

Calley Jury Is Shown a Picture Of Women's and Babies' Bodies

By HOMER BIGART
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FORT BENNING, Ga., March 15 — The Government prosecutor in the court-martial of First Lieut. William L. Calley Jr. held a photograph of corpses of women, children and babies before members of the jury today and asked if they really expected Lieutenant Calley to admit that these were the "enemies" he killed at Mylai.

The six combat veterans on the court-martial panel studied the exhibits.

Capt. Aubrey M. Daniel 3d, 29 years old, was making his final argument, summing up 46 days of testimony in the case. The officer, only four years out of law school, was trying to convince the six officers that the evidence was "overwhelming" that Lieutenant Calley deliberately murdered 102 unresisting Vietnamese civilians in the hamlet of Mylai on March 16, 1968.

The officer is charged with four counts of premeditated murder: that he killed at least 30 noncombatants on a trail at the south edge of the hamlet, that he killed at least 70 others in a ditch outside Mylai, that he killed a man in white robes who might have been a monk, and that he killed a two-year-old child who was running from the pile of corpses in the ditch.

Denies Being Present

The short, stocky 27-year-old defendant has admitted only that he fired into a group of "enemies" in the ditch and that he clubbed but did not shoot the man in white. He has denied being present at the trailside slaying, the episode depicted in the photo shown to the jurors today.

From the witness stand Lieutenant Calley had insisted that when he fired into the ditch he could not distinguish at virtually point-blank range the ages and sexes of his "enemies."

No fewer than 12 members of his platoon had said he was at the ditch, Captain Daniel said, and since their testimony was so strongly cooperative the defendant was forced to admit participating in that shooting.

But the testimony that Lieutenant Calley ordered and participated in the killings on the trail was equally compelling, the prosecutor said, and an Army photographer, Ronald L. Haeberle, had been there to prove with pictures that women and babies were among the victims.

The Haeberle picture showed no fewer than 25 corpses, of which six were children and three were infants, Captain Daniel pointed out.

"Do you think," he demanded of the jury, "that Lieutenant Calley would admit. 'These are the enemies I killed?'"

Four witnesses had placed Lieutenant Calley at the trailside shooting, Captain Daniel recalled, including Paul Meadlo,

who swore that he fired into the group on repeated orders from Lieutenant Calley, who he said then joined him in the slayings.

"There is no doubt at all, gentlemen, that Lieutenant Calley shot these people and that they died as a result of his acts," Captain Daniel said.

That neither Mr. Meadlo nor Dennis Conti, another eyewitness, could positively identify the corpses in the photograph as the group of prisoners killed on the trail was not surprising, Captain Daniel said.

Mr. Meadlo, he said, was so emotionally upset that he wept as he fired — "maybe he blocked it out of his mind." And Mr. Conti at least had been able to identify the site when he was taken back to Mylai by Army investigators last year, the prosecutor said.

Captain Daniel spoke quietly. Apart from holding up the photograph, he avoided attempts at courtroom drama. During most of his 2-hour-and-23-minute presentation he stood close to the rail of the jury box, his back to Lieutenant Calley and the defense table.

Only once did he glance over his shoulder at the defendant. This came while he was discussing the evidence of Charles Sledge, a member of the lieutenant's platoon, who swore that Lieutenant Calley, after attempting to interrogate the man in white robes, "butt-stroked" the victim and then "shot half the man's head off."

"Are you going to believe the accused," asked Captain Daniel, "or Charles Sledge?"

Sitting at the defense table, Lieutenant Calley went pink to the tips of his ears.

Captain Daniel ridiculed the contention of defense psychiatrists that Lieutenant Calley might have been suffering a transitory mental impairment at Mylai. As the Judge Col. Reid W. Kennedy, had observed, Captain Daniel forced the psychiatrists to admit, under cross-examination, that Lieutenant Calley was clear-headed enough to know that when he pointed his M-16 at a Vietnamese and squeezed the trigger, the target would probably die.

Captain Daniel will conclude his summation tomorrow, the third anniversary of the incident at Mylai. Then George W. Latimer will give the final argument for the defense, and the military judge, Colonel Kennedy, will instruct the jury.