



Associated Press
WITNESS: Ronald L. Haeberle at Calley courtroom.

Ex-G.I. Says He Witnessed Slaying of

By HOMER BIGART

Special to The New York Times

FORT BENNING, Ga., Nov.

18—A former Army combat photographer testified today that he had seen American soldiers slay unarmed Vietnamese civilians in four separate incidents in the alleged massacre at Mylai.

Ronald L. Haeberle, appearing as a Government witness in the court-martial of First Lieut. William L. Calley Jr., said, however, that he did not see the defendant participate in the alleged slaughter of civilians in the South Vietnamese hamlet

of Mylai 4 on March 16, 1968.

"I never did see Lieutenant Calley," he said.

But he said that he witnessed American soldiers kill a group of 50 to 75 Vietnamese "mainly women, children and small babies," with bursts of automatic fire.

He said that he had seen a woman who appeared to have a baby in her arms try to run away, only to be shot down.

Recalling another incident, he said that he had seen a wounded child hopping toward him on a trail. He lifted his camera and was peering through the range-

finder when, he said, "a G.I. kneeled and put three bullets in the child."

He told of two other shootings south of the hamlet. He said that he had counted "eight to 10" Vietnamese lying dead on a dirt road called Highway 521, and he said that he had later seen troops fire on three Vietnamese males of military age who were moving some cattle in a gully nearby.

Mr. Haeberle said that the troops of Charlie Company, Task Force Barker, Americal Division, had met no resistance in their sweep through Mylai.

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Unarmed Civilians at Mylai but Did Not See Calley

This picture of an undefended village was supported later in the day by another former soldier, Frank D. Beardsley, aide and driver to the commander of the task force, Lieut. Col. Frank A. Barker Jr., who was killed three months later.

Mr. Beardsley said that he had rejected a combat infantry badge because he had encountered no enemy fire at Mylai.

The testimony of these two witnesses — that the alleged massacre at Mylai was unprovoked — went unchallenged by the defense.

Lieutenant Calley's chief

counsel, George W. Latimer brought out that Mr. Haeberle had made more than \$35,000 by selling pictures of the alleged atrocity. Mr. Latimer used this in an attempt to impugn Mr. Haeberle's credibility.

He charged Mr. Haeberle with dereliction for not immediately reporting the alleged atrocity to his superiors instead of "remaining entirely mum" and withholding color films of the incident.

Mr. Haeberle said that he had been "afraid" to disclose what had happened at Mylai

because "I didn't trust the Army."

"I didn't want to start the ball rolling in this thing," he said. The pictures were not offered for sale to news media he said, until he learned that the Army was investigating the Mylai incident.

He said that he had given prints of his films to the first agent of the Army's Criminal Investigation Division to approach him and promised not to peddle the originals until the C.I.D. had finished its investigation.

Neither Mr. Haeberle nor Mr. Beardsley had accompanied Lieutenant Calley's first platoon of Charlie Company into Mylai, a hamlet in the Sonmy village complex. They arrived in the second wave of helicopters, with the third platoon, they testified, and did not encounter the defendant, who is charged with premeditated murder in the killing of 102 civilians.

Both said that they had stayed for about an hour with the third platoon, which was searching the area south of Mylai, then returned to the village,