

RAND
FEB 6 1969
W 21030
WASH. OFFICE

1.3(a)(4)

COUNTRY : NORTH VIETNAM (NVN)
SUBJECT : POW Facility in HANOI
DATE OF INFO : October 1967
DATE AND PLACE OF ACQUISITION : 7 January 1969 (Z - W) SAIGON, Vietnam

[] [] []

DATE OF REPORT: 11/1/69

NO. OF PAGES : 5

REF: [] []

1.3(a)(4)

SOURCE: []

1.3(a)(4)

S U M M A R Y

A POW facility was located on YEN PHU Street, just North of NGUYEN KHAC NHU Street, in HANOI (WJ26958824). The main gate and a smaller pedestrian gate were located on YEN PHU Street, giving access to a walled-in compound, consisting of a long two-story building, which housed 200 POW's, according to a guard. Thirty or forty POW's were seen in the open space in the center of the compound, which was used as a volleyball court and basketball court. The facility was located on a busy street, in a residential area, and a street located immediately South of the compound was a popular practice spot for people learning to ride motorcycles.

DISTRIBUTION:

US MACV
US EMBASSY (OSA)

[] [] []

ATTACHMENTS: 1.3(a)(4)

-1

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.

JAN 27 1969
Postal Registry No. 194 013

Approved for Release
Date September 1993

1.3(a)(4)

MAP REFERENCE:

Series L999, Stock No. L909KHANOI, Edition 2 - AMS (2007), Scale 1/12,500

1. The POW Facility was located on YEN PHU Street, just north of NGUYEN KHAC NHU Street (WJ26958824), in an old Chinese school. It was thought to have been a Chinese school, since the architectural style was neither European nor Vietnamese.
2. Entry was gained to the compound through a small pedestrian gate, about 75 centimeters wide, adjacent to the main gate, which was the same width as the entry road, approximately 4 meters. (See Attachment 1). The main gate was 3 meters high, constructed of iron bars and barbed wire, which permitted a view of the driveway. The pedestrian gate was somewhat lower; and both gates were locked all the time.
3. A small one-man guard shack, possibly constructed of sheet metal, was located 2 meters inside the pedestrian gate. Two or three soldiers guarded the entry points, either from inside or outside the gates; but the gates always had to be unlocked from the inside. The driveway extended inside for about 30-40 meters from the gate, to a point where it made a right angle in a southerly direction and terminated at another gate about 20 meters further. It was not known what constituted the northern border of the driveway, but it seemed that the driveway was flanked by many buildings, which apparently were not a part of the compound. A brick air raid shelter, extending about 1 meter above ground was located along the southern edge of the driveway; the dimensions of the shelter were unknown, but it was thought to have a capacity of about 30 people.
4. At the point where the driveway angled south, a small one story building was located which housed the guards and the interpreter who met the visitors at the gate. While walking at any point along the driveway, the visitor did not have a clear view of the compound, except of the small dirt-surface open area, on which the air raid shelter was located. On the western edge of the driveway a fence extended from the corner to the second gate. The construction or dimensions of the fence and the gate were not known. Two individual air raid shelters, apparently intended for use by the guards, flanked the gate.
5. After entering the compound proper, a long two-story building took up the entire left hand side. The building was approximately 200 by 7 meters in size, constructed of white stone, with a pointed roof of red tile. The side of the building facing the compound had numerous doors and windows, some of which were open. The visitor came to within 4 or 5 meters from the building and noticed two or three beds through a partially open wooden door. The beds were made of wood and had iron bars on top, evidently to support a mosquito net. The size or physical characteristics of the room could not be determined. The guard said that 200 POWs were housed in the building. Community air raid shelters were located north and south of the building.
6. The center of the compound measured about 200 by 100 meters, and was occupied by a basketball court and a volleyball court, each measuring approximately 15 by 20 meters. The other side of the compound was bordered by a line of trees, of the type named SAU, behind which the compound apparently ended. Behind the trees, the old school gate was located.

