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DOCTORS TESTIFY CALLEY WAS SANE

Believe His Strain at Mylai
Did Not Exceed G.I.'s

By HOMER BIGART

Special to The New York Times

FORT BENNING, Ga., Feb. 25 — Two Army psychiatrists testified today that First Lieutenant William L. Calley Jr. was sane at Mylai and was suffering no more from battle strain than were any of his soldiers on the day the officer, according to his admission killed South Vietnamese civilians three years ago in the hamlet of Mylai.

The psychiatrists were also skeptical of a new defense theory concerning the actions of the young officer, who is being court-martialed for the premeditated murder of at least 102 men, women and children.

George W. Latimer, the chief defense counsel, suggested that Lieutenant Calley had been trained and conditioned, somewhat like a Pavlovian dog salivating at the sound of a dinner bell, to kill Vietnamese civilians on receiving certain cues and stimuli.

In Lieutenant Calley's case, the cues and stimuli, according to his own testimony earlier this week, were repeated orders that he said he had received from his company commander, Capt. Ernest L. Medina. These orders, he testified, were to kill every person found in Mylai 4 when his troops raided the hamlet March 16, 1968.

Skeptical of Analogy

The psychiatrists were skeptical of the Pavlovian analogy. Maj. Henry E. Edwards, a slender, soft-spoken man with a close-cropped Afro, replied softly, "I would not say that" when Mr. Latimer opened with: "I ask you, Major, if you believe you can condition the mind along a certain channel—I'll say a channel to kill—and leave generally untouched other areas of thinking?"

Mr. Latimer then referred to the experiment of the Russian scientist Ivan B. Pavlov in conditioning dogs to respond to stimuli.

"I don't think Dr. Pavlov ever said that a person can be conditioned to kill," said Major Edwards mildly.

The other psychiatrist, Lieut. Col. Franklin D. Jones, assistant chief of psychiatry services at Walter Reed Medical Center, said that it was possible that Lieutenant Calley could be trained to a degree that he would act automatically under certain conditions.

"I think this could happen, but I'd have to see evidence of it," said Colonel Jones, who spent a year in Vietnam observing the effects of combat on soldiers.

The psychiatrists were the first rebuttal witnesses. The defense rested its case late yesterday with the concluding testimony of its 40th witness, Lieutenant Calley. The psychiatrists were members of a three-man sanity board that examined the defendant at Walter Reed.

More Testimony Today

The third member of the panel, Col. Arnold W. Johnson, will be heard tomorrow.

Both Major Edwards and Colonel Jones said that in their opinion Lieutenant Calley was "free from any mental disease, defect or derangement."

Major Edwards said that he had found "no evidence of any psychotic or neurotic condition, intoxication, disorganization, confusion or disturbance in his behavior at all."

Both swore to the opinion that Lieutenant Calley on the day of the alleged massacre was fully able to distinguish between right and wrong and to adhere to the right. They said that he was fully capable of premeditating the murder of his victims.

Their opinions, they said, were based on observation, examination and tests of Lieutenant Calley, on interviews with him and on available details of his family and educational background, his Army record and tapes of what the key witnesses said at this trial.