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(As of 4 Nov 71)

198. McCONNACHIE ALLEGATION (VVAW-WSI)

ALLEGATION: 1. Involuntary manslaughter of unidentified VN civilians.
2. Indiscriminate use of fire power.

SUBJECT/SUSPECTS: 1. Unidentified LT and members of 2/28th Inf, 1st Inf Div.
2. Unidentified MP's of an unidentified MP unit.
3. Unidentified artillery unit.

COMPLAINANT: Mr. Robert S. McConnachie, former SGT, 2/28th Inf, 1st Inf Div, Oct 67 - Oct 68.

BACKGROUND: Between 31 Jan and 2 Feb 71, at Detroit, MI, Mr. McConnachie testified at the "Winter Soldier Investigation" (WSI) as a member of an organization identified as the Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW). Mr. McConnachie alleged that during a troop movement north of Lai Khe on Highway 13, enroute to Quan Loi, unidentified troops in the moving vehicles in the convoy threw C-ration cans at children standing along the highway with such force that one or two were killed when struck. According to Mr. McConnachie's testimony, MP's and an unidentified LT witnessed the incident. Mr. McConnachie further alleged that an artillery unit in the vicinity of Ben Son, using the harassment and interdiction fire method, fired 46 rounds of artillery into a leper hospital in Ben Son, killing some civilians. Mr. McConnachie said the artillery unit was aware of the location of the hospital.

STATUS/PROGNOSIS: Investigation completed; unsubstantiated.

In a CID interview on 14 Jul 71, Mr. McConnachie stated that two or three children were injured as a result of C-rations being thrown at them, and MP's reprimanded members of the convoy for their actions and remained in the village with the injured children. Mr. McConnachie said he was not aware of the extent of the injuries. Concerning the artillery strike, Mr. McConnachie stated that the testimony he gave before the VVAW was based on assumption, and that, in retrospect, he thought the incidents were unintentional and accidental on the part of US forces.

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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