

Psychologists say Lt. Calley suffered mental disorders

WASHINGTON — Lieutenant William Calley was suffering from mental disorders, in the opinion of two eminent psychologists, at the time he led his troops on a shooting spree through the tragic village of My Lai.

A military court has singled him out as the chief culprit in the My Lai massacre. He was convicted specifically of murdering 22 civilians.

Yet the two psychologists, working independently, came up with remarkably similar findings that Calley was mentally and emotionally unstable — and possibly even deranged — during the My Lai slaughter.

Confronted with these findings, dignified old George Latimer, the former military appeals judge who was both father figure and chief counsel for Calley, considered an insanity defense.

In its harshest terms, the question was: would Calley want to risk being branded as a murderer or madman? Both the lieutenant and Latimer decided irrevocably against claiming insanity.

Tests locked away

The psychological test, conducted by Dr. Eugene Stammeyer of Washington, D.C., and Dr. Arthur Weider of New York City, was locked away and never presented as evidence to the military jury. We have now obtained copies of these suppressed documents, which shed new insights into Calley's condition on March 16, 1968—the day dozens of innocent men, women and children were gunned down by American troops at My Lai.

Both psychologists spent many hours secretly testing Calley. Dr. Weider, senior supervising psychologist at Roosevelt hospital and a life fellow of the American Orthopsychiatric Association, wrote the sharpest opinion.

He gave Calley a battery of tests, including an experimental one under marijuana, in September 1970.

Was Calley psychotic?

These "reflect the psychopathology of a

very serious personality and mental disorder which has the tendency to become full blown and uncontrollable under such (circumstances) as may have existed at the My Lai atrocities," wrote Weider.

"The possibility of a psychotic or pre-psychotic condition must be considered . . .

Jack Anderson

This patient's test results are suggestive psychotic condition."

Some of Calley's responses, such as a denial of indulgence in any "unusual sex practices" and his feeling "someone has been trying to influence my mind," may require "further investigation by the clinician," added Weider.

Dr. Stammeyer, a criminal psychology expert at St. Elisabeth's hospital and lecturer at Catholic University, agreed that Calley had "a potential for fragmentation of mental processes and anxiety attacks of near panic proportions when under limited stress.

"The picture of an overinhibited personality structure fraught with internal conflict between impulses and repressive forces is sharply etched. . . Paranoid trends could easily be aroused by stress."

Although Stammeyer stressed it would be difficult to describe Calley's exact condition on the day of the massacre, the distinguished criminal psychologist said: "It is improbable that Lieutenant Calley was able to maintain. . . objective, rational control being surrounded with horror, cruelty and violent death."

Footnote: Latimer, reached in Salt Lake City, told us: "Counsel and defendant were in agreement on not raising legal insanity as an issue. The issue was whether the horrors of combat were such as to impair in a transitory way a person's capacity to premeditate or have a specific intent to kill."