

RAND
MAR 10 1967
W13823
WASH. OFFICE

1.3(a)(4)

COUNTRY : NORTH VIETNAM (NVN)
SOUTH VIETNAM (SVN)

SUBJECT : Allied Prisoners in the hands
of the VC

DATE OF REPORT: 20/2/67

1.3(a)(4)

DATE OF INFO : 2-24 August 1966

NO. OF PAGES: 3

DATE AND PLACE OF ACQUISITION : 15-16 February 1967 (Q-G)
SAIGON, Vietnam

REF:

SOURCE:

1.3(a)(4)

S U M M A R Y

During a battle with U.S. Forces near GAO Village, PLEIKU Province the VC took approximately 30 American prisoners. One of the prisoners was a seriously wounded case who was carried off in a stretcher. Source himself took a prisoner.

DISTRIBUTION:

US MACV
US EMBASSY (OSA)

ATTACHMENTS:

NOTICE: THIS MATERIAL CONTAINS INFORMATION
AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED
STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE
LAWS, TITLE 18 U.S.C., SECTIONS 793 AND 794,
THE TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF WHICH IN
ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS
PROHIBITED BY LAW.

None

1.3(a)(4)

MAR 2 - 1967

Postal Registry No. 35486

Approved for Release
Date September 1993

1.3(a)(4)

1. On 2 August 1966, Source participated in an ambush of a unit of the First Cavalry. This ambush took place in a large clearing located approximately 1 kilometer from the Village of GAO, PLEIKU Province. In this action the VC ambushed an AMERICAN Force which consisted of 10 troop-carrying helicopters. After inflicting heavy casualties on the AMERICAN Forces, the VC broke contact when AMERICAN re-inforcements arrived via additional helicopters. This battle lasted approximately 25 minutes.
2. Source indicated that during the battle he saw one white AMERICAN soldier who was seriously wounded (shot in the thigh) taken prisoner. Source claimed that the VC carried him off in a stretcher. Source could offer no further information concerning this captive. Source, however, assumed that the POW was carried to the Base Surgical Dispensary which was located approximately 10 kilometers from the battle area in a westerly direction from GAO Village. Source also stated that the wounded captive could possibly have been carried to the First Aid Station rather than the Base Surgical Dispensary. This First Aid Station was located approximately mid-way between the battle area and the Base Surgical Dispensary, i.e. approximately 5 kilometers from the battle area, also in a westerly direction from GAO Village.
3. Source claimed that all VC units were indoctrinated to take prisoners and were directed to well-treat all captives. Source could not, however, recall seeing or hearing of any specific directive concerning the treatment of POWs.
4. Source stated that according to the man in his squad, responsible for taking the captives to the rear area, approximately 30 AMERICANS were captured in this battle. Source could offer no information concerning the final disposition of the prisoners since his squad continued to do battle. Source, however, assumed that these prisoners would be transmitted to some rear unit for final disposition. Source could offer no information as to the whereabouts of any POW camps.
5. Source stated that his squad took four captives during this battle, two white and two negro soldiers. All captives carried individual automatic weapons. Source himself took one prisoner. Source claimed he did not know the name of the prisoner nor his rank, since he could not speak English nor could he recognize rank insignias. Source only recognized the shoulder patch which had a horse pictured on it.
6. Source described the method for handling battle-field captives as follows: Each VC squad is divided into four 3-man cells. Before a battle, one man from one cell in the squad was assigned the responsibility of taking charge of any captives taken by his squad and insuring that the captive was taken to a rear area unit. When a captive was taken, either the man taking the captive or the squad member responsible for prisoners, tied the captive's hands behind his back. The prisoner was then taken to the rear area. The VC used either rope (about the size of the rope used with hammocks) or wire. Source stated that each VC soldier carried 12 meters of either rope or wire. Once the assigned squad member had delivered the captive to the rear area unit, he returned to the battle field for any additional captives.
7. Source claimed that he never saw this rear service Unit or any POW camps, because he was wounded during this battle, his first, and captured by U.S. Forces approximately 15 days after the battle while hiding in the forest in CHU TRONG Mountains, PLEIKU Province.

1.3(a)(4)

8. Source could offer no first hand information on how POWs were moved nor where they were finally interned. Source, however, assumed that they were marched on foot, with their hands tied behind their backs to prevent escape, to the rear areas. Source further stated that he assumed that whenever the POWs had to rest for any extended period that the POWs shoes were probably taken from them, because they (NVN/VC) had learned from previous experiences in fighting the FRENCH, that Westerners could not travel far in this kind of terrain in their bare feet.

1.3(a)(4)

1.3(a)(4)