

Times

## KOTOUK DESCRIBES 2 MYLAI MESSAGES

Trial Told of Radio Exchange  
Not Shown in Unit's Log

By DOUGLAS ROBINSON

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FORT MEADE, Md., Sept. 1

—An Army officer on duty at a rear headquarters during the infantry push through the village of Mylai 4 said today that he had heard a radio message that a boy was being shot down on a highway near the hamlet.

The officer, Capt. Eugene M. Kotouc, said that the message from a helicopter pilot had prompted a message from headquarters to men in the field that they "make sure where



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**Capt. Eugene M. Kotouc** arriving at Fort Meade, Md., to testify in court-martial of Col. Oran K. Henderson in Mylai incident.

they were shooting and to be careful of their targets."

Testimony by Captain Kotouc, who was acquitted last spring of a charge that he had cut off the finger of a Vietnamese prisoner while questioning him, came at the court-martial of Col. Oran K. Henderson. Col. Henderson is accused of trying to hide the slayings of civilians by his troops in the attack on Mylai.

The two messages mentioned by Captain Kotouc did not appear in the official log of the infantry task force or in an edited tape recording of radio transmissions made during the assault.

The tape recording is a 40-minute collection of radio messages that were sent during some four hours of the attack. The log is a daily journal of activities of the task force. The entry for March 16, 1968, the day of the incident, however, is not authenticated, that is, it is not signed at the end by an officer as are the entries for the days preceding and following the Mylai action.

Men of the infantry force that entered the South Vietnamese hamlet testified that more than 100 civilians had been rounded up and shot during the assault. The only official mention of the civilian deaths in the records of the 11th Infantry Brigade, of which the task force was a part, is a report by Capt. Ernest L. Medina that 20 to 30 civilians had been killed "by artillery and gun ship fire."

In another development, Maj. Charles C. Calhoun, the former executive officer of the task force, testified that Colonel Henderson had never, as far as he could recall, questioned him about any misconduct by troops at Mylai.

An informal report written by Colonel Henderson a week or so after the attack, however, says that after questioning several officers, including Major Calhoun, he had concluded that "no civilians had been gathered together and killed" during the attack.

The court will resume the hearing of testimony next Tuesday. A special session involving the whereabouts of a formal report of the Mylai action that apparently disappeared from official files will be held on Friday with the jury not present.