

Another 'My Lai'

NEW YORK -- (AP) -- A secret Army report on the My Lai massacre says that a second massacre took place less than two miles away on the same morning and involved the killing of as many as 90 civilians, The New York Times said today.

The Times said the so-called "Peers Report" concluded that troops from Bravo Company — a sister unit of Charlie Company which attacked My Lai — entered the hamlet of My Khe 4 on March 16, 1968, and began shooting indiscriminately at civilians.

The report is named after Lt. Gen. William R. Peers, who headed the Army's four-month inquiry into My Lai. The Times said it had a complete copy of the still-classified document.

Second Story

It was the newspaper's second story based on the report. On Sunday the Times disclosed that the report accused two generals of more than 40 acts of misconduct or omission in connection with the first field investigation of the atrocity.

Both stories appeared under the byline of Seymour Hersh, who won a 1970 Pulitzer Prize for first reporting the My Lai slayings.

No details about a second massacre were given when the Peers panel publicly announced some of its findings on March 17, 1970. Peers

told a news conference at the time that he had "no knowledge" of any incidents similar to My Lai.

Report Quoted

The Times quoted the Peers report as saying that although most members of Bravo Company refused to testify or disclaimed recollection of details about the assault at My Khe 4, "both testimony and circumstantial evidence strongly suggest that a large number of noncombatants were killed during the search of the hamlet."

"The number of noncombatants killed by the company on 16 March 1968 may have been as high as 90," the report said, according to the Times. "The company reported a total of 38 VCKIA (Viet Cong killed in action) on 16 March, but it is likely that few if any were Viet Cong."

The report said Bravo Company took some casualties from enemy booby traps and its First Platoon was extremely wary as it entered My Khe 4, opening fire with rifles and machine guns for four to five minutes, the Times said.

Houses Burned

It quoted the report: "Inhabitants of the hamlet, mostly women and children, were cut down as they ran for shelter or attempted to flee over the ridge of higher ground toward the

beach" on the South China Sea.

In the afternoon the platoon began a search and destroy operation in the hamlet "burning the houses and destroying the bunkers or shelter which each family had constructed in or near their homes" and "killed an undetermined number of noncombatants in the process," the Times quoted the report as saying.

First Lt. Thomas K. Willingham, the platoon commander, was later accused of the unpremeditated murder of 20 civilians but the charges were subsequently dropped and no other member of the company has been publicly charged or prosecuted in connection with My Khe 4, the Times said.

General Cited

In its Sunday story, the Times said the report cited Maj. Gen. Samuel W. Koster, then commander of the American Division, for 27 acts of misconduct or omission in connection with the investigation of My Lai, and his chief deputy, Brig. Gen. George H. Young Jr., for 16 acts.

Criminal charges against both generals were dropped — for "insufficient evidence" in Young's case, and for no "intentional abrogation of responsibility" in

Massacre Charged

Koster's — but both were censured. Koster was also demoted to brigadier general.

Both generals were said to have accepted "at face value" a post-My Lai report by Col. Oran Henderson which the report called "little more than a pretense of an investigation," the Times said.

Henderson, 11th Infantry Brigade commander, was acquitted of wrongdoing at a court-martial. First Lt. William L. Calley Jr., a platoon leader with Charlie Company at My Lai, was convicted of murdering at least 22 Vietnamese civilians in the in-

cident. He was sentenced to life imprisonment. The sentence was later reduced to 20 years, and is still under review.

The Peers Report concluded that Calley's troops killed 90 to 130 persons, a second platoon about 100 persons and perhaps another 100 killed by helicopter gunship crews and a third platoon, the Times said.

No Comment

In appearances before the Peers panel, both Koster and Young insisted they had never learned the extent of the slaughter at My Lai, the Times said. The report said there was direct evidence in-

dicating that they knew in full of My Lai.

But the report continued:

"They probably thought they were withholding information concerning a much less serious incident than the one which had actually occurred," the Times said.

In Washington, the Pentagon had no comment on yesterday's Times story.

Koster said at Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland that he would have no comment until he had read the Times report. Rep. Les Aspin, (D-Wis.) called upon Army Secretary Robert Froehlke to release the en-

tire 260-page report and said it was clear that Koster and Young should answer the 43 specific charges before a military tribunal.

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