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Prisoners or Pawns?

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Prisoners or Pawns?

Abstract

Civil War prisoners of war suffered extreme cruelty from a combined effort of failures throughout the Civil War. Their suffering occurred not from one person or one event, but a combination of people and events. It was not about the North or the South, Union or Confederate, as both sides face blame and fault for the dreadful conditions of Civil War prisoner of war camps.

Cover Page Footnote

Thank you to Dr. Phillip Cuccia for serving as a mentor for this project, which resulted from his willingness to oversee an independent study course with me.

Prisoners or Pawns?

Four hundred thousand men, Union and Confederate, became prisoners of war during the American Civil War. Of those four hundred thousand men, fifty-six thousand died while in captivity. How did the cessation of the Dix Hill Cartel, the backbone of the prisoner exchange and the rules governing exchanges, and the refusal to revamp a prisoner exchange program result in such horrors for these men? Were these soldiers really prisoners or merely pawns in a high-stakes game during war? Fingers pointed in all directions at who was responsible, and like most topics of the Civil War, blame was (and still is) debated on both sides. “Both of the belligerent powers deliberately and systematically mistreated the captives they held, and the depth of their guilty was such that even before the guns fell silent each was furiously constructing elaborate explanations for and justifications of their actions.”¹ By definition, a “pawn” is an individual manipulated or used to foster the purposes of another. What happened to these men and the conditions they endured resulted from a complex, combined effort of failure on both sides. From the cessation of the Dix Hill Cartel through their eventual liberation, the prisoners of war were indeed pawns more than they were prisoners, fighting the war both on and off the battlefield.

That combined, failed effort led to the deaths of 56,000 American soldiers; and, that figure does not account for those who perished after liberation from the inability to recover from the hell they lived while incarcerated.

“Can any pen or pencil do justice to those squalid pictures of famine and desolation? Those gaunt, lank skeletons with the dried yellow flesh clinging to bones enlarged by dampness and exposure? Those pale, bluish lips and feverish eyes, glittering and weird when contrasted with the famine-stricken faces – that

¹ Charles W. Sanders. *While in the Hands of the Enemy: Military Prisons of the Civil War*. (Baton Rouge, LA: Louisiana State University Press, 2017), 5.

flitting, piteous, scared smile which greeted their fellow creatures, all will live forever before the mental vision that then witnessed it.”²

Abuse, starvation, disease, and exposure to the elements were everyday realities for Civil War prisoners of war. Frequently, the soldiers had a much better chance at surviving on the battlefield versus surviving life in a Civil War prison camp. For those prisoners who lived and were liberated at the end of the war, tens of thousands once young, healthy soldiers dwindled into skeletons barely clinging to life. For them, the war did not end; they were living proof of the combined efforts related to the failures of the prisoner exchange system.

This tragedy begins before the Civil War through the failure to learn from previous mistakes and lack of pre-planning. As is often the case with history, failure to look to the past and learn often results in failure. The concept of prisoners of war was not new to the United States. By the start of the Civil War, the United States fought in three previous wars. In all three wars, prisoners of war were captured, imprisoned, and exchanged. Clearly, the United States gained some experience in the overall concept of the processes and procedures associated with prisoners of war. Having amassed this experience, it is difficult at first glance to understand why the onset of the Civil War brought chaos and disorder in dealing with and exchanging prisoners of war. Further examination and research show that just because the United States had gained experience in dealing with prisoners of war did not mean any of the previous incidents were flawless. Mistakes happened and, in some instances, happened repeatedly. However, they share a significant commonality. In all three previous wars, the United States failed to plan meticulously in advance and failed to learn from previous mistakes.

² Phoebe Yates Pember. *A Southern Woman's Story: Life in Confederate Richmond*. (St. Simons Island, GA: Mockingbird Books, 1890) 55-56.

Allison: Prisoners or Pawns?

In the Revolutionary War, there were no established rules garnering prisoners of war and exchanging prisoners of war. Still, both sides believed in the humane treatment of captures and the fair exchange of their captures. The “humane treatment,” however, rarely prevailed. Overcrowding, harsh punishments, lack of food and shelter did not constitute humane treatment. The necessity to direct supplies and rations to the troops took priority over the prisoners. However, they understood that a balance was vital so that each side would treat their prisoners fairly. In other words, should one belligerent act cruelly towards their captives, what restrained the other side from engaging in similar maltreatment? In a letter dated August 11, 1775, George Washington wrote to Lieutenant General Thomas Gage to warn him regarding mistreatment of American prisoners of war, “If Severity, & Hardship mark the Line of your Conduct, (painful as it may be to me) your Prisoners will feel its Effects: But if Kindness & Humanity are shewn to ours, I shall with Pleasure consider those in our Hands, only as unfortunate, and they shall receive the Treatment to which the unfortunate are ever intitled.”³

Moreover, the Revolutionary War brought a unique situation -- one that would later echo the sentiments of Abraham Lincoln’s position regarding prisoners of war. The British did not see the Americans as mere prisoners of war; they were traitors. As traitors, they were not beholden to the standard stipulations afforded to prisoners of war. According to historian Larry G. Bowman, “To declare openly that Americans were prisoners of war would have indirectly bestowed a

³ From George Washington to Lieutenant General Thomas Gage, 11 August 1775,” Founders Online, National Archives, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-01-02-0192>. [Original source: The Papers of George Washington, Revolutionary War Series, vol. 1, 16 June 1775–15 September 1775, ed. Philander D. Chase. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1985, pp. 289–291.]

status of sovereignty upon the rebellious colonies which British political leaders hoped to avoid.”⁴ Still, the belligerents did engage in partial exchanges of prisoners.

