

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

(As of 14 Oct 71)

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

195. RIPPBERGER ALLEGATION (VVAW-WSI)

ALLEGATION:

1. Torture and maltreatment of PW's.
2. Failure to bury enemy dead.
3. Destruction of private property.

SUBJECT/SUSPECTS:

1. Mr. Rippberger (see COMPLAINANT).
2. Unidentified interrogator.
3. Unidentified members of Trp K/3/11th Cav, 9th Inf Div.

COMPLAINANT: Mr. Carl A. Rippberger, former E-4, Trp K/3/11th Cav, 9th Inf Div, May 67 - May 68.

BACKGROUND: Between 31 Jan and 2 Feb 71, at Detroit, MI, Mr. Rippberger testified at the "Winter Soldier Investigation" (WSI) as a member of an organization identified as the Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW). Mr. Rippberger alleged that he saw an unidentified interrogator force the three-pronged flash suppressor of an M-16 rifle into the nose of a PW and twist the flash suppressor, causing extreme pain. PW's were forced to stand in front of piled enemy dead (VC) for long periods of time. At times the PW's were hit and kicked. Mr. Rippberger stated he and members of his unit on one occasion placed two enemy dead on armored vehicles, carried them through a village for show, and dumped them at the edge of the village. He further stated that sometime during June or Jul 67, while on a search and destroy operation, members of his unit searched a village and found no evidence to indicate VC had been present. The village was then destroyed by burning it. It is apparent from Mr. Rippberger's testimony that he provided slides to substantiate a portion of his testimony.

STATUS/PROGNOSIS: Investigation completed; insufficient evidence.

Mr. Rippberger was interviewed by CID on 20 Sep 71. Upon advice from his attorney, he declined to provide any information concerning his allegations. He further stated he made the allegations not to get people into trouble, but to make the public aware of what was going on in RVN.

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.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY