

(As of 13 June 1973)

168. HUNTER ALLEGATION (VVAW-WSI)

ALLEGATION:

1. Murder of unidentified VN.
2. Mutilation of corpses.
3. Desecration of graves and destruction of private property.
4. Rape.
5. Refusing to render medical aid.
6. Gassing of VN civilians (tear gas).

SUBJECT/SUSPECTS:

1. Mr. Hunter (See COMPLAINANT).
2. Unidentified members of Co B/5/7th Air Cav Regt, 1st Air Cav Div.

COMPLAINANT: Mr. Michael A. Hunter, former SGT, Co B/5/7th Air Cav Regt, Feb 68 - Feb 69; H or I Co, 75th Rangers (atch to 1st Air Cav Div), Sep 69 - Mar 70.

BACKGROUND: Between 31 Jan and 2 Feb 71, at Detroit, MI, Mr. Hunter testified at the "Winter Soldier Investigation" (WSI) as a member of an organization identified as the Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW). Mr. Hunter alleged that he and members of his unit, upon disengagement with the NVA, indiscriminately shot into the NVA bodies to insure that they were dead, and then carved the 1st Cav Div patch on their chests. Further, the heads were removed and placed on stakes, with 1st Cav patches nailed on the foreheads. On one occasion, in the vicinity of Camp Evans, Mr. Hunter shot and killed a VN civilian upon orders from an unidentified NCO. Mr. Hunter also said bodies were removed from graves, mutilated, and used to inflate body counts. In the vicinity of Hue, members of Mr. Hunter's unit allegedly raped three VN females. On many occasions, Mr. Hunter and members of his unit allegedly used tear gas on VN civilians, with permission from the CO. Mr. Hunter stated that in early 1968, in the vicinity of Hue, he witnessed his CO and medical NCO refuse to render first aid to a seriously wounded VN. Mr. Hunter also said that as a matter of routine, all VN homes encountered in field operations were destroyed.

STATUS/PROGNOSIS: Investigation completed; insufficient evidence.

On 22 June 1971, Mr. Hunter was interviewed by CID and orally admitted to the above mentioned offenses. He subsequently refused to make a written statement or provide further information. Numerous former members of Mr. Hunter's unit were interviewed and all denied any knowledge of the war crimes alleged by him. One witness, [REDACTED], did lend credence to the allegation of murder, in that Mr. Hunter while point man on a company patrol killed a Vietnamese male. According to [REDACTED], Mr. Hunter had not received orders to engage the Vietnamese. On 12 April 1973, Mr. Hunter was re-interviewed and declined to provide any specific times, dates, or names concerning his allegations. The CID investigation disclosed insufficient evidence to support the allegations.

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168. HUNTER ALLEGATION (VVAW-WSI) (Continued)

- WITNESSES:
1. 1SG [REDACTED], former 1SG of Mr. Hunter's unit.
 2. Captain [REDACTED] former CO, Co B/5/7th Air Cav Regt, 1st Air Cav Div.
 3. Mr. [REDACTED], former member of Mr. Hunter's unit.

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.