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(As of 23 Sep 71)

201. ERARD ALLEGATION (VVAW-WSI)

ALLEGATION: 1. Murder of unidentified VN civilians.
2. Failure to take PW's.

SUBJECT/SUSPECTS: Unidentified members of 3d Bn, 503d Inf, 173d Abn Bde.

COMPLAINANT: Mr. Michael Erard, former SP5, 3d Bn, 503d Inf, 173d Abn Bde, Apr 69 - Mar 70.

BACKGROUND: Between 31 Jan and 2 Feb 71, at Detroit, MI, Mr. Erard testified at the "Winter Soldier Investigation" (WSI) as a member of an organization identified as the Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW). Mr. Erard alleged that in the An Lou Valley, Binh Dinh Province, west of Bong Son, while on field operations (Fire Base Abby), he knew of 10 unarmed civilians who were killed in a period of six weeks while tending gardens. Mr. Erard, in his testimony, inferred that his unit did not take PW's. Examination of enemy bodies disclosed the possession of Chieu Hoi passes (the Chieu Hoi program is designed to encourage the enemy to surrender, resulting in their preferential treatment).

STATUS/PROGNOSIS: Investigation completed; insufficient evidence.

Mr. Erard was interviewed on 2 Sep 71 by CID. He refused to make any statement or provide any information concerning his allegations.

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 has been notified of review and evaluation.

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