

[REDACTED]

9 November 1971

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Report of a U.S. Prisoner of War at Viet Cong Prison Camp in Dam Doi District, An Xuyen Province

SOURCE:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1. [REDACTED] The men captured were 1st Lieutenant Richard L. Bowers, Senior Advisor, and Staff Sergeant Arroyo, team medic. (According to the Joint Personnel Recovery Center records, Sergeant Arroyo is identical with Staff Sergeant Arroyo-Baez.) Two other members of the team are believed to have been killed during the attack.

2. The day following their capture, Lieutenant Bowers was killed by the VC captors because of injuries he received during the attack on the outpost, and because he tried to escape. Sergeant Arroyo [REDACTED] forced to travel for 32 days, by foot and sampan, to Kien Giang Province, where [REDACTED] remained for several days. [REDACTED] then taken to a prison camp at WQ381843 in Dam Doi District. (The report was...)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

3. At Dam Doi Prison Camp Sergeant Arroyo was kept separate from the ARVN prisoners, of which there were seven, five officers and two noncommissioned officers. There were never more than a total of eight prisoners in the camp at one time. The guard force numbered from 8 to 20. The ARVN prisoners were not physically abused or mistreated, but they were interrogated daily during the first month. Afterwards they were interrogated about twice a year, apparently for harassment; these interrogations lasted approximately two hours each. The prison routine never varied. The prisoners arose at 0700 hours and were fed a breakfast of rice, salt, and occasionally fish at 0800 hours. They were not given lunch, but were permitted to rest from 1200 to 1400 hours. Supper, consisting of rice, salt, and fish was served at 1800 hours. The prisoners were chained by the ankle at 2100 hours. During the day they repaired huts, bunkers, and bridges, and helped on woodchopping and fishing details.

4. Air and ground operations were conducted near the camp between June 1969 and October 1971, but its location remained undetected. The location of the camp was never changed during [REDACTED] confinement; however, with the escape of the six ARVN prisoners, [REDACTED] believes the VC will move the camp to another site.

5. In June 1969, the camp guard force numbered more than 20 men. When [REDACTED] escaped there were only eight. The camp chief was believed to be Nam Den, who had arrived in camp about one week prior to [REDACTED] escape. The political officer was Tu Lui, who had been there six months. [REDACTED] did not know to what section or command the prison camp belonged. While cleaning the guards quarters he noted the symbols "A5B" and "G36" on two documents but did not know what they signified.*

[REDACTED] Comment: [REDACTED] last saw Sergeant Arroyo about a year ago. However, another prisoner who escaped [REDACTED] is reported to have seen Arroyo at the camp in about mid-September 71.