

In brief these are the circumstances of the incident of the injury of SP4 Harry James B squad recon platoon:
On the 4th of September Delta Company 1 Bn 12th INF 2^d BDE had scheduled a firing of the final protective fires on the perimeter of Augusta FSB at 2000 hours.
SP4 James was with the recon platoon on the perimeter behind the TOC, at position # 3A. When ~~the~~^{RFW} the firing began ^{he} was in a covered position, but stood up to secure his weapon, and was struck in the back of the right thigh by a piece of shrapnel. All the members of the platoon were questioned as to whether or not they had thrown fragmentation grenades from the perimeter. Only one said he had, SP4 Jeffrey Smith. However he had thrown his grenade well to the left and on the other side of the saddle of ground by which the position were located. There was solid ground between the point where the grenade went off and the point where SP4 James was standing. It is highly unlikely that SP4 James was injured by this grenade. Recon ^{leader S/LT} Plt^V Silva verified SP4 Smith's story. There was a great deal of fog in the area at the time, and there was some firing of M79 grenade launchers on the lower half of the perimeter; this possibly could account for the explosions heard by PFC Jimmy Gilmore and

PFC Barry Munson, who were manning the LP/OP on the other end of the saddle of ground from the perimeter. Lt Silva said he was not informed of the planned firing of the final protective fires on the perimeter. When the firing broke out, he maintained control of his people, and held what fires they put out to a minimum. There was no lack of supervision or negligence on his part. SP4 James was injured when he exposed himself from a covered position, briefly, but of his own accord. His squad leader SP4 Boddie did not tell him to do so, and James moved before anyone in the position noticed what he was doing. Everyone in the recon platoon has signed a statement pertaining to the matter, and no one except SP4 Smith admits to having thrown a fragmentation grenade from the perimeter. His was the only one that went off in the immediate area. It is unlikely, but it was a possible source of the schrapnel that hit SP4 James. I can find no other source of the injury with these facts as they are.

Findings: That there was no negligence or lack of supervision on the part of 1LT Silva or on the part of SP4 Boddie in the injury of SP4 Harry James. That SP4 James' injury was accidental, and no one's fault.

Recommendations:

That in the future when such an exercise is planned, the matter be discussed by members of the units involved, and a plan of fires and weapons to be used agreed upon and adhered to. That the people in those units be informed of such planned exercises.

Robert F. Horvath
ROBERT F. HORVATH
1LT 1WF

JAS

I have been informed of my rights under Article 31 UCMJ, and I wish to make the following statement: when the firing of the final protective fire on the perimeter of Augusta FSB at 8 o'clock on the evening of the 4th of September 1970 took place, I was located at my sleeping position between bunkers #3 and #2. After the firing began, I threw one fragmentation grenade out in the direction of my left front. I did this of my own accord. I didn't see anyone else throw any fragmentation grenades from any other position on the recon platoon perimeter; but I did hear a fragmentation grenade go off to my right on the outside of the concertina wire. That was the only other grenade I was aware of going off. JAS

Jeffrey A. Smith

JEFFREY A SMITH
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

245 I have been informed of my rights under Article 31, UCMR and wish to make the following statement: When the firing of the FPL on the perimeter of FSB Augusta at 8 o'clock took place I was located with the 3rd squad which was acting as the CP. At that time I had the RTO call Delta Company to see what was happening + everyone else was told to stay down. At this time a grenade went off to the left of the 3rd squad's position + some firing (8 shots) came out of the bunker. The man was told to cease fire. We were informed by Delta Company that they were firing their FPL. Approximately 30 seconds later we received a call from the 1st squad that one of their men was hit by a piece of frag. The medic went down to 1st squad's bunker and I started to check 2nd squad to see if anyone had thrown any grenades. I then went down to check the injured man out and then returned to question each man in 2nd squad as to whether they had been firing or throwing grenades. They all replied negative. I also did this with those in the 3rd squad who were in the immediate vicinity. At this time I was told to report to the TOC which I did. After this I checked on Sp4 Jones again, checked frags

HE mortar firing & then returned to the platoon area.

