

# Ex-GI Tells Mass Slaying In Viet Village

NEW YORK — (AP) — A 22 year old Army veteran says in a CBS TV interview he killed "10 to 15" Vietnamese civilians on orders from Lt. William L. Calley Jr. during the alleged massacre at My Lai in March, 1968.

The Army announced yesterday that Calley will be given a general court-martial on charges of premeditated murder in the deaths of 109 men, women and children in the village of My Lai.

"Why did you do it?" the veteran, Paul Meadlo of Terre Haute, Ind., was asked by interviewer Mike Wallace.

"Why did I do it? Because I felt like I was ordered to do it. And it seemed like I realized — at the time I felt like I was doing the right thing," Meadlo said.

### Lost Buddy

"Because, like I said, I lost buddies, I lost a damn good buddy, Bobby Wilson, and it was on my conscience. So after I done it I felt good, but later on that day, it was gettin' to me."

Meadlo said he estimated "just by looking" that 370 men, women, children and babies were killed that day in My Lai.

He said the company commander, Capt. Ernest Medina, "was right there. Why didn't he put a stop to it? He knew what was going on . . . he was right there . . . he could of put a stop to it anytime he wanted to."

Medina was Calley's immediate superior.

Calley's attorney, George

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W. Latimer, said in Salt Lake City:

"I'm not sure why he (Meadlo) is talking. And I don't know anything about his credibility or the circumstances of the interview. I think it's not good ethics for a witness to be telling things in the press before a trial."

Meadlo said in the interview that the day after the My Lai incident he stepped on a land mine and subsequently lost a foot. He now is out of the Army.

Following are excerpts from the CBS interview:

**Meadlo:** . . . so we moved on into the village, and we started searching out the village and gathering up the people and running them through the center of the village.

**Wallace:** How many people did you round up?

**Meadlo:** Well, there was about 40-45 people that we gathered in the, uh, in like I say, in the center of the village. And, and uh we placed them in there, and it was like a little island, like in the center of the village . . .



TELLS GRUESOME STORY OF MASSACRE

Paul Meadlo as he talked on TV last night

—UPI Photo

**Q.** What kind of people — men, women, children?

**A.** Men, women, children.

**Q.** Babies?

**A.** Babies. And we all hauled them up, we made them squat down, and uh, Lt. Calley came over and said, 'You know what to do with them, don't you?' and I said, 'Yes.' So I took it for granted that he just wanted us to watch them. And he left, and came back about 10 or 15 minutes, and said, 'How come you ain't killed them yet?' And I told him that I didn't think you wanted us to kill them, that you just wanted us to guard them. He said, 'No, I want them dead.' So . . .

**Q.** . . . He told this to all of you, or to you particularly?

**A.** Well I was facing him, so, but the other three, four guys heard it and uh so he stepped back 'bout 10, 15 feet, and he started shooting, I poured about four clips into, to the group.

**Q.** You fired four clips from your . . .

**A.** . . . M16 . . .

**Q.** . . . So you fired some-

thing like 60-70 shots . . .

**A.** Right.

**Q.** And you killed how many at that time?

**A.** Well, I fired them on automatic, so you can't — you just spray the area . . . you really can't know how many you killed. So I might have killed 10 or 15 of them. . . .

**Q.** You're married?

**A.** Right.

**Q.** Children?

**A.** Two. . . .

**Q.** How do you shoot babies?

**A.** I don't know. It's just one of them things. . . .

**Q.** Did you know Lieutenant Calley?

**A.** Yes, he was my platoon leader.

**Q.** And . . . could he have stopped it . . . or he was under orders from Medina?

**A.** I wouldn't know. . . .

**Q.** And what is your feeling now in retrospect as you look back on all of that?

**A.** Well, it's been on my conscience and it's going to stay on my conscience for the rest of my life, but like I said God punished me the very next morning."

**Q.** By . . .

**A.** By me stepping on a land mine. So I feel like I've been punished.