

CASE LIKE MYLAI STUDIED IN ARMY

Alleged '67 Killings in Same
Area Are Investigated

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 27 — The Army has been actively investigating allegations that another infantry company committed war crimes one year earlier in the same area where the mass slayings at Mylai occurred in 1968.

Details of the investigation were disclosed today by The Daily Oklahoman, an Oklahoma City newspaper, in a copy-righted article and the Army later confirmed that there, was an inquiry.

According to the newspaper, the number of executed civilians and prisoners is reported by former members of the unit involved to range from 80 to "the hundreds," and investigators are looking into charges that villages and crops were burned and the dead were mutilated.

The newspaper reported that more than 100 witnesses were being questioned.

Company Is Named

The unit involved in the investigation, The Oklahoman reported, is Company C, Second Battalion, 35th Infantry, Third Brigade, 25th Infantry Division.

In the spring of 1967, the unit was operating in a section of Quangngai Province near Mylai. At the time, the company was attached to the Fourth Division, which was later relieved by the 23d Infantry (Americal) Division.

A Defense Department spokesman, asked to comment on the investigation, said today, "On several occasions in the past the Army has acknowledged that it has a number of active investigations concerning allegations of improper activities in Vietnam.

"The Army has nothing new it can report to you today on these on-going matters."

An Army public affairs officer, Lieut. Col. Leonard F. B. Reed, said that an Army Criminal Investigation Division inquiry into allegations against Capt. James W. Lanning, Company C's commander at the time of the alleged incidents, was completed Aug. 18 and forwarded to the commanding officer of Fort Bragg, N.C., where the captain is now stationed.

Search and Destroy

According to the newspaper's account, Company C took part in a search and destroy operation between May 18 and May 23, 1967, and atrocities were allegedly committed during this period.

Among those who said they had been questioned by Army investigators, the paper reported, were Paul Schierholz of Columbus, Ga., a former lieutenant, and Lonnie Gentry of Duncan, Okla.; Paul Halverson, of Superior, Wis.; Richard E. Porte of Lakeland, Fla., and Robert E. Grote of White Plains, N. Y., all former enlisted men.

Mr. Halverson, a combat photographer and journalist who accompanied the unit on several operations, said that his complaint had instigated the investigation, according to The Oklahoman.

"I tried to voice my complaints that if they were going to do it to Lieutenant Calley, they should do it to all," the paper quoted him as having said. Mr. Halverson now serves aboard a freighter sailing the Great Lakes.

First Lieut. William L. Calley Jr. was convicted of murder and sentenced to 20 years in prison for his part in the Mylai slayings.

Mr. Halverson told The Oklahoman of "outright cold-blooded killing" of civilians and prisoners by members of the company.

The Army is known to be investigating a second alleged incident at Mylai involving the slayings of as many as 90 civilians less than two miles from the hamlet of Mylai 4 on the morning of the Mylai shootings.

Questioning Confirmed

Special to The New York Times

WHITE PLAINS, N. Y., Sept. 27—Mr. Grote, a former sergeant who is now a bartender here, confirmed today that Army investigators questioned him here a year ago about alleged shootings of civilians in a Vietnam village or hamlet in 1967.

Mr. Grote, 25 years old, said he had told the investigators that he was in the hospital with a back wound at the time of the alleged shooting in May, 1967. He said that he had been unable to answer any questions and that he had no idea why he had been interviewed. No one from the Army has talked to him since, he said.