). A ditch was supposed to
19 be located somewhere in this vicinity, on the east side
20 of the village. Your helicopter, or the helicopters,
21 as he described it, set down somewhere up here, which was
22 in another hut complex, unnamed, northeast of My Lai (4).
23

24 A second sketch made by Thompson -- these are
25 all schematic -- shows My Lai (4) and shows the road and
26 the ditch to the southeast side of My Lai (4).

27 A. I'd go along with that, sir.
28

29 Q. With the helicopters setting down up here
30 initially, the H-23s setting down up here (indicating
31 on sketch), and the bunker location here, surrounded
32 by some vegetation. Thompson states that he sat down,
33 picked up a wounded boy, and as he left, his crew chief
34 said there was an NCO who had fired into a ditch.

35 A. Yes, sir, he told me that he picked up that
36 boy later. I didn't see him pick the boy up.
37

38 Q. When you saw this man fire into the ditch,
39 was this the same time that --

40 A. (Interposing) Thompson saw.
41

42 Q. -- Thompson saw him?

43 A. I only saw him once, sir.
44

45 Q. And that was when you landed up here to pick up

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the people from the bunker?

A. I don't know if it was before or after, or within the same time. It seems like I was just in a right turn and looked out the left cargo door and saw him. It was to the east of where those people were in that ditch.

Q. Did you ever talk to any of the people on the ground, US Forces?

A. No, sir, not by radio. The high gun ship was doing the como with the ground people.

Q. Did you talk to anybody when you landed?

A. No, sir, didn't get out of the aircraft. We were forward of the troops. They were sweeping to the east-northeast and we were forward of them, their line. I believe while we were on the ground they did catch up to us.

Q. Did you see any people that appeared to be stacked in piles, dead?

A. The ditch was where the majority of them were. It seems like there was a pile of people right in that trail and road intersection.

Q. How do you suppose those people got in that ditch?

A. I don't know, sir.

Q. Would you have seen them, if they had been in there, when you went on station first?

A. We were to the south of the village, and I believe we were close enough we could have seen them, if they had been there, the first lift.

Q. And this ditch was definitely on the southeast side of the village?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What time did you first notice these people in the ditch? Now, let me tell you that the combat assault took place at 7:30 in the morning, and if you can work from that point and try to recollect what time you first saw these people in the ditch, and also the time that you saw this man fire into the ditch.

A. We were out there, like I say, I guess an hour and

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a half to two hours during the initial insertion, and after it, and it seemed like we broke -- it must have been afternoon when we came back. I remember it was fairly hot when we got back out there that afternoon, or when we did get back, so I assume it was afternoon. I would say, as a guess, one-thirty, two o'clock when we got back out there.

Q. That's when you saw what, the people in the ditch?

A. The people in the ditch.

Q. And what time did you see the sergeant fire?

A. That same area of time, or around one-thirty or two o'clock, I would say.

Q. Did you evacuate any casualties?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you see this many people killed in the village either before or after this operation at any other time during your tour?

A. Do you mean any other operation?

Q. Yes.

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you operate in this area before the 16th of March?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And did you participate in the combat assault before the 16th of March in this area?

A. I couldn't say specifically, but I would imagine I did. I was there from March '67. We moved to Chu Lai around April and May of '67. I would like to say there shouldn't have been any doubt whether these people were VC or not. Some of them were small babies, infants.

Q. These were in the ditch?

A. Well, I know of one instance when they were in a little hootch complex, appeared to be the kid's mother and the small baby.

Q. What happened there?

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A. They appeared to be shot in the head.

Q. These were bodies?

A. That's right.

Q. In the head?

A. Appeared to be. There was blood around that area, the infant's head.

Q. At what distance did you see this?

A. Seventy-five to a hundred feet.

Q. Were you close enough to these various bodies to note the type wounds that the people had?

A. Just that mother and child in that one hootch complex had a lot of blood around its head, so I just assumed it was shot in the head.

Q. Which side of the village was this on?

A. It was kind of on the southeast side, I would say, sir.

Q. Did any of these people appear to be hit by shrapnel?

A. I couldn't say, sir.

Q. Did you see any evidence of craters in the area?

A. No, sir, I don't remember any particularly.

Q. Did you know any of the people in this unit?

A. No, sir. Personally?

Q. Yes.

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you see Warrant Officer Thompson land and talk to an individual on the ground?

A. I believe he did, sir.

Q. Do you know whom he talked to?

A. No, sir, I don't.

Q. Was the colored sergeant with this individual when he talked to him?

A. I couldn't say, sir.

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Q. Did you ever see any type of what may have been an atrocity committed other than the sergeant firing into the ditch?

