

Q: Did you later subsequently learn that those members that were emanciated in that manner were members of your company or your platoon?

A: I knew at that time they were.

Q: What was your feeling when you saw what you did see in the chopper and what you found out about your organization being involved in that kind of an operation?

A: I don't know if I can describe the feelings.

Q: At least try.

A: It's anger, hate, fear, generally sick to your stomach, hurt.

Q: Did it have any impact on your beliefs, your ideas or what you might like to do in connection with somehow or other on into combat and accomplishing your mission? Am I making that too complicated for you?

A: I believe so.

Q: I'm trying to find out if it had any impact on your future actions as you were going to have to go in and if you did go in and reach the enemy on other occasions and if so, what was the impact?

A: I'm not really sure of what my actual feelings were at that time. I can't sit down and say I made any formal conclusions of what I would do when I met the enemy. I think there is an—that instilled a deeper sense of hatred for the enemy. I don't think I ever made up my mind or came to any conclusion as to what I'd do to the enemy.

Q: All right. Now did you have any remorse or grief or anything?

A: Yes, sir, I did.

Q: What was that?

A: The remorse for losing my men in the mine field. The remorse that those men ever had to go to Vietnam, the remorse of being in that situation where you are completely helpless. I think I felt mainly remorse because I wasn't there, although there was nothing I could do. There was a psychological factor of just not being there when everything is happening.

Q: Did you feel sorry that you weren't there with your troops?

A: Yes, sir.

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## WILLIAM L. CALLEY

### *Combat Experiences before My Lai*

1970

*At his court-martial trial, William Calley was asked about casualties inflicted on his men during combat operations prior to My Lai and how those events affected his attitude.*

Q: Everytime that the company would go, at least a company-sized unit, to try to get in that area and stay in there, they encountered hostile fire, enemy fire, suffered casualties, and were driven out?

A: Yes, sir. [Calley was asked about an incident that occurred when he was returning to his company from in-country R and R. As he was waiting for a helicopter to take him to his men, he helped unload a chopper filled with casualties caused by a mine field.]

Q: What did you see and what did you do in connection with that helicopter when it landed back there and before you boarded up to go to meet your company?

A: The chopper was filled with gear, rifles, rucksacks. I think the most—the thing that really hit me hard was the heavy boots. There must have been six boots there with the feet still in them, brains all over the place, and everything was saturated with blood, rifles blown in half. I believe there was one arm on it and a piece of a man's face, half of a man's face was on the chopper with the gear.