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

SUBJECT : Treatment of Allied and GVN  
 Prisoners; Evacuation to NVN; DATE OF REPORT : 5/9/67  
 Leaflets Left on Battlefield

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 SAIGON, Vietnam

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SOURCE: [ ]

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SUMMARY

In January 1966 Source's regiment stationed in THANH HOA Province received talks from the regiment political officer Senior Lieutenant DUNG on the treatment of Allied and GVN prisoners of war. All Allied prisoners captured in SVN would be taken from SVN to Laos and thence to HANOI either by truck from QUANG BINH Province or by helicopter from Laos. Helicopters from NVN to Laos carrying supplies for NVA troops could return carrying prisoners to HANOI. Source provided hearsay information on sightings of American and GVN prisoners dating from October 1965 in HOA BINH Province, in February 1966 in QUANG BINH Province, and November 1966 in QUANG NAM Province. The men were told that no one would be criticized for fatally shooting any

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1.3(a)(4)

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1.3(a)(4)

seriously wounded prisoner provided the inflicted wound was in the head, abdomen or chest; non-seriously wounded enemy soldiers were to be taken prisoner and brought to the regiment immediately. Regiment Headquarters had two English speaking interrogators. After an NVA/U.S. engagement in April 1967 in the vicinity of BINH LANG Village, THANG BINH District, QUANG TIN Province, Source personally placed leaflets (printed in NVN in English, but they also had leaflets printed in Korean and Vietnamese) near about ten dead American soldiers. These leaflets illustrated the anti-Vietnamese war demonstrations held in the U.S., Source saw and described one American prisoner captured after this battle. During pre-infiltration training the men in the regiment had been taught English phrases such as "surrender!" and "No chance escape!"

1. In January 1966, Regiment Political Officer Senior Lieutenant DUNG a political meeting in THANH HOA Province, discussed the treatment and evacuation of Allied Forces prisoners of war. He told the men that these prisoners should be well treated and forwarded to Regiment Headquarters for questioning by two English speaking interrogators. He added that if local guerrillas escorted prisoners then at least one NVA soldier should also be in the escort to prevent prisoner mistreatment. Allied prisoners would eventually be sent to HANOI either by truck or helicopter. From SVN territory the prisoners would be escorted into Laos, from Laos they would either be marched around the demilitarized zone to QUANG BINH Province where trucks would carry them to HANOI, or they would be flown from Laos direct to HANOI by helicopters. These helicopters flew from NVN (point of departure unknown) to Laos to supply NVA troops stationed there, and on their return trips they could carry these prisoners back.
2. In October 1965 Source was stationed in HOA BINH Province. From discussions with his associates he learned that an American pilot had just recently been captured by the local people. The American was described as 35 years of age, weighed about 130 kilograms and was 1.85 meters tall. They were about to beat him when some NVA soldiers arrived and took him into custody. One of the men in Source's unit said that he had heard about this from Major SON, the Regiment Commander. This American had parachuted safely and was uninjured. He gave the NVA troops a piece of paper on which were written both in Vietnamese and Chinese the following message "Don't beat me; give me food". The soldiers fed him bread and soup, then tied his arms and took him to HANOI in an approximately one hour ride in a three-wheeled bus. This was all the information Source learned from discussions with his associates.
3. In February 1966, during the infiltration trip, Source recalled a discussion he had with an NVA soldier who was quartered in QUANG BINH Province. This man told him that on two occasions he had escorted Allied prisoners from SVN into NVN via Laos territory. This man also mentioned that in one of these two groups there were three Americans. He did not say who the other prisoners were how many there had been in all. He claimed that he had turned them over to other soldiers in QUANG BINH Province to be transported by truck to HANOI.
4. In November 1966, during an attack on PHUOC LAM Post, TIEN PHUOC District, QUANG NAM Province, Source's company captured four GVN soldiers. Two were hurt and were taken on stretchers to the Regiment hospital (location unknown). The other two prisoners

1.3(a)(4)

1.3(a)(4)

were escorted by guerrillas and one NVA soldier to Regiment Headquarters for interrogating. He did not see these men but he learned this from conversations with his friends after the battle. Later on, Company Commander Lieutenant KHOI told his men that the prisoners would be taken to a prison camp (location unknown) but that cooperative prisoners could return to their village if it were in a VC controlled area. In March 1967, the entire regiment attacked a GVN-U.S. truck convoy on Route 1, near BA REN Bridge, THANG BINH District, QUANG TIN Province. During this battle four GVN soldiers, one second lieutenant and three soldiers, were also captured and taken to the regiment, for questioning. This was all the information he received about these prisoners in casual discussions among the men in his company.

5. In April 1967, the regiment engaged U.S. soldiers on operations near BINH LANH Village, THANG BINH District, QUANG TIN Province. Prior to this battle the Company Commander Lieutenant KHOI distributed leaflets which had been printed in NVN in English. These leaflets were to be scattered near enemy bodies on the battlefield. The leaflets discussed the anti-Vietnam war demonstrations in the U.S. They also contained a picture of Mr. Morrison, an American who immolated himself by fire in protest to the war. The Company commander said that he also had some leaflets printed in Korean and Vietnamese. Lieutenant KHOI then told the men that no one would be criticized for shooting any seriously wounded prisoner provided the inflicted wound was in the head, abdomen or chest. Non-seriously wounded enemy soldiers were to be taken prisoner and brought at the regiment immediately. After the battle, the American retreated and Source personally placed leaflets near about ten dead American soldiers. He did not see or hear of anyone shooting a wounded American. He saw one American prisoner just before he was escorted by NVA soldiers to the regiment. This man was about 1.80 meters tall, of medium build and had a thin dark mustache. He was not injured and still wore his helmet and his complete uniform except for one of his shoes (to prevent his escape). His arms were tied behind his back and Source recalled seeing insignias on the sleeves. He looked frightened and kept glancing all about furtively. The men standing about said that this man had been surrounded by soldiers from another NVA company and ordered to surrender, which he did immediately.
6. During the pre-infiltration training, the men in the regiment had been taught to say the following phrases in English: surrender, lay down arms, gun down, go, and no chance to escape. Senior Lieutenant DUNG spoke English and acted as instructor. Source did not know whether other prisoners had been taken by the NVA during this battle.

1.3(a)(4)