

Events in Investigation

Following are the major events leading up to yesterday's action by the Army in connection with the alleged massacre at Songmy:

March 16, 1968—Company C, First Battalion, 20th Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade, sweeps through a hamlet called Mylai 4 in the village of Songmy, Quangngai Province, South Vietnam.

March 29, 1969—Ronald Lee Ridenhour, a Vietnam veteran, writes to President Nixon, the Secretary of Defense and 23 members of Congress, alleging that a massacre occurred at Mylai 4.

Sept. 5, 1969—The Army charges First Lieut. William L. Calley, Jr. with the murder of an "unspecified number" of Vietnamese civilians.

Nov. 12, 1969—Details of the charges against Lieutenant Calley begin to receive national attention in the press.

Nov. 14, 1969—S. Sgt. David Mitchell is charged with intent to murder 30 civilians at Mylai 4.

Nov. 16, 1969—Vietnamese villagers tell United States Army criminal investigators that massacre toll was 567.

Nov. 19, 1969—Army says it is investigating 26 former members of Company C in connection with the alleged massacre.

Nov. 22, 1969—South Vietnamese Government, in statement approved by President Nguyen Van Thieu, denies massacre occurred.

Nov. 24, 1969—Six counts charging the murder of 109 men, women and children are filed against Lt. Calley at Fort Benning.

—Army appoints a panel under Lieut. Gen. William R. Peers to study the "nature and scope" of the original investigation of the massacre allegations.

Dec. 4, 1969—Capt. Ernest L. Medina, the commander of Company C when it went through Mylai 4, declares: "I didn't see any massacre in Mylai."

Dec. 9, 1969—President Nixon says there "appears" to have been a massacre at Mylai 4 and promises the punishment of any soldiers whose guilt is proven.

Jan. 8, 1970—Pvt. Gerald Anthony Smith and Sgt. Charles E. Hutto are charged with premeditated murder as well as indecent assault and rape in connection with the events at Mylai 4.

Jan. 14, 1970—The Army says it is now investigating the possibility of charges against 31 former members of Company C.

Feb. 12, 1970—Capt. Thomas K. Willingham, an infantry officer who was serving with a second company in the task force that swept through Songmy, is charged with unpremeditated murder.

March 9, 1970—The Army board headed by General Peers winds up its investigation after hearing 398 witnesses in three months.

March 10, 1970—Captain Medina, the former commander of Company C, is charged with the murder of four civilians at Mylai 4 and also maiming and assault. Capt. Eugene M. Koutouc, an intelligence officer, and three enlisted men are also charged, bringing to 10 the total of those accused in the alleged massacre.