

Witness Quotes Calley

Civilian Deaths 'Surprised' Medina

Ft. McPherson, Ga.

A witness in Captain Ernest Medina's murder trial yesterday quoted First Lieutenant William L. Calley as saying the captain was surprised to discover civilians had been shot at My Lai.

Captain Robert Hicks of Fort Benning, Ga., testified in the absence of the jury, pending a decision on the admissibility of his testimony.

Hicks said Calley had made the comment in Vietnam as the two talked several months after the My Lai attack in the spring of 1968.

Calley, convicted of mur-

dering at least 22 civilians at My Lai, is serving a 20-year sentence.

"One morning in July, he (Calley) started telling me war stories," said Hicks.

He said Calley began talking about My Lai, describing how his platoon moved into the village.

"He came out and said they didn't expect to find any civilians," said Hicks. "When the platoon came in, the villagers came out and cheered."

Hicks quoted Calley as saying, "They shut up right away when the point man shot a water buffalo and the rest of the men opened up."

"He didn't say at what," Hicks said.

"I asked him where Captain Medina was and he said, 'He wasn't there — he was with the Third Platoon.'"

Hicks recalled asking what happened when Medina arrived in the area.

"He (Calley) said he was certainly surprised," said Hicks.

Defense attorney F. Lee Bailey asked Hicks if Calley gave any indication that Medina knew of the killings.

"He answered negatively — said, no, he didn't," Hicks said.

Hicks was allowed to testi-

fy only in the absence of the jury after the prosecutor argued that his statements were hearsay.

Colonel Kenneth Howard, the military judge, said he would rule today on whether Hicks may testify.

Bailey then called Roger Alaux of San Bernardino, who testified that at no time did Medina indicate knowledge that mass murder was being committed at My Lai.

Medina, 35, of Montrose, Colo., is charged with assaulting a Viet Cong suspect and with the premeditated murder of 102 civilians.

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