

(As of 4 Aug 71)

182. CALDWELL ALLEGATION (VVAW-WSI)

- ALLEGATION:
1. Murder of unidentified VN.
 2. Indiscriminate use of fire power.
 3. Indiscriminate destruction of villages.
 4. Gassing (tear gas) of civilians and livestock.
 5. Aggravated assault on a PW.

- SUBJECT/SUSPECTS:
1. Unidentified door gunner and crews of unidentified helicopter units.
 2. Unidentified crews of unidentified C-123 aircraft.
 3. Unidentified US personnel of unidentified units.

COMPLAINANT: Mr. Dennis Caldwell, former CW2, 3/17 Air Cav, 1st Avn Bde, 1st Air Cav Div, Oct 68 - Oct 69.

BACKGROUND: Between 31 Jan and 2 Feb 71, at Detroit, MI, Mr. Caldwell testified at the "Winter Soldier Investigation" (WSI) as a member of an organization identified as Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW). Mr. Caldwell alleged that while on a night mission he witnessed the door gunner of a Huey helicopter shoot and kill a man in a sampan solely because he was out after dark. On 23 Feb 69, in an attack against the enemy south of Saigon, Mr. Caldwell's unit used excessive fire power resulting in the deaths of many VN civilians and an undetermined number of Americans. Mr. Caldwell also alleged that he witnessed the severe beating of a PW by unidentified persons. There were also general allegations by Mr. Caldwell concerning the indiscriminate firing of weapons into villages and civilians, indiscriminate destruction of villages, and the gassing of civilians and livestock.

STATUS/PROGNOSIS: Investigation completed; insufficient evidence.

In an 8 Jul 71 CID interview, Mr. Caldwell stated that he had already testified before the WSI and did not wish to make further statements pertaining to his allegations. He refused to answer any questions or provide any further information.

WITNESSES: Not identified.

INITIATED BY WHOM: AGC; WSI material is contained in the Congressional Records of 6 and 7 Apr 71.