The War of 1812 provided equal ground as far as independent nations, eliminating the controversy of traitors in prisoners of war. “This distinction would influence all deliberations concerning prisoners of war, for it removed the major impediment that had thwarted efforts to resolve prisoner issues during the Revolution.”⁵ This time, America and Britain were equals in that regard, and, as a result, more expedient exchanges occurred. Despite having gone through a major war, the United States did not devise any processes or procedures on prisoners of war following the Revolutionary War. As the threat of war with Britain loomed again, Congress convened to establish at least a general framework in June 1812. Both Britain and the United States enjoyed early success and mutual cooperation with prisoner exchanges. Snags occurred, but overall, the process occurred smoothly and efficiently. By spring of 1813, Britain and the United States formalized and ratified the Cartel for the Exchange of Prisoners of War between Great Britain and the United States of America. Of course, they applied the conditions of speedy exchange as well as humane treatment of captives – proper sustenance and avoidance of overuse of violence towards the prisoners.

Each side was also permitted to inspect conditions of imprisonment to ensure proper treatment of prisoners. “The first problem arose from American indecision over how to deal with ‘prisoners of color’ – black sailors who were captured while serving aboard Royal Navy vessels

⁴ Larry G. Bowman. “The Pennsylvania Prisoner Exchange Conferences, 1778,” *Pennsylvania History* 45, no. 3 (1978): 258.

⁵ Charles W. Sanders. *While in the Hands of the Enemy: Military Prisons of the Civil War*. (Baton Rouge, LA: Louisiana State University Press, 2017), 13.

in the Caribbean.”⁶ Here again, an ironic, eerie parallel existed in what would come with the Civil War and black prisoners of war. In fact, the exchange of black prisoners of war would be paramount to the exchange program of Civil War soldiers. There was concern that the Caribbean captives could ultimately incite the slaves in America. Sanders goes on to explain how southern leaders were especially concerned that these men “were carriers of the dreaded virus of black revolution.” Despite the controversy and tension arising from the question of how to handle black prisoners of war, exchanges continued. However, examining this chapter's contribution brings to light another example of the lack of preparation for the Civil War prisoners of war.

The third and final war prior to the Civil War was the Mexican War. This time, they fought primarily in Mexico, which was a new concept to the United States. And despite two previous war experiences, the third time was not a charm. Once again, the United States engaged in a war unprepared to deal with prisoners of war. This time, commanders on the field handled prisoners of war, and foreign cities dealt with a large number of prisoners from each battle. No formal cartel or exchange program was established, unlike the War of 1812. The United States could not manage nor feed such excessive numbers of prisoners, so they were forced to release them. Here again, we see where an experience of this war and prisoners of war resembles the Civil War: the inability to properly feed prisoners of war. Overall, the treatment of prisoners was humane, despite all the disarray in this war.

Each of the above wars held unique challenges in managing prisoners of war, and each war, despite solid efforts and mutual achievements, tribulations occurred. The most considerable similarity they share, of course, is the fact at no time was the United States prepared in advance to address the processes and procedures for managing prisoners of war. The United States failed

⁶ *Ibid*, 17.

to learn from its biggest mistake: lack of advanced preparation. “Both sides would enter the Civil War woefully unprepared to address the challenges that managing thousands of prisoners would bring, and ultimately the dreadful cost of that lack of preparation would be borne by the captives themselves.”⁷

As the country inched closer to war, inadequate preparations for pending prisoners existed. A major factor that contributed to this lack of preparation is the belief by both sides that the war would not last long. Therefore, plans to house and process prisoners of war fell to the bottom of the list of priorities for both sides. The Union saw themselves as having the advantage as far as greater population, superiority in industrial resources and financial standing, and agricultural production. The Confederacy, on the other hand, held superiority in their military leaders. In short, they knew how to fight and believed they could easily weaken the will of the Union. Winning on the battlefield took priority over building adequate prisons or holding areas for the pending prisoners of war. Consider also that everything about the Confederacy and its government was essentially being framed “on the fly.” The Confederacy had to construct a government framework and not just establish a war effort, which caused distraction and overwhelmed the Confederate leaders. Prisons were hardly a priority when there were so many other pressing issues at stake. In turn, the feeding, housing, and medically treating prisoners of war also fell through the cracks.

While the Confederacy struggled with building their nation, the Union faced a different challenge. Just as Great Britain faced identifying captured American soldiers during the Revolutionary War, Abraham Lincoln faced how to identify captured Confederate soldiers. To count these captured Confederates as prisoners of war meant acknowledging the legitimacy of

⁷ *Ibid*, 24.

the Confederate States of America, something Lincoln was unwilling to do. In Lincoln's eyes, these men were traitors. "Hence its leaders, and all who supported them, were considered as engaged in treasonable activities and if captured were to be treated as traitors under the penalties of law."⁸ While understandable, this notion would not prove practical due to the length of the war.

