

Excerpts From the Testimony by Calley

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FORT BENNING, Ga., Feb. 24—Following are excerpts from cross-examination today of First Lieut. William L. Calley Jr.:

Q. How long did you fire into the ditch? A. I have no idea, sir.

Q. How many shots did you fire? A. Six to eight, sir.

Q. One burst or semi-automatic? A. Semi-automatic, sir.

Q. Who did you fire at? A. Into the ditch, sir.

Q. What at in the ditch? A. At the people in the ditch, sir.

Q. How many people were there in the ditch? A. I don't know, sir.

Q. Over how large an area were they in the ditch? A. I don't know, sir.

Q. Could you give us an estimate as to how many people there were in the ditch? A. No, sir.

Q. Would you say it was a large group? A. No, sir.

Q. You said yesterday, I believe previously, that you considered six to eight to be a large group? A. Right, sir.

Q. Would you say it was six to eight? A. I don't know, sir.

Q. You have no idea how many people you saw there? A. No, sir. I don't know. I don't.

What Were They Doing?

Q. What were these people doing as they were being fired upon? A. Nothing, sir.

Q. Were they being hit? A. I would imagine so, sir.

Q. Do you know? A. I don't know if they were being hit when I saw them, no, sir.

Q. Do you know if you hit any of them? A. No, sir, I don't.

Q. How far away were you from them when you fired? A. The muzzle would have been five feet, sir.

Q. You didn't see the bullets' impact? A. Not that I recall, no sir.

Q. How do you know these people were dead when you left the ditch there? A. I don't know, sir, that they were, sir.



Associated Press

Lieut. William L. Calley Jr. leaving court building at Fort Benning, Ga., yesterday, after ending testimony.

Q. Didn't you say yesterday that they were apparently all dead? A. I said they were apparently all dead, but I don't know exactly if they were dead, sir.

Q. Why were they apparently dead? A. They were lying still and weren't moving.

Q. You don't know whether any of your men fired into the ditch?

A. No, sir, I wasn't paying attention to where they were firing, how they were firing, how they were holding their weapons. My main thing was go on, finish off those people as fast as possible and get my people out of position, sir.

Question of Resistance

Q. Did you ever direct that anybody be searched? A. No, sir, not that day. No, sir.

Q. Had your platoon received any resistance in the village? A. I don't know, sir.

Q. By the time you got to the defensive position, did you inquire if they received any resistance? A. No, sir.

Q. Had you ever been shot at before? A. Yes, sir, I had.

Q. Did you know when you were shot at? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Were you shot at that day? A. I don't know, sir.

Q. Did you make a check when you got your men in position, to see if you

suffered any wounded? A. No, sir, I didn't.

Lieutenant Calley was asked about a landing by the helicopter piloted by Chief Warrant Officer Hugh Thompson.

A. He said there were some people up in that area in front of us, and asked me if I could evacuate them. I told him there was no way I could evacuate them except march them with me, that I had no means to.

I told him that he had the helicopter and everything. If he could get some helicopters in there, I would be glad to help evacuate them. But I had no helicopters or any means of evacuating them, Sir.

Q. Did you tell him the only way you could get them out was with a hand grenade? A. No, Sir, I did not.

'I Believe I Might Have'

Q. So then what happened?

A. Let me retract on that statement. I hadn't thought about it until now. I believe I might have, yes, Sir. I said about the only means I have to evacuate them out of there would be a hand grenade. If you have helicopters and everything else, I will be glad to take them out that way. But I had no means to evacuate people.

Q. How many people were evacuated?

A. I believe — I don't remember the exact number, basically about — I really don't know, Sir.

Q. Give us an estimate?

A. I don't know how many people you can get on a gunship. I don't know how much ammunition or fuel the gunships had. There was two gunship loads, I would say three or four on each gunship. Of course they were Vietnamese and much lighter, maybe they could have gotten six on the gunships. I don't know.

Q. You don't recall how many? A. No, Sir. It wasn't significant to me at that time, Sir.

Q. Do you recall the sex of these people? A. No, Sir, I don't.

Q. Were there any children? A. Yes, Sir, I believe there were, Sir.

After a cease-fire order, according to the testimony, Lieutenant Calley had lunch with Capt. Ernest Medina.

Q. Could you relate what Captain Medina's brief rundown of the operation was?

A. Yes, Sir. That we had done a good job, that — but apparently we still weren't fast enough, still couldn't clear the area fast enough."

cause he would have a better idea of what sort of body count he would want to put in than I would, sir.

Q. Just any body count? Just any body count, is that what you are saying? A. Basically, yes, sir.

Q. Captain Medina could just put in any body count that he wanted to put? A. Any body count that was reasonable. I would imagine he would put in the highest acceptable body count that he could.

Reporting the Shootings

Q. Did you tell Captain Medina that you had shot the people in the ditch? A. Yes, sir, I did.

Q. Did he ask any facts about that? A. No, sir.

Q. How did you tell him about it? A. He asked—well, after the higher called back and asked—said it had been reported that a lot of civilians were killed in the area, he wanted to know what the percentage of civilians was.

Q. What did you tell him? A. I told him he would have to make that decision, sir.

Q. Is that what you told him—those were your exact words to the captain? A. Yes, sir.

Q. How do you evacuate someone with a hand grenade? A. I don't have any idea, sir.

Q. Why did you make that statement? A. It was a figure of speech, sir.

Q. The group of Vietnamese that your platoon had, were all of them killed in the ditch? A. I don't know, sir.

Q. Let me ask you this: Did you have any saved up for the mine field? A. No, sir, I did not.

Q. Did you testify that you received an order to save some of them for the mine fields? A. Yes, sir, I did.

Q. Why didn't you save some up for the mine field? A. Captain Medina rescinded that order and told me to waste them, sir.

Failure to Move

Q. All right, now, what's the substance and effect of the conversation you had with Captain Medina in connection with your failure to move?

A. Well, I was still in the same basic location, and Captain Medina more or less called me and asked me why I had disobeyed his orders and hadn't moved out as he had directed me to do. And

I told him again that I was moving as fast as I possibly could, and I was checking these bunkers in the southern part of the village, and that I still had Vietnamese people there, sir, that were slowing me down.

Q. And what did Captain Medina tell you? A. Basically, the hell with the bunkers, waste the people and get your people out there.

Q. Now, at any time did you stop and consider the legality or illegality of those orders? A. No, sir.