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SUMMARY

Although Source's battalion never captured any American prisoners, he heard of three instances in which other units did so; one took place in December 1965, when one U.S. advisor was killed; one took place in January 1967, when three soldiers were killed and one newswoman captured; the last happened in February 1967, when one U.S. soldier was captured. The VC treated the prisoners well in the hopes that they would make propoganda for the VC cause. GVN prisoners were generally kept for a two to three month period during which they were indoctrinated; they were later released. Source knew of and described two concentration camps for GVN prisoners near NGHIA DIEN Village, HOAI AN District, BINH DINH Province.

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1. Although Source's battalion, Battalion 97, never captured any U.S. prisoners, Source heard of several instances in which other units did so.
 - a. In December 1965, NVA/VC Battalion 93, Regiment 2, Division 3, captured 10 rangers and one U.S. advisor during an engagement with a GVN Montagnard ranger unit at GO RIENG Mountain (BS 630330), BA TO District, QUANG NGAI Province. The VC killed the U.S. advisor because he would not obey orders.
 - b. During an ambush laid by NVA/VC Regiment 6, Division 3, on National Route 1, three kilometers north of BONG SON (BS 888005), in January 1967, the VC set fire to a jeep carrying three U.S. soldiers and one newswoman. Source heard that the soldiers were killed and that the newswoman, a French national married to a U.S. Major was captured. The woman was allegedly sent to division headquarters, and after seven days, was released on National Route 1, DUC PHO District, QUANG NGAI Province.
 - c. NVA/VC Regiment 6, Division 3, raided a U.S. unit at XUAN SON Hill (BR 733815), HOAI AN District, BINH DINH Province, in February 1967, during which the unit captured a U.S. soldier from Brigade 3, U.S. First Air Cavalry and took him to the division headquarters. After one week of exploitation and indoctrination, he wrote leaflets for the NVA/VC troops to drop on the battlefield. Source remembered that the prisoner included his name, date of birth, rank and unit, and time and place of capture in the leaflet in which he also talked about the treatment given him by the "South Vietnamese Liberation Troops". He called on American soldiers to demand their recall and to refrain from fighting against "those who fight for the reunification and independence of their country".
2. The VC treated their American prisoners well, providing rice, meats, fish and sugar for them, because the VC thought they could influence the Americans to create propaganda for them.
3. From 1964 to June 1967, Battalion 97 captured about 200 GVN prisoners who were first sent to regimental headquarters for exploitation, then to the provincial unit, and finally to a concentration camp for indoctrination. The prisoners generally remained in the camp for two to three months and were then released; on occasion, the prisoners were set free right at the battlefield. GVN prisoners received the same food rations as did NVN/VC cadres and soldiers.
4. When Source's battalion was stationed in NGHIA DIEN Village (BR 690720), HOAI AN District, BINH DINH Province, there were two concentration camps in the area. One was located in a forest about two kilometers northwest of NGHIA DIEN Village at BR 685750. The camp consisted of 10 thatched buildings and was protected by bamboo trenches and fences. About 100 prisoners were assembled there; the prisoners were forced to work in the fields west of NGHIA DIEN Village. The other camp was in the forest to the southeast, about three kilometers from NGHIA Village at BR 715705, and was said to be larger than the camp to the northwest.

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