

(As of 16 Sep 71)

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

203. CHILES ALLEGATION (VVAW-WSI)

ALLEGATION: 1. Mutilation of enemy corpse.
2. Indiscriminate killing of two VN children and an elderly VN ma

SUBJECT/SUSPECTS: Unidentified members of 3d Bn, 4th Cav, 25th Inf Div.

COMPLAINANT: Mr. David Chiles, former SP4, Medic, 3/4th Cav, 25th Inf Div, Jan - Dec 68.

BACKGROUND: Between 31 Jan and 2 Feb 71, at Detroit, MI, Mr. Chiles testified at the "Winter Soldier Investigation" (WSI) as a member of an organization identified as Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW). Mr. Chiles alleged that in the Iron Triangle, unidentified members of the 4/23 Mech Inf dragged two dead VC behind their vehicles. Their ears were cut off and hung to dry. He witnessed two GI's (one with pliers) fighting over gold fillings in the teeth of the dead VC. This pulling of teeth was also witnessed by a 1LT. Mr. Chiles stated that when the body count was low and the unit had suffered heavy casualties, the colonel wanted a higher count, so he ran convoys from Chu Chi to Tay Ninh to Dau Tieng in hopes of being ambushed. Men felt like guinea pigs for the colonel. A number of ambushes resulted in higher US casualties and still small enemy KIA's. Occupants of track vehicles fired wildly and once fired into a house, killing two children and an old man. Mr. Chiles also testified that he accidentally hit a civilian on a motorcycle but MP's would not help, and an officer with him stuffed money in the unconscious man's pocket before they drove off.

STATUS/PROGNOSIS: Investigation completed; insufficient evidence.

Mr. Chiles, in the presence of his attorney, was interviewed by CID on 18 Aug 71. Mr. Chiles declined to provide any substantive information concerning his allegations. He further stated he would testify only before a congressional committee.

WITNESSES: Not identified.

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

RESPONSE TO INITIATOR: AGC notified of review and evaluation.

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