

Calley Says He's A War Victim

New York

Former Army Lieutenant William L. Calley Jr., convicted for his role in the My Lai massacre of 1968, said yesterday he feels he is a victim of the Vietnam war, but that the American people are "the greatest victims."

"I don't feel singular when I say I was a victim of the war," the former rifle platoon leader said in a rare public interview on ABC-TV's "A.M. America" show. "There were many, many victims of the war."

And Calley, 31, said he "most definitely" includes the American people in that category: "I think they're the greatest victims. And I think that is where the real problem lies."

"I see the American people had a very hard time," he said, referring to the U.S. military involvement in the war, "and I think we're still feeling the shock waves of it."

Calley was freed on bond two months ago after a federal judge reversed his Army court-martial conviction in March, 1971, for killing at least 22 unarmed men, women and children at My Lai, a Vietnamese hamlet in Viet Cong-controlled territory.

The Army is appealing the reversal of the conviction.

Calley, without referring specifically to his conduct as an officer at My Lai, said he felt he was "very inadequate" as an officer but "very good" by Army standards.

He said while in the Army he "had no desire to do anything except what I was ordered to do and that's all I did and that made me a very good officer in the eyes of the Army."

"That's all they're asking for. They've got enough chiefs. All they want are some Indians."

Calley, whose appearance



AP Wirephoto

WILLIAM CALLEY JR.
He appeared on television

on the show was in connection with a dramatization of his court-martial to be broadcast by ABC Sunday night, now lives in Columbus, Ga.

He said he is "just trying to pick up the pieces and put my life back together so I can have some kind of future, and trying to get back into business and getting separated and away from the Army."

Associated Press