When the Civil War commenced on April 12, 1861, the subject of prisoners of war did not appear to be a major issue, which also contributed to the lack of preparations and planning. The squabbling over the status of prisoners of war versus all-out traitors, while a heated topic, still did not warrant a serious priority. However, the first major land battle of the Civil War, the Battle of Bull Run, changed things dramatically for prisoners of war. The numbers of captured enemies grew exponentially and with greater urgency. "And when the Union commanders finally regained control of their demoralized soldiers, they found that over 2,000 of them were missing. Most of this number had been captured, and by 22 July the initial group of these unfortunates had begun their journey south to confinement as prisoners of war."⁹ The Union prisoners of war were shipped to Richmond to spend their confinement. "It was not until the Federals taken at Manassas were actually filing into the filthy, gloomy confines of the Ligon warehouse that it began to dawn on southern leaders that they had made no preparations for actually billeting, feeding, or otherwise caring for the hundreds of prisoners of war...."¹⁰ Confederate prisoners of war spent their confinement primarily in New York in fortifications along the coast.

⁸ George G. Lewis, and John Mewha, United States Army. *History of Prisoner of War Utilization by the United States Army, 1776-1945*. United States Army Center of Military History, Washington, D.C. (1988). 28.

⁹ Charles W. Sanders. *While in the Hands of the Enemy: Military Prisons of the Civil War*. (Baton Rouge, LA: Louisiana State University Press, 2017), 39.

¹⁰ *Ibid*, 41.

As the war dragged into 1862, the Union began capturing more Confederate soldiers. The bulging numbers proved to be more than the coastal fortifications could handle. Additionally, as battles were occurring in more mid-western states and the Union saw several victories, the need to establish more prisons to address the dramatic increase of Confederate prisoners of war became imperative. Camp Douglas in Chicago, Illinois; Camp Chase in Columbus, Ohio; and Camp Alton, located in Alton, Illinois, were designated sites for prisoners of war during these campaigns. As the numbers for both sides kept growing, the Confederacy became open to the release of prisoners via exchange or parole. There was still no formal agreement in place, so cooperation was necessary for a successful arrangement. Release of prisoners typically meant returning to battle. Captured Confederate prisoners were often allowed to “switch sides” and fight on the side of their Union captors in exchange for their freedom from prisoner of war status. These soldiers had to renounce their loyalty to the Confederacy and begin fighting for the Union. Despite initial success in the informal exchange program, bigger battles resulted in the capture of prisoners in the thousands. Ill-equipped prisons were incapable of handling such extreme numbers, compounding the failures of the prisons. Both sides greatly struggled, and this is often an issue that tends to result in more finger-pointing than acceptance of blame. Prisons were bursting from overpopulation, and the inadequate structures proved incapable of protecting prisoners from the environmental elements and weather. Squalid conditions spread diseases at alarming rates. Commandants and prison staff could not adequately feed their captives, and medical treatment was severely lacking. Again, the failures show the combined efforts on both sides – the inability to properly care for the prisoners combined with the priority of battle and supporting the soldiers took precedence.

By June 1862, it was evident that both sides need to establish a formal exchange program. It took more than one year of fighting before both sides recognized the need to formally address the prisoner of war crisis. Again, three previous wars, over one year of battles, and still such a significant delay and deplorable imprisonment conditions occurred before prisoners of war were acknowledged as a severe problem. Despite the overwhelming evidence of a need for such a program, Lincoln still hesitated in engaging such a program. He feared the idea of forced acknowledgment by the federal government, giving merit to the establishment of the Confederate States of America. Finally, a decision resulted in military representatives from both the Union and Confederate sides draft an acceptable agreement for the formal exchange of prisoners of war. The Dix-Hill Cartel spawned, and, by July 22, 1862, at Haxall's Landing on the James River, Virginia, the Cartel was finalized and approved by both sides with Major General John A. Dix representing the Union and Major General D.H. Hill representing the Confederacy.

The preamble to the agreement stated, "The undersigned having been commissioned by the authorities they respectively represent to make arrangements for a general exchange of prisoners of war have agreed to the following articles."¹¹ Note the peculiarity of the opening statement. "The preamble carefully skirted the question of recognition."¹² In other words, this clause protected Lincoln's refusal to acknowledge the Confederate States of America. Article I of the agreement outlines, in detail, the equality for exchange of prisoners, rank for rank while establishing the exchange rate for situations where ranks do not align. For example, "A

¹¹ John A. Dix, D.H. Hill, *Dix-Hill Cartel*. July 22, 1862. Civil War Era NC, accessed February 8, 2021, <https://cwnc.omeka.chass.ncsu.edu/items/show/611>.

¹² George G. Lewis and John Mewha, United States Army. *History of Prisoner of War Utilization by the United States Army, 1776-1945*. (United States Army Center of Military History, Washington, D.C. 1988). 29.

lieutenant or master in the Navy or a captain in the Army or marines shall be exchanged for officers of equal rank, or six privates or common seamen.”¹³

Article 4 of the Dix-Hill Cartel proved to be especially interesting. Article 4 outlined that “all prisoners of war to be discharged on parole in ten days after their capture, and the prisoners now held and those hereafter taken to be transported to the points mutually agreed upon the expense of the capturing party.”¹⁴ Parole was to happen rather quickly, thereby alleviating the potential for overcrowding at prisons and reducing the amount of care, food, and supplies that these men may otherwise have to be issued. Additionally, Article 4 held that “surplus prisoners not exchanged” could not return to taking up arms or serve within the military as police prison guards or other duties soldiers usually held until an exchange was complete and finalized. In other words, they could not perform any duties affiliated with soldiers until they returned to their lines. Dix and Hill added supplementary articles with Article 7 defining specific exchange cities and locations while allowing exchanges and paroles to occur in other locations so long as mutually agreed upon by both parties. Overall, the Dix-Hill Cartel provided for the smooth transition and exchange of prisoners for some time and through some of the most significant battles to come after its inception. The first exchange alone saw nearly a few thousand prisoners from each side exchanged. The Dix-Hill Cartel resulted in easing overcrowding at both Union and Confederate prisons.