From what I had seen and heard I could only determine that either Sp4 James was hit by a piece of the frag that went off to my left which was highly unlikely or that someone in 2nd squad threw a grenade toward the vicinity of 1st squad and did not admit it. JAS

Joseph A Silva

Joseph A. SILVA

1LT

INF

3/B, I have been informed of my rights under Article 31, UCMJ, and I wish to make the following statement: when the firing of the final protective fire on the perimeter of Augusta FSB at 8 o'clock on the evening of the 4th of September 1970 took place, I was located at my bunker position #3A with four of my squad members, the injured man SP4 James being one of these. When the firing started, we all got down inside our position to take cover. Then SP4 James got back up to get his weapon; and after picking it up, he fell down inside the position saying he was hit in the leg. His fire team leader, SP4 Bruce Armour, looked at his ^{3/B} ~~wound~~ wound while I called for the medic. After the medic checked the wound, he and Armour took SP4 James down to the aid station. No one in our position threw any fragmentation grenades during the firing of the final protective fires; nor did ~~we~~ ^I see any one throw any fragmentation grenades from any other position. However, I did hear an explosion off to the left of my position about the time that James was injured 3/B.

Walter Boddie III

WALTER BODDIE III

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BUA I have been informed of my rights under Article 31, UCMJ, and I wish to make the following statement: when the firing of the final protective fire on the perimeter of Augusta FSB at 8 o'clock on the evening of the 4th of September 1970 took place, I was located at my bunker #3A with three other squad members, the injured man being one of these, and my squad leader. When the firing began, we all got down inside our position for cover. As soon as this took place, SP4 Harry Jones, the man who was injured, got back up to get his weapon, which was located on the outside of the position. After he picked up his weapon, he turned and faced the inside of the position, and fell to the ground saying that he had been hit in the leg. At this time I was inside the position, and I felt no dirt or shrapnel in the area. I immediately moved to Jones and checked his wound; at the same time my squad leader ^{SP4 BUA} ~~Sgt~~ Walter Boddie called for the medic on the radio. After the medic checked Jones' wound and found it was not serious, the medic and I carried Jones down to the main aid station. No one in our position threw any fragmentation grenades ~~at this time~~ ^{BUA} during the firing of the final protective fires. BUA

Bruce U. Armour

Bruce U. Armour

CAB I have been informed of my rights under Article 31 UCMJ,
and I wish to make the following statement: when the
firing of the final protective fire on the perimeter of
Augusta FSB at 8 o'clock on the evening of the 4th of
September 1970 took place, I was located at my
bunker # 3A with three other ^{CAB members} squad ~~leaders~~, and my
squad leader. At no time during this firing did I
throw a fragmentation grenade from my position;
nor did I see anyone else throw a fragmentation
grenade from my position or any other position. CAB

Charles Barr

CHARLES BARR

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

A.E.T.
I have been informed of my rights under Article 31 UCMJ,
and I wish to make the following statement: when the
firing of the final protective fires on the perimeter of
Augusta FSB at Soledad on the evening of the 4th of
September took place, I was located at my bunker
*3A with three other squad members, and my squad
leader. At no time during this firing did I throw a
fragmentation grenade from my position; nor did
I see anyone else throw a fragmentation grenade
from my position or any other position. A.E.T.

Alan Tynan

ALAN TYNAN
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

W.P.

I have been informed of my rights under Article 31, UCMJ, and I wish to make the following statement: when the firing of the final protective ~~fire~~ fires on the perimeter of Augusta FSB at 8 o'clock on the evening of the 4th of September 1970 took place, I was inside my bunker on position #3; I did not at any time during the firing of this final protective fire test fire throw any fragmentation grenades; nor did I see anyone else throw any fragmentation grenades from any other position on the recon platoon perimeter. I did hear a fragmentation grenade go off to the front of my position, and heard dirt and shrapnel hit the outside of the bunker. I remained inside my bunker during the whole time of this firing of the final protective fire. W.P.