A. No, sir, that was the only actual shooting I did see.

Q. Did you see Warrant Officer Thompson take a wounded boy out of that ditch?

A. No, sir, I didn't. Sir, something just came to light. I think there was a reason there was a break, when I was out there for the first insertion and later on, is we would send a 23 out and he would stay out three hours, and they would send a gun ship out, and we were operating two gun teams, so that's the reason we weren't out there all the time?

Q. You went back to refuel.

A. Refuel.

Q. Did you see any medical attention being given to civilians or anyone on the ground?

A. I don't believe I did, sir.

Q. Let's break for five minutes.

(A brief recess was taken, following which the interrogation resumed as follows:)

Q. I will remind you you are still under oath.

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What was the distance from the landing zone to the village, approximately?

A. Oh, maybe 200 meters at the most, I would say.

Q. It was very close to the village then?

A. It was fairly close, as best I remember.

Q. Did you ever see at any time any troops on the road to the south of the village?

A. It seems like they approached it from the north. I saw a few on the trail that I spoke of that intersected the road, or dead-ended at the road at a ninety degree angle. I saw some on that trail later on that day.

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Q. What type of road was this?
A. The one running southwest-northeast?

Q. The main road shown on the map running generally east-west?

A. It was more or less a trail, dirt.

Q. Dirt road?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. What do you estimate was the width of the road?
A. Ten to twelve feet, or something.

Q. Two-lane? Would it accommodate two vehicles?
A. No, sir, I don't believe it would.

Q. Were there ditches on the side of the road?
A. Yes, sir, small ones, I believe. Close to the hill there were ditches. Where it got out to the rice paddies, I believe it just sloped off and went to the rice paddies, but close to Hill 85, on the south side and on the north side, along there I think it had a few ditches, real shallow, though. They weren't big, I don't believe.

Q. What would you estimate was the height of the road over the surrounding terrain?
A. Three to four feet, I believe.

Q. Then it set up a little bit?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Would it give the appearance of a causeway, which would be a fill on which a road was built?
A. It looked more like a fill. It was more or less a trail, it seemed like. It looked like it had been built up, filled in.

Q. In that particular area in march, was this the monsoon season?
A. I can't remember. I don't think we had any problem with weather that day.

Q. Do you remember if the area was inundated?
A. I beg your pardon, sir.

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Q. Was there a lot of inundation, water collected over in the area?

A. No, sir, I don't believe so.

Q. I would like for you, to the best of your ability, using the photographs and the map, sketch for me the village, the landing zone, the road, the ditch, and where you sat down to pick up the Vietnamese civilians.

A. How do you indicate a village, just a circle?

Q. Let me give you a legend.

(COL Wilson wrote legend on sketch.)

Let's put a "north" arrow right here, and let's do this first, put this road generally along here and work from there. Put the village about right there.

A. All right, sir.

Q. You don't have to put all the huts. Just show generally where the huts were.

(The witness drew sketch.)

Label that "My Lai (4)".

(The witness complied.)

A. It seems like there was one large building or complex in My Lai (4) and then other just small hamlets in between. I would have thought the LZ was up to the north up here. It might have been one of those operations where they had one or more landing zones, but it seemed like the main one was up to the north, and, like I say, there was a trail coming in intersecting the road at a ninety degree angle. I don't know whether it came through the village west, or what. I will put the trail here.

(The witness drew on sketch.)

Q. Is that the ditch?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Use that ditch legend down there.

A. Sir, I remember the ditch didn't run very far.

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1 It was just, I would say, 50 to 75 meters long.

2
3 Q. But it did run into the road?

4 A. Yes, sir, it ran right up to the edge of the
5 road, and it seems like there were hamlets scattered
6 all around the area, you know, how they would have one
7 hootch with trees all the way around it, and I guess we
8 made the pickup.
9

10 Q. Put an "X" where you made the pickup.

11 A. It was to the northeast. I don't know how far.
12

13 Q. Label that your pickup, OK.

14 A. I remember I landed to the north of the hootch
15 where we picked up the people. They were in a bunker
16 down in the hamlet, kind of like this, I suppose (drawing
17 on sketch).
18

19 Q. Now, where did you see the sergeant fire? Just
20 point it out to me.

21 A. He was about half way in the ditch.
22

23 Q. OK. Right there (indicating on sketch)?

24 A. Yes, sir, somewhere in that area. It appeared
25 he shot the individual in the head, from the air.
26

27 Q. You saw him fire at an individual then?

28 A. Well, I couldn't tell where he was, you know,
29 going to shoot, of course, before he fired, but when he
30 fired you could see the individual's head, an explosion
31 like an M16 does when it hits.
32

33 Q. Was the individual standing or lying?

34 A. Lying, sir. No one in the ditch was standing.
35

36 Q. Was this sergeant very black?

37 A. I believe he was, sir.
38

39 Q. He couldn't have been a Vietnamese?

40 A. No, sir. He was wearing jungle fatigues and
41 insignia on his arms.
42

43 Q. Did he have on a name tag?

44 A. I wasn't that close. All I saw was his back,
45 his right shoulder and the right side of his back.

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Q. He had on a helmet?

