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## Henderson Jury Told of False Report

Fort Meade, Md.

The defense counsel for Colonel Oran K. Henderson yesterday sought to discredit a prosecution witness who testified he heard a superior officer order Henderson to investigate reports of atrocities at My Lai.

The witness, Lieutenant Colonel Frederic Watke, acknowledged under crossexamination by attorney Henry Rothblatt that he had signed a military report that conflicted with his testimony that he knew of no actual combat between U.S. and Communist forces at My Lai.

Watke returned to the witness stand for the second day in the court-martial of Henderson, who is charged with failing to properly investigate reports that unarmed civilians were slain when a company of brigade swept through My Lai in March, 1968.

Testifying Wednesday, Watke said he was present when Brigadier General George Young Jr., deputy commander of the American Division, instructed Henderson to investigate reports of indiscriminate killing and make a report on them.

Seeking to discredit this testimony, Rothblatt asked Watke yesterday if he remembered signing a report on April 10, 1968, which said U.S. forces had been engaged "in a heavy firefight in the area of My Lai."

"Yes, Sir. I do," replied Watke, who commanded a helicopter unit during the My Lai sweep.

Noting that Watke testified Wednesday "that there was no contested action" in the My Lai sector, Rothblatt asked: "have you made any other deliberate false reports?"

"No," Watke replied.

Later, in redirect examination, Watke testified that his April 10 report was in connection with a decoration for one of his gunners killed in a helicopter crash a week earlier.

*United Press*