Squabbles were bound to occur between the Union and Confederates during exchanges. Many different personalities and considerable amounts of geography comprised the Civil War.

¹³ John A. Dix, D.H. Hill, *Dix-Hill Cartel*. July 22, 1862. Civil War Era NC, accessed February 8, 2021, <https://cwnc.omeka.chass.ncsu.edu/items/show/611>.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

Could any document ensure absolute success and be fully adhered to at all times? Article 9 served as a “catch-all” in the event of a communications breakdown in exchanging prisoners of war. In short, any type of dispute should not impede the release or exchange of prisoners.

“And in case any misunderstanding shall arise in regard to any clause or stipulation in the foregoing articles, it is mutually agreed that such misunderstanding shall not interrupt the release of prisoners on parole, as herein provided, but shall be made the subject of friendly explanations in order that the object of this agreement may neither be defeated nor postponed.”¹⁵

The idea was to keep the exchanges going and not fill prisons beyond capacity over a dispute. Article 9 sounded like a solid approach to keep the Cartel running smoothly even when tempers flared or some petty rivalry ensued. However, neither Article 9 nor the Dix-Hill Cartel would stand up to a fiery issue brewing.

In December 1862, major cracks began forming in the exchange of Civil War prisoners of war as Jefferson Davis refused to exchange black prisoners of war. Davis saw them as escaped slaves, property, and he sought to have that property returned to Southern owners. Lincoln looked to protect the black soldiers and demanded that the black soldiers be released equal to their fellow white soldiers. Lincoln commissioned assistance in compiling what became General Orders 100, the Lieber Codes. The Lieber Codes essentially became the Law of War and related to conduct for soldiers fighting in the Civil War. More specifically, the rules governed the specific treatment of prisoners of war. Under the Lieber Codes, prisoners of war were not to be subjected to unnecessary or cruel punishment and were to be adequately fed and humanely treated by their captors. If wounded or ill, they were to receive adequate medical treatment. Specifically, Article 56 stated, “A prisoner of war is subject to no punishment for being a public

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

enemy, nor is any revenge wreaked upon him by the intentional infliction of any suffering or disgrace, by cruel punishment, want of food, by mutilation, death or any other barbarity.”¹⁶

Additionally, in an attempt to settle the issue of black soldiers held as prisoners of war, Lincoln righted previous wrongs for Article 58 stated clearly, “The law of nations knows no distinction of color, and if an enemy of the United States should enslave and sell any captured persons of their army, it would be a case for the severest retaliation.”¹⁷ Jefferson Davis and the Confederate States of America, however, refused to comply.

“The uncompromising stances and retaliatory claims by both the Union and Confederate governments had brought the exchange program to a virtual standstill by mid-1863.”¹⁸ By July 30, 1863, the Dix-Hill Cartel was dead merely one year after its induction; exchanges ceased. Abraham Lincoln and the War Department issued General Order No. 252, wherein it stated, “This Presidential order asserts that for every Union soldier who is killed or for any soldier who is enslaved by the enemy, a rebel soldier will also be killed or put to hard labor.”¹⁹ The Dix-Hill Cartel did not provide any language or stipulations on how to proceed if the system completely breaks. As a result, the prison system returned to a grossly overburdened reality due to the cessation of exchanges of prisoners of war. Blame cannot exclusively fall on Lincoln for halting

¹⁶ Lieber, Francis. “General Orders No. 100: The Lieber Code.” Avalon Project - General Orders No. 100: The Lieber Code. Yale Law School - Lillian Goldman Law Library, 2008.
https://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th_century/lieber.asp.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸ Glenn M. Robins. “Race, Repatriation, and Galvanized Rebels: Union Prisoners and the Exchange Question in Deep South Prison Camps.” *Civil War History* 53, no. 2 (2007): 122.

¹⁹ Lincoln, Abraham. “General Order No. 252.” *The Lincoln Presidency: Last Full Measure of Devotion*. Cornell University Library, 2008.
<https://rnc.library.cornell.edu/lincoln/exhibition/question/index.html#:~:text=General%20Order%20No.,Washington%20July%2031%2C%201863.&text=This%20Presidential%20order%20asserts%20that,or%20put%20to%20hard%20labor.>

the Dix-Hill Cartel. His actions were just one more piece of the puzzle identified in the combined failure by both sides. By 1864, with tens of thousands of prisoners of war in captivity, an opportunity presented itself for the reinstatement of the Dix-Hill Cartel and exchange of prisoners. This time, the blame fell on Ulysses S. Grant and his refusal to exchange or parole prisoners of war.