A. I believe he had on a hard hat.

Q. Any identification on the helmet?

A. No, sir, not that I could tell.

Q. Was there anybody around him when he did this?

A. No, sir, he was by himself. I don't know where the rest of his people were. He must have been behind their lines.

Q. How many civilians did you pick up -- nine to ten, did you say?

A. Yes, sir, took them by this trail right here (indicating on map).

Q. You took them to Ky Tay and let them out in that vicinity?

A. South side of the road, sir, and they walked up the trail. That has to be the same trail that forked off the main road to the northeast. I am sure that is the same trail. The ditch did have several trees on it. I believe they were on both sides of it.

Q. How about in the village itself? Were there trees in the village?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Where were the rice fields, surrounding the village?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Where were the bodies that were along the road in reference to the ditch?

A. They were along this trail. There were some in the intersection of the trail, and I believe they put some right just north of the road.

Q. What do you mean "they put some"?

A. Well, they were there. They appeared to be stacked up.

Q. They were stacked up?

A. They were in a group. I don't know if you could call it stacked or not.

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Q. How many?

A. I would guess or estimate 10 to 15.

Q. And how many in the ditch?

A. Seventy-five, sir.

Q. Would you put across here "Sketched from memory, not to scale" and sign it and the date.

(The witness complied.)

Q. Was there vegetation surrounding this bunker where you picked up these people?

A. It seems like it was on the west and southwest side.

Q. Were there any troops there at all?

A. Not when the observation helicopter first saw them. I believe we landed before the troops got there, and as we landed they came up around the aircraft.

Q. Were you briefed on the mission before it occurred?

A. Yes, sir, I am sure we were but I don't remember where. I don't remember whether it was at Chue Lai or LZ Dottie, or what.

Q. Where was your company based?

A. Well, actually it was Ky Ha.

Q. How do you spell it?

A. K-y H-a. It is right in the Chu Lai defense area.

Q. You weren't on one of the fire bases then?

A. No, sir.

Q. Where was the 176th?

A. They were at Duc Pho.

Q. Do you know what was located at fire base Uptight?

A. Some 105 batteries, sir.

Q. Is that all?

A. There was battalion headquarters, I suppose, but I don't know what it was.

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Q. Were you ever questioned by a field grade officer after this operation?

A. No, sir.

Q. Regarding the operation?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you see a large number of civilians moving down the east-west road toward Quang Ngai City?

A. Yes, sir, that's the way they were getting out of the village, mostly down the road to the southwest.

Q. How many do you estimate?

A. A couple or three hundred, I guess, sir.

Q. What time of day was this?

A. Right after the initial insertion, I am sure. They weren't leaving that many, at the time, or in the afternoon.

Q. What time did you say?

A. Right after the insertion.

Q. That many were leaving then?

A. Well, maybe a few minutes after the insertion.

Q. Were they driving cattle or were they by themselves just as individuals?

A. There might have been a few driving cattle but most of them were just individuals.

Q. Did you at any time see a helicopter firing on the road at the time that these people were moving toward Quang Ngai?

A. Yes, sir, it was a C&C ship. He caught a couple young males evacuating along that road, and he called us over there to look at them, and he was putting fire down in front of them, I believe, to stop them, and the 23 was circling around and he put a little fire in front of them to stop them and they wouldn't stop. To the best of my memory, they kept walking. They didn't have any packs or anything on.

Q. Were these two men out in front of the civilians

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moving along the road?

A. They were in the midst of the civilians. They were all together.

Q. From your description of the bodies that you saw along the road, they were in one location; they weren't scattered the entire distance? Is that correct?

A. Well, at first -- I believe as soon as the lift went in, the Sharks or Muskets, whichever team it was, the 174th or 176th, I believe they shot a few just on the south side of the road, and they were there for awhile and then that afternoon when we came back, I am not sure if they were still in the same position or not, but there were some along the road. They were kind of scattered.

Q. In other words, the gun ships took people under fire south of the road?

A. Yes, sir, at the initial insertion.

Q. How far south of the road?

A. Right alongside the edge of the road about ten meters. That's where the gun ship was hovering over the trees shooting.

