

Statement at Mitchell's Trial Lays Killings to Calley

By DOUGLAS ROBINSON
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FORT HOOD, Tex., Nov. 18—A sworn statement that accused First Lieut. William L. Calley Jr. of ordering and then helping to carry out the killing of at least 100 South Vietnamese civilians was read into the record today at the court-martial of S. Sgt. David Mitchell.

The statement was that of Paul D. Meadlo of Terre Haute, Ind., a former rifleman with the infantry company that attacked the hamlet of Mylai 4. It was read to a hushed courtroom by Ossie B. Brown, Sergeant Mitchell's civilian attorney, after Mr. Meadlo had declined to testify, invoking the privilege against self-incrimination.

As Mr. Meadlo sat impassively on the witness stand, occasionally turning from side to side in the swivel chair, Mr. Brown read from the document that described the witness's role in the alleged massacre as well as that of Lieutenant Calley.

There was no mention in the long statement about any role played in the incident by Sergeant Mitchell in the Sonmy village complex, although at one point Mr. Meadlo is quoted as saying, "Everyone I saw that day was killing people."

Civilians Rounded Up

The statement, which Mr. Meadlo gave to an Army investigator earlier this year, alleged two separate incidents in the hamlet in which old men, women, children and babies had been rounded up and then shot down on orders from Lieutenant Calley, the platoon commander.

The first incident, the statement said, took place in a clearing in the center of the hamlet, where Mr. Meadlo and another soldier were guarding 10 to 15 civilians.

"After we'd guarded them



Associated Press

Paul D. Meadlo leaves the court after declining to testify at court-martial.

for 15 minutes, Lieutenant Calley came over and said, "You know what to do with them," the statement asserted.

"We sat and watched the prisoners," Mr. Brown continued reading. "Lieutenant Calley came back in another 15 minutes and asked why we hadn't killed them. Then Calley stepped back a few feet, raised his rifle and fired a magazine into the group. Then I opened fire, Lieutenant Calley and I exclusively killed this group."

Later, the statement went on, Lieutenant Calley ordered several soldiers, including Mr. Meadlo, to push a group of 75 to 100 civilians into a ditch just outside the hamlet. The lieutenant, the statement said, "pushed some of them in and shot them as they fell."

After the South Vietnamese

were pushed into the ditch, the Meadlo statement continued, Lieutenant Calley and several other members of the platoon, including Mr. Meadlo, opened fire.

"We fired in sporadic bursts of automatic fire until someone pointed out that we were wasting ammunition," the statement said. "Then we switched to semi-automatic fire."

During the shooting, Mr. Meadlo's deposition said, he fired a total of 22 magazines of rifle ammunition at the civilians in the two incidents. The magazine of an M-16 rifle holds 20 rounds.

Another witness, Allan J. Boyce of Bradley Beach, N.J., also invoked the self-incrimination privilege and did not testify. With the court's permission, Mr. Brown also read into the record a statement that Mr. Boyce had given to Army investigators.

This statement, too, accused Lieutenant Calley of ordering the killings and made no mention of any firing by Sergeant Mitchell.

At one point in his statement, Mr. Boyce, asked by the Army investigators why he thought the alleged massacre of civilians had occurred, replied:

"The war does a lot of things to people. They're miserable, and you might want to take it out on them."

Mr. Boyce's statement said that he had not participated in the killings. Asked why the soldiers had burned down the houses before they left the hamlet, he said, "If they shot the people, they might as well burn the village."

Another witness, James Dursi of 1715 East 42d Street, Brooklyn, told the court that he had seen Lieutenant Calley

and Mr. Meadlo fire into the ditch crowded with civilians, and that Mr. Meadlo was crying as he carried out the order to shoot.

Mr. Dursi said that he had also been ordered to fire into the ditch, but that he had refused. "I didn't shoot," he said. "I refused to fire."

"During the shooting, Lieutenant Calley told me to get across the ditch before I got sick," Dr. Dursi continued. "He didn't sound sarcastic. He sounded like he was concerned."

Mr. Dursi, the most positive witness to appear so far on behalf of Sergeant Mitchell, who is charged with assault to commit murder, said that the only time he had seen the defendant during the Mylai incident was shortly after the firing at the ditch.

"He was some distance from the ditch, standing by a hut," he said.

The witness, who said that he was awaiting appointment to the New York Police Department, said that while Mr. Meadlo had been guarding the civilians preceding the first shooting he had been "playing with the children."

When Lieutenant Calley came back and ordered the prisoners "wasted," Mr. Dursi said, "I became nervous and moved my small group of prisoners away." Behind him, as he moved off, he testified, "I could hear Meadlo firing at the people."

—The Essex Academy