

Pentagon's Songmy Inquiry Will Hear Medina Today

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 3 — Capt. Ernest L. Medina, commander of C Company at the time it is alleged to have committed the Songmy massacre, has been summoned to the Pentagon tomorrow to testify before the Army board that is investigating the original Army field investigation.

The Army confirmed that First Lieut. William L. Calley Jr., who has been charged with the killing of 109 South Vietnamese civilians, would also be called to testify before the board.

The board, headed by Lieut. Gen. William Peers and consisting of five officers and two Army civilians, has been instructed by Army Secretary Stanley R. Resor and Gen. William C. Westmoreland, Army Chief of Staff, to determine the adequacy of Army investigations into such incidents.

The board has also been instructed to determine whether "possible suppression or withholding of information" occurred during the original investigation and review of the alleged slayings.

The Army said that the investigation into the investigation got under way yesterday afternoon with the questioning of Col. Oren K. Henderson, the former commander of the 11th Light Infantry Brigade who conducted the original inquiry only two days after the massacre is alleged to have occurred on March 16, 1968.

Hearing Held in Basement

The colonel was asked to testify on the contents of his original report and to subsequent actions after he had forwarded it to American Division headquarters on April 24, 1968. An Army spokesman said that the hearing lasted until late in the night.

Today was the first full day of the hearing, which is being held under tight security in the Army Operations Center in the basement of the Pentagon.

Called as witnesses today were Maj. Robert W. McNight, Lieut. Col. Richard K. Blackledge, Maj. Charles C. Calhoun, Capt. Eugene M. Koutauc and Chief Warrant Officer Hugh C. Thompson.

Chief Warrant Officer Thompson is an Army helicopter pilot decorated for bravery in the area of Songmy on the day of the alleged massacre. He has been identified by the Army as the person who sparked the original investigation by reporting killings to Colonel Henderson.

The officers called today are either members of the 11th Brigade or Task Force Barker, of which C Company was a unit. They are either operations or intelligence officers who had specific knowledge of the nature

of the action in the Songmy area.

The investigation will hear sworn testimony for the next few weeks and take depositions from those who cannot appear before it.

It is then expected to go to Vietnam, returning to make a report and recommendations after the first of next year.

Brig. Gen. Winart Sidel, Army Chief of Information, said today that it was possible that charges would be made against other officers if the Peers investigation found evidence of a coverup or any other negligent original investigation and its review.

He also hinted at a possible violation of Army regulations by those personnel at the alleged massacre who had no

fully reported the occurrence, citing "especially photographers" in an apparent reference to the Army photographer who later sold color photographs of the alleged incident to a national magazine.

gence in the original investigation.

He said that neither Secretary Resor nor General Westmoreland was "satisfied with the nature and scope of the