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My Lai briefing standard: witness

FT. BENNING, Ga. (AP) — No orders ever were issued from a high-level conference that women and children were to be killed at My Lai, prosecution witnesses testified Wednesday at Lt. William L. Calley Jr.'s court-martial.

One of the witnesses, William C. Riggs of Midland, Tex., commander of Alpha Company, said he attended a briefing on the eve of My Lai, conducted by Lt. Col. Frank Barker, head of the task force which made the March 16, 1968 assault.

"It was pretty much a standard briefing," added Riggs, a former infantry captain. "There was nothing much out of the ordinary that I recall."

Another witness who was present at the briefing, which Calley did not attend, was Lt. Col. Frederic W. Watke, who was asked:

Q. Do you recall any specific mention of women and children?

A. Not specifically, no.

Q. Was there an order given to kill every man, woman and child in the area?

A. Not at — no.

Q. Was there an order given not to take prisoners?

A. No.

Calley, 27, is accused of premeditated murder of 102 unresisting Vietnamese men, women and children at My Lai while leading the 1st Platoon of Charlie Company on a search and destroy mission through the hamlet.

On the witness stand, Calley said he was obeying orders from his company commander, Capt. Ernest L. Medina, to wipe out every living thing in the hamlet near the South China Sea.

Medina attended the Barker

briefing and the prosecution aim in its rebuttal testimony was to convince the six-man court-martial jury that no such orders were passed down from the high-level conference.

Further rebuttal testimony is expected to deal with a subsequent briefing Medina gave the men of his company, including Calley.

Medina has been charged with over-all responsibility for civilian deaths at My Lai but he has not yet been ordered to trial. He has claimed the Army is preventing him from testifying at Calley's trial, where he said he could refute the defendant's allegation regarding his orders.

In the absence of the jury, the trial judge, Col. Reid W. Kennedy, told prosecution and defense lawyers that the jurors have the right to call witnesses — including Medina — after both prosecution and defense have pleaded their cases.



NINE-YEAR-OLD Dave Diamond of Rydal, Pa. makes his way through the gates on his way down the 2,400-foot ski run and heads successfully for the finish line during the First Annual National Amputee grand slalom races last Saturday at Dow Mountains in Topton, Pa. Dave was the youngest of the 17 amputees who competed for about two hours. (AP Wirephoto)

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Funeral services today for '68 grad

Funeral services for Air Force 1st Lt. Terrel V. Garrett, A&M graduate killed Sunday in a sky-diving mishap, were to be held today in El Paso.

Services at 1:30 p.m. were to be in the Harding Orr Funeral Home, with full military honors burial to follow at Fort Bliss.

Garrett apparently died of drowning in the South River near Annapolis, Md. His parachute became tangled with another skydiver during a free fall from 7,200 feet.

He managed to cut free of the

tangled chute and open his reserve. Police, who saw Garrett land in the river, theorize the 1968 A&M graduate was unable to swim due to his fouled parachute and the shock of the fall.

Garret majored in agricultural economics and jumped with A&M's second place team in the National Collegiate Meet his senior year at A&M. He was a member of Squadron 6. The 25-year-old officer was a pilot with the 20th Military Airlift Squadron at Dover AFB, Del.

He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Garrett, 8624 N. Loop Dr., El Paso, and an older brother.

facilities design and organization, recreation finance and the Wheeling commission at 8 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., respectively. The first two will be in Rooms 115 and 113 of the Recreation and Parks Building.

Gaylor's 7:30 p.m. address will be in Room 215, Animal Industries.

Baptists to show film about Israel Sunday

"His Land," a one-hour color feature film telling the story of Israel from ancient to modern times, will be shown at 7:20 p.m. Sunday in the College Station First Baptist Church.

The motion picture features Cliff Barrows and Cliff Richard with a musical score composed and arranged by Ralph Carmichael.

Richard, a popular singing star in England, sings a number of Carmichael songs, some written on location.

Viewers see Israel today as a living testimony to the words of the prophets when they proclaimed Israel would take her place among the nations of the world.

Geophysics prof guest at international meet

An A&M geophysics professor has been invited to attend a meeting to develop a U. S. program for the International Geophysics Project.

Dr. Anthony F. Gangi will be a guest member of the Geophysics Project working committee, which will meet in Washington, D. C., today and Friday.

The purpose of the Geophysics Project is to study the problems of dynamics and dynamic history of the earth, Dr. Gangi explained. Dynamics refers to the basic processes that shape the surface of the earth, such as the origin of earthquakes, volcanism, faulting and mountain building.

Professor elected society chairman

Dr. Page W. Morgan, Texas A&M Plant Sciences Department professor, has been elected chairman of the Southern Section of the American Society of Plant Physiologists at the annual meeting in Jacksonville, Fla.

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