The war had started tilting in favor of Grant and the Union troops while the South struggled to keep up in numbers and supplies. When Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant took over command of the U.S. Army, he received the opportunity to reinstate the Dix-Hill Cartel, revamping the desperately needed exchanges. “Grant believed the rebellious Southern states could be defeated through a war of attrition, wearing down their armies and eroding public and political support by exploiting the overwhelming manpower and resources at the Union’s disposal.”²⁰ In Grant’s opinion, releasing Confederate prisoners of war via exchanges would increase the number of Confederate troops, thereby creating the potential for a hindrance to the Union’s successes and possible victory. Grant saw his decision as a proper military strategy despite being well aware of the conditions suffered by Union prisoners of war in Confederate prison camps. “The Confederate army wanted prisoner of exchanges to continue, as it desperately needed a steady flow of reinforcements to replenish its depleted ranks.”²¹ Many strongly criticized Grant’s decision, especially when more and more reports of horrific conditions inside the prison camps were made public. As Union General William T. Sherman and his troops conducted the “March to Sea” in the late fall-early winter of 1864, Confederate prison commandants scrambled to relocate Union prisoners of war from Sherman’s path.

²⁰ Chris E. Fonvielle. "Welcome Brothers! The 1865 Union Prisoners of War Exchange in North Carolina." *The North Carolina Historical Review* 92, no. 3 (2015): 280.

²¹ *Ibid*, 280.

In some cases, Confederate troops set the prisons ablaze as they marched prisoners out of camps. They committed these arsons to prevent Sherman's troops from liberating the Union prisoners. Liberating prisoners meant returning Union soldiers to battle against the Confederacy. Grant held to his decision until January 1865. Exchanges resumed in the thousands over the early months of 1865. On April 9, 1865, Robert E. Lee and the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia surrendered at Appomattox Court House. However, the justifications, fiery debates, and accusations of blame regarding the prisoners of war were just beginning.

“When we review the past, it would seem that Christianity was but a name -- that the Atonement had failed, and that Christ had lived and died in vain.”²² As fingers pointed in all directions, research shows the complexity of blame. It is incorrect to assign fault and blame to one individual, one component, or even one side. The failure of the Civil War prisons has several facets and names attached to it. In 1879, President James Garfield addressed a group of former prisoners and said, “From Jefferson Davis on down, it was part of their policy to make you idiots and skeletons. That policy has never had its parallel for atrocity in the civilized world.”²³ Like most topics related to the Civil War, the heated debate rages on today on who treated their prisoners of war worse – the North or the South. Historians face a struggle in sifting through the finger-pointing and must look well beyond the cries of “They did it first.” Again, both sides were guilty. The failure of the camps and the resulting heinous treatment of the Civil War soldiers occurred through combined effort. While the beginning of the war saw a lack of preparation and poor planning for the prisoners of war, the Dix-Hill Cartel helped temporarily alleviate the

²² Phoebe Yates Pember. *A Southern Woman's Story: Life in Confederate Richmond*. (St. Simons Island, GA: Mockingbird Books, 1890) 56.

²³ *Civil War Prisons: An American Tragedy*. Directed by Joseph F. Wilson. 2017. <https://www.amazon.com/Civil-War-Prisons-American-Tragedy/dp/B07BFN36VJ>.

overcrowding and squalid conditions, but even the Cartel had shortcomings. Once the Cartel crumbled, neither side acted to remedy the situation; not even the Lieber Codes prevented the suffering of prisoners of war. A perverse ideology existed with the attitude of “they are treating our men poorly, so let’s do the same to their men.” The blame lies with Lincoln, Davis, Grant, and Secretary of War, as well as the inexperienced and over-tasked prison commandants.

Fifty-six thousand Civil War soldiers imprisoned in camps died from the country’s failure to learn from previous wars as well as miscalculations in planning, the failed diplomacy and unrelenting stubbornness of leaders to cooperate combined with the apathy towards the Lieber Codes as well as the end of the Dix-Hill Cartel and the inability to revive any type of prisoner exchange program. Holding tightly to the excuse that an exchange program revitalization effort would only result in released prisoners taking up arms on the battlefield dashed the hopes of release for thousands of prisoners. In the end, shadows of soldiers crept out from behind prison walls only to die within a few days to a few years after their liberation. The official numbers fail to include those same men plagued by diseases and squalid conditions for far too long. They started as Civil War soldiers before enduring life as prisoners of war. Towards the end, due to an overall failure, those men were reduced to mere pawns, the victims of a cruel game of wartime chess.

The index below contains information on fifty-two (52) Civil War Prisoner of War Camps located throughout the United States. In researching these facilities, it is interesting to see the amount of information maintained on each facility. For a few camps, very little information or recognition exists. For others, especially the Virginia camps, significant information is available. Included are various websites used to assist in compiling this index. The bibliography includes additional sources— both books and journal articles.

CIVIL WAR PRISONS

Facility / Location	Years of Operation	Camp Commandant	How Many Prisoners Retained	How Many Prisoner Deaths	Miscellaneous Notes	Sources / Websites
Alton Prison Alton, IL	1862-1865	Colonel Sidney Burbank	11,000	1,500	Mortality rate considered above average; major smallpox outbreaks	https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/civil-war-prison-camps http://www.altonweb.com/history/civilwar/index.html https://www.lib.niu.edu/2007/ih030708.html
Andersonville Prison (Camp Sumter) Andersonville, GA	1864-1865	Captain Henry Wirz	45,000	13,000	Largest; most notorious, and well-known	https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/civil-war-prison-camps https://www.nps.gov/ande/learn/historyculture/camp_sumter_history.htm https://www.loc.gov/collections/civil-war/?fa=location:andersonville%7Cpartof:prints+and+photographs+division
Belle Isle Richmond, VA	1862-1864	Norris Montgomery Captain Henry Wirz	10,000	1,000	It was established initially to ease overcrowding at Libby Prison. Reports on conditions vary between Confederate and Union. Tents were used vs. barracks. The population started small but increased quickly; due to the lack of tents, many prisoners huddled in holes dug into the ground and used these holes to escape weather elements.	https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/civil-war-prison-camps https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/belle-isle-prison/#:~:text=Belle%20Isle%20Prison%2C%20located%20on,War%20(1861%E2%80%931865). https://www.nps.gov/rich/learn/historyculture/prisoners-in-richmond.htm https://www.civilwarrichmond.com/prisons/belle-isle-prison

