

A WITNESS TELLS OF MYLAI SLAYING

Says Medina Shot Unarmed
Woman in a Rice Paddy

By HOMER BIGART

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FORT BENNING, Ga., Nov. 19 — A witness testified today that Capt. Ernest Medina shot a prostrate Vietnamese woman during the alleged Mylai massacre.

The testimony came after the military judge in the court-martial of First Lieut. William L. Calley Jr. ruled that every incident involving American troops in that South Vietnamese village on March 16, 1968, was relevant to this case.

Overruling a Government objection that would have narrowed the scope of the trial to the acts of Lieutenant Calley, the military judge, Col. Reid W. Kennedy, said that he would allow the defense to question witnesses on all phases of the operation.

"The entire transaction at

Mylai has got to be disclosed in this proceeding," Judge Kennedy said. "Any witness can testify to anything he saw or did at Mylai."

This was a victory for the defense. Lieutenant Calley, a platoon leader at Mylai, is accused of killing 102 unarmed and unresisting South Vietnamese civilians, including women and children.

The defense is expected to contend that he was acting under orders from his company commander, Captain Medina, and that not only Lieutenant Calley's platoon, but also every member of Charlie Company of Task Force Barker, Americal Division, had been instructed to destroy the village and shoot everything that moved.

Tells of Body Search

After the ruling, the military defense counsel, Maj. Kenneth A. Raby, brought out through cross-examination the testimony about Captain Medina and the woman.

The witness, John Paul, 23 year old, of Jupiter, Fla., one of Captain Medina's radiomen, said that members of the company headquarters detachment had been searching for bodies that had been spotted by helicopters just west of the ham-

let. They found five Vietnamese in a rice paddy, he said. All appeared dead. One was a woman.

"She was lying face down in the paddy," Mr. Paul said. "We didn't physically check her out. Just as we started turning away from her, she flinched, she moved."

"Medina said, 'Oh, my God, the son of a bitch has got a grenade.' As he was saying that, he pumped two shots into her."

The woman was killed, he said. It later developed that she had been unarmed. What Captain Medina thought was a grenade was a small basket, the witness said.

Later, Mr. Paul said, a boy about 8 years old ran in front of the headquarters detachment as it started moving toward the hamlet.

"A shot was fired from my rear, and immediately the boy dropped," the witness said.

Captain Medina was in "close proximity" but said nothing about the shooting of the child, Mr. Paul added.

The raid on the hamlet, called Mylai 4, encountered no resistance, Mr. Paul said, and he was never asked to radio for fire support.