

Ex-GI Tells of Order To Wipe Out Village

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — A former GI says U.S. troops were ordered to wipe out the Vietnamese village of Song My as an enemy stronghold in 1968 — and did.

"Everything and everybody was wiped out," Charles Gruver, 24, said in an interview yesterday. "Men, women . . . children . . . only the chickens were left alive."

The killings on March 16, 1968, have led to charges that there was a massacre of civilians. Gruver said he was satisfied that Song My — U.S. military code name Pinkville — was infested with soldiers of the North Vietnamese regular army, but added:

"We'd never been ordered to wipe out everybody before. Most of the guys didn't dig it at all. When it was all over, they were almost sick."

The Army has charged 1st Lt. William L. Calley Jr., 26, of Waynesville, N.C., with "the premeditated murder of approximately 100 Vietnamese civilians."

S. Sgt. David Mitchell, 29, of St. Francisville, La., a member of Calley's platoon, has been charged with assault with intent to commit murder.

North Claims Allies Murdered 1,200 Viets

SAIGON (AP) — The Viet Cong charged today that U.S. and South Korean troops murdered more than 1,200 Vietnamese civilians in massacres in seven villages in Quang Ngai and Quang Nam provinces in February and March, 1968.

The Viet Cong's Liberation Radio broadcast an official statement it said was issued March 25, 1968, charging that American troops "ravaged, pillaged, burned and murdered their way through the village of Song My and its satellite hamlets of My Hoi and Xuan Dong on March 16, 1968." It claimed that "501 innocent civilians were murdered in cold blood."

In February, the broadcast continued, "South Korean puppet mercenary troops murdered more than 700 of our people in the villages of Dien An, Dien Hai, Cam Ha and Xuyen My."

No record could be found indicating that the 20-month-old statement was broadcast before, and the broadcast today gave no indication why the charges were not publicized previously.