

U.S. Command in Vietnam Bars 'Battle Hymn of

By ALVIN SHUSTER

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, April 30 — The American Armed Forces Radio Network in Vietnam, "where the hits just keep on coming," has been told to stop playing "The Battle Hymn of Lieutenant Calley."

After several days of discussions, word went out today from the office of information of the military command to "phase out" the record, which became a best seller after First Lieut William L. Calley Jr was convicted by court-martial of having murdered at least 22 South Vietnamese men, women and children at Mylai.

The decision to stop play-

ing the record upset the disk jockeys and others at the radio network, who said that they did not like the song very much but that they disliked censorship more.

The song had been sent to the station from the United States by the American Forces Radio and Television Service the worldwide system that supplies the military radio and television stations overseas.

Another Version Suggested

"We have that jingle about how the hits just keep on coming," said one G.I. at the station. "Maybe we ought to change it to how the hits, minus one, just keep on coming."

Military sources said that the

decision had been made because the Calley case was still in the judicial process, with his appeal pending, and because the song might offend Vietnamese who listened to the station. They also said that the song had been banned by some stations in the United States.

The song, first heard here last Tuesday, is set to the tune of "The Battle Hymn of the

Republic" and contains the following lyric:

*My name is William Calley, I'm
a soldier of this land,
I've vowed to do my duty and to
gain the upper hand,
But they've made me out a
villain, they have stamped
me with a brand,
As we go marching on . . .*

Enlisted men here generally support Lieutenant Calley. Many say that he was used by the Army as a scapegoat

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Calley' From Radio Network, Citing Pending Appeal

to placate antiwar feeling in the United States.

News correspondents in the field have seen several wall signs supporting Lieutenant Calley, including one that said, "Kill a gook for Calley." At one fire base, an artillery piece has been painted with the name Calley's Revenge."

The Armed Forces Radio and Television Network, which op-

erates under the Office of Information of the military command, has long been carefully supervised but nevertheless has operated with considerable latitude. All news reports are specifically attributed to news agencies.

The network sometimes seeks guidance from the Office of Information on sensitive issues. But, for the most part, it exer-

cises self-censorship on news. The network is under occasional pressure, as one broadcaster put it, "to emphasize the positive."

During the February-March allied operations against enemy supply and infiltration lines in Laos, the news broadcasters were cautioned against using the word "invasion" to describe the cross-border operation from

South Vietnam, and later were told to stop using the word "incursion."

"We started using words like moving in or crossing or some such but for a while we became totally confused," said one G.I. "And towards the end of the operation there was not much positive to say. But things have relaxed somewhat since the Lawrence episode."