1.3(a)(4)

It seemed in disuse and was probably blocked.

The southern corner of the compound was apparently bordered by a one-story building, the construction or size of which was unknown. In the distance, many dwellings could be discerned, but they did not appear to be part of the compound.

7. Two soldiers, who did not have any specified position, guarded the 30 to 40 POWs that were located in the compound. Some of the POWs were engaged in a volleyball game, some were practicing basketball, while others sat around by themselves or in groups, talking or singing to the accompaniment of a guitar. The POWs were all dressed in black pajamas and rubber sandals; however, some of the men playing ball had removed their shirts. The men playing ball were shouting to one another, and in general all seemed to be happy.
8. YEN PHU Street was considered a busy thoroughfare, and moderate traffic was moving all the time. The street was separated from the compound by a three meter high stone wall, topped with barbed wire, which ran at least from the entrance gate to the corner of the main building. (This wall, or one similar in construction, probably encircled the entire compound.) The two story main building had no windows on the first floor streetside, but it possibly had second floor windows. On the street side of the wall, a grass strip extended for three meters, planted with SAU trees, and separated from the street by a one meter wide footpath with a rock surface.
9. The main street was about 12 meters wide and paved with asphalt, bordered on the other side by another footpath, grass strip with trees and streetcar tracks. It was not known if YEN PHU had street lights, but if it did, the posts probably would be located on this side. No fire hydrants existed. The closest street car stop was 100 meters south from the southern corner of the compound.
10. The POW facility was located in a residential area, in existence for about 50 or 60 years. Dwellings were constructed in various sizes, and the inhabitants no longer represented one particular social class. No military installations were located in the immediate vicinity (sic), and the nearest open area was a soccer field, located about 1 kilometer southward, near the bridge. The street immediately south of the compound sloped down from YEN PHU Street, and this incline, considered the most dangerous in HANOI, had apparently been incorporated in the official motorcyclist's driving test. Every day, many practicing motorcyclists and others who were taking the test could be seen.
11. Student drivers had a special sign attached to their motorcycle, stating that they were students. The sign was approximately 15 by 20 centimeters, and showed red letters on a white background. It was obtained at the local Security office, and was valid for two weeks. When issued, the permit was on ordinary paper, but most riders affixed it to a rigid back, so it could be attached to their motorbike easier. Students always had to be accompanied by a licensed rider on the motorcycle, which also was good practice, since they had to carry the Security Agent when taking the test.
12. Every month or two, Security Agents stopped all motorcycle riders to check their papers; however, people who carried the learners permit were not stopped.