Blackshear Prison Blackshear, GA	1864 – 1865 (2 mon)	Colonel Henry Forno	5,000	?	Emptied before Sherman could liberate the camp.	https://www.n-georgia.com/blackshear-civil-war-prison-camp.html http://www.theblacksheartimes.com/community/blackshears-civil-war-legacy-prison-camp-records-tell-story-of-hardship-for-union-confederacy/article_5f22b4bc-f9f6-5b57-8347-695fadd2e8d7.html
Bridge Prison (Pearl River Bridge) Jackson, MS	1862- 1863	?	400	?	Literally, a covered bridge; very little info or stats available; photos exist	http://www.mkwe.com/ohio/pages/h002-01.htm
Cahaba Prison (Castle Morgan) Selma, AL	1863- 1865	Capt H.A.M. Henderson	3,000	142-147	Surprisingly low death rate, around 2%. The first administrator of the camp was a Methodist minister; the population was initially 500-600 but by 1864 was over 3,000, but still had a very low death rate	https://www.exploresouthernhistory.com/oldcahawbaprisson.html http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-3711
Camp Asylum Columbia, SC	1864- 1865	?	1,200	0	Held Union officers; zero deaths – only camp known to have zero deaths	https://www.columbiasc.net/depts/city-council/docs/old_downloads/08_06_2013_Agenda_Items/Camp_Asylum_for_Council.pdf https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1049&context=sciaa_staffpub
Camp Butler Springfield, IL	1862- 1863	?	5,000	At least 700	In 1862, the population was around 2,000, but by summer 1862, 700 prisoners died from smallpox. Initially, the facility did not include a fence, and prisoners soon learned how to escape.	https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/national_cemeteries/Illinois/Camp_Butler_National_Cemetery.html https://www.essentialcivilwarcurriculum.com/union-prisons.html https://sangamoncountyhistory.org/wp/?p=10239

Allison: Prisoners or Pawns?

Camp Chase Columbus, OH	1861- 1865	Col Charles W. Allison	7,000 – 10,000		Under-qualified commanders, poorly trained officers, violence for minor infractions were everyday realities here. Early on, it was considered one of the central prisons in the west.	https://ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Camp_Chase https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/national_cemeteries/Ohio/Camp_Chase_Confederate_Cemetery.html http://touringohio.com/central/franklin/columbus/camp-chase.html https://www.loc.gov/item/07027368/ https://www.essentialcivilwarcurriculum.com/union-prisons.html
Camp Colfax LaPorte, IN	1861 (3 mon)	?	?	?	Not much documentation on this one compared to other Indiana Prison Camps	http://visions.indstate.edu/civilwar/camps.html
Camp Douglas Chicago, IL	1862- 1865	Brigadier General Daniel Tyler		5,000	“Andersonville of the North” Controversy over death tolls due to its location near Lake Michigan; it is thought that the lake swept out many bodies	https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/civil-war-prison-camps https://www.historynet.com/norths-last-pow-camp.htm https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/ande/douglas.pdf https://www.essentialcivilwarcurriculum.com/union-prisons.html
Camp Ford Tyler, TX	1863- 1865	John Salmon Ford	5,500 – 6,000	327	Largest prison for Union West of the Mississippi River. Relatively low mortality rate compared to other prisons.	https://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/ford/index.html https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/camp-ford
Camp Groce Hempstead, TX	1863 – 1864	?	1,100	?	Despite repeated outbreaks of yellow fever, this camp had an overall low mortality rate.	https://easttexashistory.org/items/show/139 https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/camp-groce

Camp Harrison Terre Haute, IN	1862 (4 mon)	?	500	11	Used for overflow for Morton; once spaced opened in Morton, this camp was closed	https://digital.library.in.gov/Record/WV3_vchs-3561 http://visions.indstate.edu/civilwar/camps.html
Camp Lawton Millen, GA	1864-1865 (3 mon)	Captain D.W. Vowles	8,600-10,000	725 – 1,330	Designated for alleviating overcrowding of Andersonville. Fire destroyed Camp Lawton shortly after evacuating. 2010 – major archaeological dig unearthed considerable evidence and findings from camp.	https://www.exploregeorgia.org/millen/history-heritage/civil-war/camp-lawton https://www.loc.gov/item/gvhs01.vhs00054/ https://www.exploresouthernhistory.com/camplawton.html
Camp Morton Indianapolis, IN	1861-1865	Col. Ambrose A. Stevens Col. Richard Owen	3,300 – 5,000	1,763	Housed on former Indiana State Fairgrounds; housed many Kentucky and Tennessee Confederate prisoners. Feb/Mar 1865 – when exchanges started again, some prisoners refused to leave, especially if it meant heading back into battle. It is estimated in total, 9,000 prisoners passed through this prison, but populations hover around 3,300 – 5,000	http://visions.indstate.edu/civilwar/camps.html http://freepages.rootsweb.com/~indiana42nd/history/campmorton.htm https://www.loc.gov/item/2012647767/ https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/civil_war_series/5/sec4.htm#1 https://www.essentialcivilwarcurriculum.com/union-prisons.html
Camp Oglethorpe Macon, GA	1862-1864	?	2,300 – 4,000	Unknown	Held Union officers; not much info on this one; questionable data so far; research's emphasis seems to fall more on Andersonville.	https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/civil_war_series/5/sec7.htm#1
Camp Sorghum Columbia, SC	1864 (2 mon)	?	1,500	?	Prisoners lived in holes. 2011 – major archeological dig	https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1049&context=sciaa_staffpub
Castle Pinckney Charleston, SC	1861 (6 weeks)	Charleston Zouaves commanded	300	0	Too small; realized soon after construction it could not manage as a permanent prison;	https://www.historynet.com/sumter-overlooked-castle-pinckney.htm

