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(As of 19 Aug 71)

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184. PALOSAARI ALLEGATION (VVAW-WSI)

ALLEGATION: 1. Murder of unidentified VN.
2. Mutilation of corpse.

SUBJECT/SUSPECTS: 1. Unidentified members of 1/6th Inf, 198th Lt Inf Bde, 23d Inf Div.
2. Unidentified VN, Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG), attached to 1/6th Inf, 198th Lt Inf Bde.

COMPLAINANT: Mr. Ronald C. Palosaari, former SP4, 1/6th Inf, 198th Lt Inf Bde, 23d Inf Div, Oct 67 - Sep 68.

BACKGROUND: Between 31 Jan and 2 Feb 71, at Detroit, MI, Mr. Palosaari testified at the "Winter Soldier Investigation" (WSI) as a member of an organization identified as the Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW). Mr. Palosaari alleged that he heard men in his unit bragging about throwing a grenade into a bunker, which was adjacent to a house, in an attempt to determine if anyone was in the bunker. Later, Mr. Palosaari looked into the bunker and saw two children and an old lady who had been killed. On another occasion, in a valley (he believes it was known as "AK Valley"), Mr. Palosaari observed a CIDG VN cutting off the ear of an NVA soldier who had just been killed by CIDG personnel.

STATUS/PROGNOSIS: Investigation completed; insufficient evidence.

Mr. Palosaari was interviewed by CID on 29 Jul 71. He was unable to provide specific dates, locations, or names of individuals allegedly involved. He said he did not know who threw the grenade into the bunker and did not actually witness the mutilation of any enemy dead.

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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