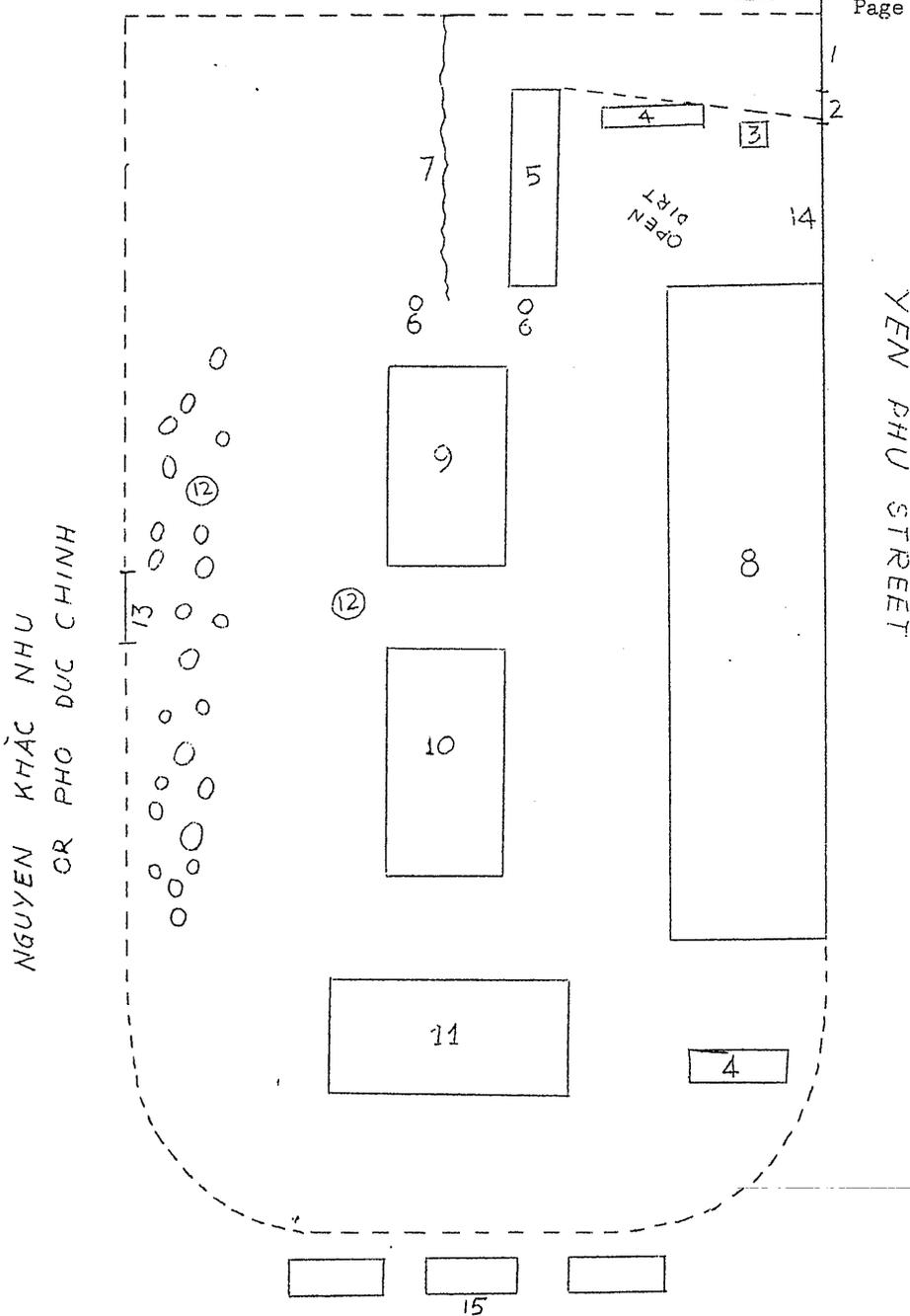
13. The most popular motorcycle used to be the JAVA (sic), which was Czech made, but in recent times, the East German made MZ seemed more popular. The MZ was a 125 cc, 4-speed cycle, usually blue with a white painted gas tank. Occasionally a black MZ was seen. The JAVA's were always completely red.

1.3(a)(4)

[] Report was completed before [] which included low level aerial photographs of the area. These photographs did not show an "Educational Institute" Southeast of the Waterworks, as marked on the referenced map. When confronted with this photographic evidence, Source still held to the original pinpoint location, which does not appear large enough to hold the facility described. When asked to point out in the photographs the buildings drawn in his sketch, he stated that since he could not discern them, they must have been bombed and destroyed since that time. In the photographs, the area located at vic WJ 88002720 on referenced map closely seemed to resemble the area described by Source, and he was asked to identify these buildings. He stated that the corner building on YEN PHU somewhat resembled the Chinese school.)

1.3(a)(4)

1.3(a)(4)



LEGEND

- 1. Main gate
- 2. Pedestrian gate
- 3. Guard Post
- 4. Community Shelter
- 5. Building for guards
- 6. Trench
- 7. Fence
- 8. Main Building
- 9. Volley ball court
- 10. Basket ball court
- 11. One-story Building
- 12. Trees
- 13. Old School Gate
- 14. Compound Wall
- 15. Dwellings

1.3(a)(4)