Q. And was this close to the location which you placed on your sketch?

A. Yes, sir. Well, I would say it was in between the ditch and the trail.

Q. How many meters off the road?

A. Approximately ten at the most.

Q. How many people were in this group that were killed by the gun ships?

A. I don't know if it was a group or not, sir. I would say -- well, I am not sure if there was even more than one. I am sure there was one. I am not sure. There might have been two.

Q. Did you use any smoke on this day for marking purposes?

A. Out of my ship personally?

Q. Yes. FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

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A. I am not sure if we did or not, sir. I think we probably marked that one man that we took under fire. At the beginning we more than likely marked him. We usually did use smoke, but farther than that I am not sure.

Q. Was he in this area where the bodies were?

A. Yes, sir, on the same area where the ditch and the trail was. He was more on the slope 85. He was trying to get away up the slope.

Q. Did you see any Vietnamese National Police or ARVN soldiers on this operation?

A. No, sir, I didn't.

Q. Did you hear any explosions or see any explosions in the village?

A. I don't remember any, sir.

Q. You mentioned the village was burning. Was this when you went on station the second time?

A. I believe it was; yes, sir.

Q. Was the entire village burning?

A. No, sir, it was more like scattered hootches, I believe.

Q. Scattered hootches?

A. Yes, sir. I am not sure whether the entire village burned down after it was over or not.

Q. Did you ever go back over the village at any time subsequent to the operation?

A. I don't believe so, sir.

Q. Did you operate out in the coastal area here very much?

A. Yes, sir, we worked the entire area from the river all the way up to south of Chu Lai. We worked east and west of Highway 1. We did quite a bit of work out on the peninsula, Batangan Peninsula.

Q. The villages along the coastal area, what was their condition?

A. Right out on the peninsula out here they were

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in real bad shape. Most of them were bombed out or gutted out, but they were that way when we got to Chu Lai, I believe.

Q. What about the area down around Pinkville?

A. I believe most of those were partially destroyed also, I believe. Pinkville itself, I think, was, you know, just rubble more or less, a few walls standing but no mud hootches or anything.

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

A. Not that I can think of, sir.

Q. Do you have any further statements to make regarding the subject under investigation?

A. No, sir.

Q. Were you the low or the high gun ship?

A. Low gun ship, sir.

Q. What's the normal altitude that you fly?

A. Different aircraft commanders flew it a different way. I usually flew fifty, seventy-five, a hundred feet in direct contact with the observation helicopter.

Q. Did you normally see your target, or did you fire where the observation helicopter told you to fire?

A. Well, if he received fire, threw smoke, and told us that's where he got the fire, that's where we shot.

Q. Just once more now, since we have gotten this sketch and the area pretty well in mind, the escort gun ships for the combat assault, for the slicks, were they forward of the air wave or did they escort them to the side, or just what was their position in the column?

A. As best I can remember, sir, they were to the side.

Q. How far from the assaulting slicks?

A. Maybe a hundred, seventy-five to a hundred meters to the side, and then as the slicks come in they would shoot down in front of them and break to the side, sir.

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2 Q. Did they break to the side when the slicks
3 landed, or before, or after?

4 A. Well, they usually come side by side, if I
5 remember, then the first two break, and the second two
6 are shooting. They just escort them all the way in and
7 they keep this daisy chain going until the slicks get
8 there.

9 Q. And they fire generally in the direction that
10 the approach --

11 A. (Interposing) Yes, sir, prepping the LZ.

12 Q. It is not likely that they would fire across
13 the column as it moved in?

14 A. No, sir.

15 Q. Would it be likely that they would fire off
16 to the flanks of the column?

17 A. It could happen.

18 Q. But they are normally flying --

19 A. (Interposing) Parallel.

20 Q. -- on the flanks of the column?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. Firing to the front?

23 A. Right, sir, unless a slick called for receiving
24 fire from the side or something, then they would usually
25 shoot, but they were usually supposed to confine their
26 fire to the LZ.

27 Q. Now, at the time that the gun ships were firing
28 on the road, which direction were they flying?

29 A. I would say the slicks had already gotten out
30 and the gun ships were down low level looking for people
31 coming out of the village, and flying to the south, I
32 would say, when the assault --

33 Q. (Interposing) Flying to the south?

34 A. I would guess, when they saw this individual
35 and took him under fire.

36 Q. Well, was the road flown by the gun ships, I
37 mean using the road, flying straight down the road?

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A. Our team was more along the road east and west. The other two teams, if there were two -- I am not sure if there were two or not -- they were up on the east and west side, I think.

Q. Any further statements?

A. Not that I can think of, sir.

Q. 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 ordered 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.

A. Yes, sir.

Q. OK, thank you for coming.

A. All right, sir.

(The witness was excused.)

(The foregoing testimony of CW2 Dan R. Millians 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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