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# Pinkville

## Officer to Face Trial

*Associated Press*

Washington

**The Army yesterday ordered a young lieutenant court-martialed on charges of premeditated murder of 109 South Vietnamese at Song My village.**

The case of First Lieutenant William L. Calley Jr., will be tried as a capital offense, meaning that if convicted the 26-year-old Waynesville, N.C., man faces a penalty of death or life imprisonment.

Calley is the first American soldier formally accused in the alleged mass killings, which have stirred up an international furor.

One other Army man — Staff Sargeant David Mitchell — has been charged with assault with intent to murder villagers in the area known as Pinkville, and the Army is investigating 25 other sol-

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diers and exsoliers in connection with the case.

The Calley case may be unprecedented so far as the magnitude of the alleged crimes is concerned. Army officers said they could not recall another case in previous wars where an Army man was accused of killing so many civilians.

The decision to hold a gen-

eral court - martial for Calley was made by Major General Orwin C. Talbott, commanding officer at Ft. Benning, Ga. where Calley now is stationed.

**CHARGES**

The announcement brought the first official release of six charges and specifications setting forth the alleged atrocities.

In one major accusation,

Calley is accused of killing "an unknown number of Oriental human beings, not less than 70, males and females of various ages . . . by means of shooting them with a rifle."

Other specifications charged Calley with killing at least 39 persons. One was approximately two years old, name and sex unknown.

Army legal experts have

said that Calley could be charged with premeditated murder if he issued an order leading to the killing and did not do the actual firing himself.

**TRIGGER**

However, Defense Department spokesman Richard Capen said the specifications mean "that he did these things," that is, that Calley allegedly pulled the trigger in all 109 instances.

Calley's court - martial will be held at Ft. Benning and will be public except for times when the judge may order closed sessions to protect secret information, Capen said.

A trial date has not been set. The Army said it will take at least a month for Calley's attorney, George W. Latimer, and the prosecution to prepare their cases. Latimer is a former judge on the military court of appeals.

As the Calley case came to a head, the Army announced the assignment of Lieutenant General William R. Peers to determine whether Army field officers who originally investigated the case should be held accountable for covering it up.

**UNNOTICED**

After an initial on - the - scene investigation by the 11th Infantry Brigade in 1968, the alleged massacre of March 16, 1968, went virtually unnoticed for a year.

Last March Army headquarters in Washington decided to reopen the case on the basis of a letter written to 30 congressmen by an ex-GI saying he heard a number of atrocity stories about Song My.