

Calley, in Interview, Says He Hopes That Terms Assault on Hamlet 'Not an Isolated Incident'

The following is an interview with First Lieut. William L. Calley Jr. by Kathryn Johnson of The Associated Press. The lieutenant was interviewed while a military jury deliberated on the charges: the dispatch was to be released after the verdict.

FORT BENNING, Ga., March 29 (AP)—"I hope Mylai isn't a tragedy but an eye-opener, even for people who say war is hell," said First Lieut. William L. Calley Jr., who was convicted today of the premeditated murder of 22 Vietnamese civilians.

"Mylai has happened in every war," he continued. "It's not an isolated incident, even in Vietnam."

'What War Is'

The slight, 27-year-old officer was a fledgling second lieutenant when he led his infantry platoon in an assault on Mylai 4, a hamlet in the South Vietnamese village of Sonmy on March 16, 1968. In the interview, he said:

"The thing that makes Mylai so unique, it was a small tragedy in a small place, but for once, man was able to see all the hells of war all at once."

"I can't say I am proud of every being in Mylai, or ever participating in war. But I will be extremely proud if Mylai shows the world what war is and that the world needs to do something about stopping wars."

"Many people say war is hell who have never experienced it," Lieutenant Calley added, "but it is more than hell for those people tied up in it."

Commenting on his four-month trial, the longest in United States history and the

most publicized in modern warfare, the lieutenant said:

"No one has yet tried to analyze the problems, to my knowledge, that caused not only Mylai, but the war in Vietnam itself.

Meaning of War'

"I am hopeful that Mylai will bring the meaning of war to the surface not only to our nation but to all nations.

"My recommendation is that this nation cannot afford to involve itself in war."

Asked to describe how he felt about his trial, during which he listened to several witnesses testify that he ordered screaming old men, women and children herded into a ditch and shot, Lieutenant Calley replied:

"It's not simple what I feel. It will take a book to say. I'm working on it. I hope it will be out by September."

Even if convicted, he said, "I still feel strongly about the Army." The lieutenant said the United States "needs a strong Army," and added: "From what I've seen of the world and Communism, we definitely need an Army."

Cites Support

During his trial, Lieutenant Calley received heavy mail from throughout the world and has had the support of such groups as the American Legion, Gold Star Mothers and prisoner of war organizations.

The lieutenant also said he had strong feelings about American prisoners of war in Southeast Asia.

"We owe these people a lot and cannot afford to forget them," he said. "If I'm convicted of a war crime, that sort of makes me a P.O.W., too."

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Mylai 'Shows the

World What War Is'