Allison: Prisoners or Pawns?

					most prisoners moved to Charleston City Jail. Comprehensive reports so far speak to pleasant conditions in this camp.	
Castle Thunder Richmond, VA	1862- 1865	George W. Alexander Dennis Callahan	3,000	?	After the war, Union took over this prison to incarcerate former Confederates	https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/castle-thunder-prison/ https://www.nps.gov/rich/learn/history/culture/prisoners-in-richmond.htm https://www.loc.gov/item/2005684444/
Castle Williams (Governors Island) New York City, NY	1861- 1865		1,000	?	Interred enlisted men were crammed into the old artillery casemates. Cholera, typhoid, and measles were rampant, and towards the end, the prisoners were confined to cells 24/7.	https://www.nps.gov/gois/learn/history/culture/prisoners.htm http://www.correctionhistory.org/civilwar/governorsisland/index.html https://www.govisland.com/history https://www.nps.gov/articles/preservingplacesofcaptivity.htm#:~:text=Located%20along%20the%20Gulf%20Coast,4%20C000%20Confederate%20prisoners%20of%20war.
Danville Prison (#6) Danville, VA	1863- 1865	Major Mason Morfit Lt Col Robert C. Smith	7,000	1,323	Included in the 1,323 deaths at Danville were African American soldiers captured by the Confederates during the Battle of the Crater at Petersburg.	https://www.exploresouthernhistory.com/danvilleprison.html
Elmira Civil War Prison Camp Elmira, NY	1864- 1865	Mjr Henry V. Colt	12,121	2,973	Commandant was Major Henry V. Colt (brother of the famous pistol maker Samuel Colt)	https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/civil-war-prison-camps https://www.elmiraprisoncamp.com/
East Point/Fulton County Jail Atlanta, GA	1861- 1864	?	?	?	One of the first to hold Union soldiers. Initially, this facility was to ease overcrowding at	https://www.essentialcivilwarcurriculum.com/atlanta-in-the-civil-war.html

					Richmond prisons, but eventually would be used to alleviate overcrowding for Andersonville	
Florence Stockade Florence, SC	1864-1865	?	15,000	2,800	Only in operation for a few months, evacuated before Sherman's troops could liberate the camp. In 2006, a major archaeological dig unearthed more than 5,000 artifacts.	https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/civil-war-prison-camps
Fort Alcatraz San Francisco, CA	?	?	?	?	The small number of Confederate sailors housed at Fort Alcatraz along with Confederate sympathizers; not much information found, but an interesting chapter of Alcatraz history	https://www.nps.gov/goga/learn/historyculture/civil-war-at-alcatraz.htm
Fort Delaware Delaware City, DE	1861-1865	Brig. Gen. Albin F. Schoepf	13,000	2,400	Held prisoners of war from Gettysburg; Noted for examples of torture inflicted by the guards. "Famous" prisoners include Lt. McHenry Howard, grandson of Francis Scott Key; Capt. Samuel Taylor, grandson of President Zachary Taylor	http://www.fortdelaware.org/Prisoner%20&%20Garrison%20Queries.htm https://destateparks.com/History/FortDelaware https://www.onlyinyourstate.com/delaware/death-at-fort-delaware-de/
Fort Jay (Governor's Island) New York City, NY	1861-1865	?	?	?	Captured officers were sent here; overall conditions were much better than other prisons, including its counterpart, Castle Williams.	https://www.nps.gov/gois/learn/historyculture/prisoners.htm http://www.correctionhistory.org/civilwar/governorsisland/index.html
Fort Jefferson Key West, FL	1864	?	?	?	Held Confederate prisoners as well as Union soldiers convicted of serious crimes. Prison for Dr. Samuel Mudd (assisted John Wilkes Boothe)	https://www.drytortugas.com/fort-jefferson-history/ https://www.nps.gov/articles/preservingplacesofcaptivity.htm#:~:text=Located%20along%20the%20Gulf%20Coast,4%2

Allison: Prisoners or Pawns?

