

Calley Says He Never Questioned Mylai Orders

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By HOMER BIGART

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—The defense rested in the murder trial of First Lieut. William L. Calley Jr. late today after the officer maintained un-

Excerpts from the testimony will be found on Page 24.

der cross-examination that he was obeying orders when he shot South Vietnamese civilians during the so-called Mylai massacre three years ago.

The orders came from his company commander, Capt. Ernest L. Medina, Lieutenant Calley testified, and included instructions, later rescinded, to preserve some of the inhabitants so that they could be forced to walk across an enemy minefield ahead of the troops.

Up to the last minute of his 2½ days on the witness stand,

Lieutenant Calley showed no remorse over the killings.

He said he had never questioned the legality of the "orders" from Captain Medina. He called the captain "a very fine officer."

"I am now and always will be very proud to have served under his command," Lieutenant Calley declared in one of the few spirited moments of his generally low-keyed testimony.

Captain Medina, who commanded Charlie Company, Task

Force Barker, during the assault on Mylai March 16, 1968, has been accused by the Army of murder and of having over-all responsibility for killing at Mylai.

Lieutenant Calley testified he had been told that everybody in Mylai was at least a Vietcong sympathizer and that even the children threw grenades.

So he intended to kill them all, he said, except for the few that Captain Medina "told me to hang on to in case we hit the mine field."

"Did he elaborate as to what you were to do with these people, or was that understood by you?" asked the prosecutor, Capt. Aubrey M. Daniel 3d.

"Yes, just have them go ahead of us, that was understood. He didn't have to go into detail."

Lieutenant Calley was asked

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how many civilians he would normally take to a mine field.

"Never any larger than the front I was covering, sir," he said. "If I had five men on the front, I wouldn't use more than five, sir. If I had a 20-man front, I would use no more than 20, sir."

Lieutenant Calley said Captain Medina rescinded the order to save some Vietnamese for the minefield.

"Captain Medina rescinded that order and told me to waste them, sir," he testified. Waste means kill.

"Did he specifically tell you to disregard the previous order?" asked Captain Daniel.

"No sir, he said those people were slowing me down, waste waste them, sir."

"Save none for the mine field?"

"No, sir."

Twice, he testified, Captain Medina scolded him in radio messages for slow progress through Mylai. When Lieutenant Calley complained of being held up by slow-moving civilians, he testified, Captain Medina said, "Get rid of the people." And it was after the second call, the lieutenant said, that he joined some of his men in firing at the civilians in the ditch.

He recounted an exchange with ship warrant officer Hugh Thompson, a helicopter pilot who landed to inquire about the operation.

Lieutenant Calley said he phoned Captain Medina about this visit, telling the captain that the pilot "doesn't like the

way things were being done down here and requested medical evacuation for the wounded in the area."

In reply, he testified, Captain Medina "said something to the effect that he knew and don't worry about it."

Government witnesses have said that when Mr. Thompson returned to evacuate some men, women and children from a bunker, Lieutenant Calley became angry, telling the pilot that the only way to get them out of the bunker was with a hand grenade.

Lieutenant Calley testified today as to what he meant. "It was a figure of speech," he said, explaining that he was only a combat soldier and lacked helicopters to get the people out. He had not opposed, he said, the eventual

evacuation by Mr. Thompson of a few survivors.

By this time, he said, Captain Medina had given an order to cease fire.

"What would you have done with the people if he hadn't evacuated them?" asked Captain Daniel.

"I don't know, sir."

"Would you have taken them prisoner?"

"I don't know, sir."

At a meeting with Captain Medina after the incident, the company commander made no criticism of the civilian casualties, Lieutenant Calley said.

He said he told the captain that he had shot some people in a ditch and that the captain had asked no questions.

"It wasn't any big deal, sir," Lieutenant Calley told the prosecutor.