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# ANTIWAR GROUP HEARS OF 'CRIMES'

## Veterans Speak at Informal Inquiry on Vietnam

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1 (AP) —According to former servicemen, American soldiers killed Vietnamese civilians and committed atrocities almost as a matter of routine. They spoke today at an informal war-crimes inquiry by

antiwar groups timed to coincide with the court-martial of First Lieut. William L. Calley Jr. for his alleged part in the death of many civilians at Mylai.

Typical of accounts heard at the start of the three-day session was that given by Philip Wingenbach, 24 years old, of Buffalo, a former medical aid man with the 173d Airborne Brigade.

"The guys in my unit just wanted to kill people," he said. "It was fun, just to shoot people. It didn't bother me at the time."

He said that after his outfit

had a short fight, supposedly with enemy troops, firecrackers were heard going off during a village celebration of the Lunar New Year holiday. Heavily armed jeeps, he said, fired into the village, killing 18 civilians by official tally.

The official investigation faded, Mr. Wingenbach testified, because "all the fellows got together and told the right story."

As did other unofficial witnesses at the hearing, all of whom said they had been honorably discharged, Mr. Wingenbach said there were pressures from higher officers to

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produce higher body counts of the enemy.

A former first lieutenant, Karry Rottmann of Boston, said that as an information officer with the 25th Division in 1967, he heard Gen. William C. Westmoreland, then United States commander in chief in Vietnam, say: "The pacification program is out. I want more bodies."

### Competing for Honors

Mr. Rottmann said that when he was in Vietnam, the "magic figure was at least 2,000 a week" but that it was later reduced to 1,000.

He declined to specify who

had set the figure, saying only: "I have been told that."

He told of seeing Americans fighting each other over credit for killing a Vietcong, so intense was the competition to build up the score, which sometimes won a soldier a free rest trip.

Michael Uhl, another former first lieutenant and counter-intelligence officer of the Americal Division—Lieutenant Calley's division—said that interrogators of Vietnamese routinely beat captives and that "electrical tortures were used daily" to get information.

A former sergeant, Robert

Anderson of Minneapolis, also of the Americal Division, attributed the attitude of American servicemen toward Vietnamese to military indoctrination, which, he said, "told us, 'You can't trust any Vietnamese.'"

Nathan Hale of Coatesville, Pa., testified that he had volunteered for the Army, had "been a good soldier in the field and believed I was right because I was told I was right."

He said he had beaten Vietnamese in the presence of battalion officers of the American Division and sometimes "surface-cut people with knives to get information."