William A. Paul

WILLIAM A. PAUL
~~████████████████████~~

DB I have been informed of my rights under Article 31 UCMJ, and I wish to make the following statement: when the firing of the final protective fires on the perimeter of Augusta FSB at 8 o'clock on the evening of the 4TH of September 1970 took place, I was inside my bunker on position #3; I did not at any time during the firing of this final protective fire test fire throw any fragmentation grenades; nor did I see anyone else throw any fragmentation grenades from any other position on the recon platoon perimeter. However I heard what I believed to be a fragmentation grenade go off to the right front of my position, and heard what I believed to be dirt, rocks, and/or schrapnel hit the outside of my position. I remained inside my bunker during the whole time of this firing of the final protective fire. DB

Stephen D Braun

STEPHEN D. BRAUN
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

0107. I have been informed of my rights under Article 31, UCMJ, and I wish to make the following statement: when the firing of the final protective fire on the perimeter of Augusta FSB at 8 o'clock on the evening of the 4th of September 1970 took place, I was located on the LP/OP opposite the recon platoons portion of the perimeter. During the time that the final protective fires were being fired, I heard ~~two~~^{two BLM} explosions on the perimeter side of my location. I cannot ascertain whether these explosions were caused by fragmentation grenades or M-79 grenade launcher rounds; neither can I say exactly where these rounds went off, because it was very foggy at the time, and all I had to go by was the sound. I did not throw any fragmentation grenades from my position during the time that the final protective fires were being fired; nor did anyone else in my position throw fragmentation grenades from our position at this time. During the time the final protective fires were being fired, I could not see the positions on the perimeter; this is an example of how foggy it was at the time. B.M.

Barry J. Murson

BARRY MURSON

J. L. S.

I have been informed of my rights under Article 31, UCMJ, and I wish to make the following statement: when the firing of the final protective fire on the perimeter of Augusta FSB at 8 o'clock on the evening of the 4th of September 1970 took place, I was located on the LP/OP opposite the recon platoons' part of the perimeter. While the final protective fires were being fired, I heard ^{these} ~~these~~ explosions between my position and the perimeter - that is to say these explosions weren't out past my position. I don't know whether these explosions were caused by fragmentation grenades or by M.79 grenade launcher rounds. I did not throw any fragmentation grenades from my position during this time; nor did anyone else in my position.

Jimmy L. Gilmore

J. L. S.
JIM GILMORE
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

I have been informed of my rights under Article 31, UCMJ, and I wish to make the following statement: when the firing of the final protective fire on the perimeter of Augusta FSB at 8 o'clock on the evening of the 4th of September 1970 took place, I was located on the portion of the perimeter occupied by the recon platoon. While the final protective fires were being fired, I threw ~~no~~^{RED} no fragmentation grenades from my position, ~~nor did I~~^{RED}.

Loren R. Chambers
CHAMBERS, LOREN R.
[REDACTED]

Miles Freddie
Miles Freddie
[REDACTED]

Dennis R Parks
DENNIS R. PARKS
[REDACTED]

Marvin O. Skalicky
SKALICKY MARVIN
[REDACTED]

Murray George
[REDACTED]

George Minor
[REDACTED]

John A. Blue Jacob
Blue Earth, John A.
[REDACTED]

Nick Gerakaris
NICK GERAKARIS
[REDACTED]

George M. Stapinsky
STAPINSKY GEORGE M.
[REDACTED]

John A. Ogrizet
[REDACTED]

John A. Ogrizet
[REDACTED]

Allen S. Rosenfeld
ROSENFELD ALLEN S
[REDACTED]

Richard A. Taylor
[REDACTED]

Taylor Richard A
[REDACTED]

James J. Weber
[REDACTED]

JAMES L WEBER
[REDACTED]

Patrick D. Tapia
[REDACTED]

Tapia, Patrick D.
[REDACTED]

John F. Buescher
BUESCHER, JOHN F.
[REDACTED]

James O. Raymond
Raymond James O.
[REDACTED]

Mark E. James
LAMEL MARK E

Social Security

#5

blocked out

OP/LP



MUNSON
GILMORE

2^d
PLT OP



SMITH



PAUL
BRAUN

SILVA



BEDDIE
ARMOUR
BAER
TYRAN

2

3

3A