

(As of 16 Sep 71)

204. LENIX ALLEGATION (VVAW-WSI)

ALLEGATION:

1. Murder of PW and unidentified VN.
2. Indiscriminate use of fire power.
3. Looting and destruction of private property.
4. Forced evacuation of VN civilians.

SUBJECT/SUSPECTS:

1. Unidentified VN interrogator ("Tiger Scout").
2. Unidentified crew of an unidentified helicopter unit.
3. Unidentified members of an unidentified artillery unit.
4. Mr. Lenix (see COMPLAINANT).

COMPLAINANT: Mr. Mark Lenix, former 1LT, 1/11th Arty, atch to 2/39th, 9th Inf Div, 68--69.

BACKGROUND: Between 31 Jan and 2 Feb 71, at Detroit, MI, Mr. Lenix testified at the "Winter Soldier Investigation" (WSI) as a member of an organization identified as Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW). Mr. Lenix alleged that in early 69 he witnessed a VN interrogator shoot and kill a PW while interrogating him. In Nov 68, in an area called the "Wagon Wheel," NW of Saigon, during a search and destroy mission, Lenix observed a gunship fire into a house for no apparent reason, killing two children. Mr. Lenix further alleged that an artillery unit fired rounds into an area (harassment and interdiction) which resulted in the death of a VN female and the wounding of her baby. On another occasion, in a village commonly referred to as "five fingers," Mr. Lenix and members of his unit, while on a field operation, rounded up, evacuated by vehicle and relocated the entire population of the village, with no opportunity to take their personal belongings. Unidentified members of the unit took two Honda motorcycles. One was immediately sold to a passing VN and the second was used by the troops for their personal use. Eventually, the village was destroyed by the troops.

STATUS/PROGNOSIS: Investigation completed; insufficient evidence.

On 19 Aug 71, Mr. Lenix was interviewed by CID. He declined to provide any information concerning his allegations.

WITNESSES: Not identified.

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

RESPONSE TO INITIATOR: AGC notified of review and evaluation.