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CHAPLAIN RECALLS MYLAI COMPLAINTS

But He Says He Dismissed
His Colleague's Account

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FORT MEADE, Md., Nov. 16 —An Army chaplain testified today at the court-martial of Col. Oran K. Henderson that he had received complaints from another chaplain about indiscriminate shooting at Mylai 4, but had dismissed them as the words of a man "who was always crying wolf."

The witness, Lieut. Col. Raymond P. Hoffman Jr., an Episcopal chaplain who served in the 11th Infantry Brigade, which Colonel Henderson led in March, 1968, said that, because of his colleague's reputation, he had not reported the atrocity complaints to his Army superiors.

The chaplain to whom he referred, former Capt. Carl E. Creswell, now an Episcopal minister in Emporia, Kan., had passed on the complaint about wild shooting at Mylai after hearing it from a helicopter pilot who had participated in the assault.

Colonel Hoffman, who is now stationed in Hawaii, appeared as a defense witness for Colonel Henderson, who is being tried on charges that he covered up reports of the mass killings at Mylai and later lied to an Army inquiry panel. He is the highest ranking officer to be tried on charges arising from the Mylai incident.

Praises Henderson

Another chaplain, Maj. Harry P. Kissinger 3d, a Baptist endorsed to the Army by the Association of Gospel Churches, said that in his service under Colonel Henderson he had always found him to be a man of honesty and "the highest caliber military leader."

Another witness, John W. Moody, a former information officer of the 11th Brigade and now a film maker in Santa Monica, Calif., said that an Army reporter and photographer who had been assigned to cover the Mylai attack had said nothing to him about civilian casualties although both appeared to be shaken by the experience.

"It was the first time they had been in combat," Mr. Moody said, referring to the reporter and the photographer. "It seemed reasonable to me that this is why they were upset."

Mr. Moody added, however, that if his men had told him of the slaying of civilians, he would have reported the matter to Colonel Henderson.

In other testimony, a former helicopter pilot for the late Lieut. Col. Frank A. Barker, the infantry task force commander at Mylai, said that Colonel Barker became secretive and appeared to be conducting an investigation in the weeks after the attack.

The former pilot, Jeffrey C. Howard, who is now a real estate salesman in Athens, Ga., thus supported Colonel Henderson's contention that he had ordered Colonel Barker to investigate allegations of an atrocity.