


File: **JUMP**
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S U M M A R Y

In VC Military Region (MR) IV from October 1965 through 28 February 1967, the VC dug trenches before a battle for Allied prisoners of war (POW's) that they anticipated capturing. These were used for protection against bombing and were only prepared for engagements expected to last more than one-half hour. Upon capture, the POW's were evacuated to a medical camp near the battleground; from there, Vietnamese prisoners were sent to district and higher levels; U.S. POW's were taken through district and province to The Central Office For SVK (COSVN). Wounded prisoners were left at the site of the conflict when the fighting was near a road or an Allied post; when there was little chance of their being rescued, the wounded were taken to the VC base camp. VC had to treat POW's well; if a soldier violated this rule, he was criticized by his supervisor, and if he continued the mistreatment, he was criticized again and re-educated. Cadres were criticized and subsequently sent to a Rear Services unit if they continued violation of the rules.

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to evacuate them if there was not adequate food and lodging to accommodate the prisoners at any given level. U.S. prisoners were given bread, if available, or rice cakes, and tea. Other POW's had one liter of rice a day and eight piasters worth of food, which included tea, bought by the unit at the local market. It was believed by the VC that GVN troops did not have much to eat. Therefore, according to Source, COSVN ordered the VC to give more food to anyone who needed it.

All VC were to treat POW's well. Cadres who violated the rules were criticized by their supervisor in front of the entire unit and then not given any work to do. If they continued to disobey VC policy they were sent to Rear Services and not allowed to participate in combat until they changed their behavior. No cadres were known to commit more than one violation, because of the humiliation they realized they would suffer if not permitted to fight. Cadres were considered by Source to have the power to do what they wanted, whereas soldiers just carried out orders. However, a cadre had to set the example for everyone and if he mistreated a POW, the incident was more serious. When a soldier violated the regulations, he was criticized and released from combat until he admitted his mistake, during which time he stayed at the unit. For minor offenses, the soldier was first criticized in private by his immediate supervisor and thereafter by his unit commander in front of the entire unit. After repeated violations, soldiers would also be re-educated. The man had to write down the entire sequence of events, then read his dissertation in front of the unit and explain it part by part. Subsequently, the unit members had the opportunity to comment if they felt the violator had not been complete or correct in his analysis; however, they rarely made any additional statements. The entire process took approximately two hours. In this manner, political officers used cases of misbehavior to remind others of the proper prisoner-handling procedures. Examples of minor offenses included one case which occurred in 1963 when a soldier beat a POW. Major offenses included shooting a POW without an order, an example of which was publicized by COSVN, when, in 1963, a soldier shot and wounded three ARVN soldiers in QU CHI District, BAN NGHIA Province. It was known that at times soldiers took out their anger on Allied prisoners by shooting at them after they fell into VC hands, but no specific instances were known to Source. After a violation, the immediate supervisor and the man involved would apologize to the prisoner, because if the POW were an officer, the lower-ranking offender might not be able to communicate effectively with him; if the violator were of higher rank than the prisoner, there would be an argument between the two. From 1961 to 1963 regulations regarding POW treatment were not as strictly enforced; however, after 1963, when the situation became progressively more difficult for the VC, greater effort was made to enforce the rules.