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(As of 9 Jun 71)

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## 80. BRENMAN-BEITZEL ALLEGATION (VVAW)\*

ALLEGATION:

1. Indiscriminate firing upon unarmed Vietnamese.
2. Torture and maltreatment of PWs/detainees.
3. Mutilation of dead bodies.

SUBJECT/SUSPECTS:

1. Unidentified members of 1st Logistics Cmd, 184th Ammunition Bn, 630th and 661st Ammunition Co, Qui Nhon.
2. Unidentified members of 4th Bn, 21st Inf, 11th Inf Bde, Americal Div.

COMPLAINANT:

1. Joseph C. Brenman (former member 184th Ammunition Bn, 1st Logistics Cmd, Qui Nhon).
2. John C. Beitzel (former member 4th Bn, 21st Inf, 11th Inf Bde, Americal Div).

BACKGROUND: On 12 Feb 71, Brenman and Beitzel, accompanied by Jeffrey Dubrow (formerly of USN) and Joseph Bangert (formerly of USMC), appeared at the Pentagon requesting interview with the Pentagon Counterintelligence Force. All four individuals were members of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW); but requested interviews as individuals, not as representatives of the VVAW. Brenman orally alleged that during his Feb 68 - Feb 69 tour in RVN, he was with vehicle convoys which often fired upon friendly VN without provocation. He further claimed that .50 cal. guns, tear gas, napalm, and dum-dum rounds were used in contravention of the Geneva Conventions. Beitzel, assigned in RVN Jan 69-Jan 70, stated that PWs/detainees of 4th Bn, 21st Inf, 11th Inf Bde, Americal Div, were often beaten or tortured with field telephones with the consent, approval, and often supervision of the Bn CO, whom Beitzel declined to further identify. Beitzel claimed to have pictures depicting the use of field telephones on prisoners, which he would produce if an investigation were initiated. Beitzel further alleged that his unit was given orders to level villages, and often killed animals and unarmed civilians.

STATUS/PROGNOSIS: Investigation terminated; insufficient evidence.

The allegations of Dubrow and Bangert have been reported to the Naval Investigative Service (NIS). On 19 Mar 71, Beitzel was interviewed and declined to furnish the photographs or specific information concerning his allegations. Beitzel stated that the Army was capable of investigating only localized incidents. He felt that only a Congressional investigation could encompass all war crimes committed in RVN, and place the responsibility on the "Major Commander." Until such time, he would withhold all information. On 3 Apr 71, Brenman was interviewed and declined to furnish specific information concerning war crimes committed by US personnel in RVN.

WITNESSES: Brenman and Beitzel (see COMPLAINANT).

INITIATED BY WHOM: Pentagon Counterintelligence Force.

RESPONSE TO INITIATOR: N/A

\*VVAW - affiliated with the Citizens' Commission of Inquiry on US War Crimes in Vietnam (CCI)

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