

50X1-HUM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. One Republic of Korea soldier who was captured by the Communists on 29 October 1950 was sent to a war prison camp at Pyoktong (125-26, 40-36) in North Pyongan. This camp in early November had about 1,000 American war prisoners, of whom about 700 were negroes, approximately 1,500 ROK prisoners, and about 300 ROK civilian employees of the United Nations forces. These men were classified by nationality and housed in barracks which accommodated about 70 men each. All prisoners were questioned and searched every three days but were otherwise left to themselves. Each man received a daily ration of 700 grams of millet, kaoliang, or corn, in theory, but actually they received mostly corn and salt in about half the assigned quantities. Additional food could be obtained by bartering watches, uniforms, boots, and cigarettes. No blankets or bedding of any kind were supplied, but straw was available.
2. ROK prisoners were released after a period of several months (the soldier reporting these facts was released on 30 December) and given the choice of joining the North Korean army, settling down as civilians in North Korea, or returning to their homes. Most of those released were first-year soldiers or civilians. They were issued certificates of release which could be presented on their way back home in order to obtain food from local residents. Villagers stated that food given to released soldiers was deducted from their taxation in kind.
3. The Chinese and North Korean Communist troops referred to the war prisoners as "liberated soldiers."
4. Seven Americans were captured [redacted] on 8 January 1951 and were turned over to the [redacted] the North Korean army. According to an officer of the North Korean State Security Bureau, they were scheduled to be sent to Pyongyang as soon as orders from general headquarters there arrived for their transfer. On 10 February, they were [redacted] seen pulling 50X1-HUM handcarts from the West Gate toward the East Gate, under the supervision of three North Korean soldiers. All the Americans appeared undernourished and weak from hard labor.

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CLASSIFICATION

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5. During the Communist offensive [REDACTED] in early January, the Chinese 50X1-HUM Communist forces in the Yangju (127-02, 37-47) area captured about a hundred men and officers of the ROK army. The Chinese did not kill any of these prisoners but questioned each man separately. After this interrogation they released all the soldiers but kept officers, master sergeants, city residents, and high school graduates, who, it was rumored, would be sent to Manchuria for Communist indoctrination. The released soldiers were issued travel certificates permitting them to return home.
6. A staff member of the State Security Bureau [REDACTED] on 12 February stated 50X1-HUM that all American prisoners of war were sent to camps in Mukden, Tunghua, 50X1-HUM and Antung Provinces of Manchuria, where they were put to hard labor in mines and factories.

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