						C000%20Confederate%20prisoners%20of%20war.
Fort Lafayette New York, NY	1861		150		Nicknamed: American Bastille; designed only to hold about 50 prisoners but swelled 3x that size	http://www.ahgp.org/military/confederate-prisoners-of-war.html https://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/249.html https://www.essentialcivilwarcurriculum.com/union-prisons.html
Fort McHenry Baltimore, MD	1861-1865	?	6,957	15	<p>Union transfer prison camp for Southern sympathizers and confederate prisoners of war; short confinements before transfer to Fort Delaware, Johnson’s Island, or Point Lookout.</p> <p>The largest population came after Gettysburg.</p> <p>Nicknamed: “Baltimore Bastille”</p> <p>By September 1865, the population was 4.</p>	https://www.nps.gov/fomc/learn/historyculture/the-baltimore-bastille.htm https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/s-xpm-1994-04-12-1994102232-story.html https://www.nps.gov/articles/preservingplacesofcaptivity.htm#:~:text=Located%20along%20the%20Gulf%20Coast,4%20C000%20Confederate%20prisoners%20of%20war.
Fort Massachusetts Ship Island, MS	1862-1865	?	4,356	153	Held Union soldiers convicted of “serious crimes.” 1864 – Confederate prisoners arrive, 1,229.	https://mississippencyclopedia.org/entries/ship-island-during-the-civil-war/
Fort Pickens Santa Rosa Island, FL	1861	Colonel Harvey Brown	146	2	While listed on the National Park Service website, very little information could be located.	https://www.nps.gov/articles/preservingplacesofcaptivity.htm#:~:text=Located%20along%20the%20Gulf%20Coast,4%20C000%20Confederate%20prisoners%20of%20war. https://www.exploresouthernhistory.com/fortpickens1.html
Fort Pulaski Savannah, GA	1861-1862	Col Philip P. Brown, Jr.	600	13	Colonel Brown was said to be fair and treated prisoners humanely; however,	https://www.nps.gov/articles/preservingplacesofcaptivity.htm#:~:text=Located%20along%20the%20Gulf%20Coast,4%2

					requisitions sent by Brown for blankets, clothing, etc., were repeatedly ignored. Key Union outpost in the naval blockade. In the fall of 1864, around 600 Confederate officers were held in the fort's casemates and eventually transferred to Fort Delaware.	C000%20Confederate%20prisoners%20of%20war. https://www.nps.gov/fopu/learn/historyculture/the-immortal-six-hundred.htm http://npshistory.com/handbooks/historical/18-1954.pdf
Fort Slocum Davids' Island (NYC), NY	1862-1865	?	2,500	?	*Confederates injured at Gettysburg; info on this particular location is sketchy at best.	https://westchestermagazine.com/lifestyle/the-history-of-fort-slocum-mount-vernons-hindenburg-connection-and-the-westchester-childrens-museum/
Fort Warren Boston, MA	1861-1865	Colonel Justin Dimick	1,000	12	Highest ranking civilian prisoner: Confederate VP Alexander H. Stephens imprisoned May-October 1865; conditions there considered much more humane compared to other prison camps.	https://www.nps.gov/boha/learn/historyculture/georges-civil-war.htm https://www.legendsofamerica.com/fort-warren-massachusetts/
Fort Wood Bedloe's/Liberty Island, NY	?	?	?	?	Located in the base of the Statue of Liberty; wounded Confederate prisoners recuperated here while awaiting exchange; not much information available on this one; it appears to be more of a passing mention.	https://www.nps.gov/ande/learn/historyculture/npsprisons.htm
Fortress Monroe Hampton Roads, VA	1863-1865	Colonel Justin Dimick John A. Dix	?	?	Jefferson Davis was imprisoned here for two years after the war; see photo at the link below: https://www.loc.gov/item/2004660790/ Fortress Monroe also served as an inspection point for mail by POWs. Exchange site.	https://www.nps.gov/articles/preservingplacesofcaptivity.htm#:~:text=Located%20along%20the%20Gulf%20Coast,4%20C000%20Confederate%20prisoners%20of%20war. https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/fort-monroe-during-the-civil-war/ https://hampton.gov/1912/History

Allison: Prisoners or Pawns?

					Remained Union control despite its prime Confederacy location	
Gratiot Street Prison St. Louis, MO	1861-1865	Lt. John Bishop	2,000	?	It was considered unique because it held Confederate prisoners of war and Southern sympathizers, political prisoners, mail runners, bridge burners, and even Union deserters, often roomed together.	http://www.civilwarstlouis.com/Gratiot/gratiot.htm http://www.civilwarmo.org/educators/resources/info-sheets/military-prisons
Hart's Island New York	April –July 1865	Henry W. Wessells	3,413	238	Final prison constructed by Union; 7% of the population is estimated to have died there	http://www.correctionhistory.org/html/timeline/html/hartline.html https://www.mycivilwar.com/pow/ny-hart-island.html
Johnson's Island Lake Erie/Sandusky, OH	1862-1865	William Pierson	3,224	300	Listed as "Ohio's most significant Civil War site." The isolated location made escape difficult 10,000 inmates passed through here Originally for officers imprisoned More tolerable than other prisons because of officer population	http://johnsonsisland.org/ https://www.essentialcivilwarcurriculum.com/union-prisons.html https://ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Johnson%27s_Island https://ss.sites.mtu.edu/mhugl/2015/10/11/johnsons-island-pow-camp/

Libby Prison Richmond, VA	1862- 1865	T. P. Turner	1,200	?	1861 – Originally used for a hospital. 1864 - Daring escape occurred in February 1864; 109 Union soldiers dug through a 55-ft tunnel to escape. Headquarters for Confederate States Military Prisons Considered the most infamous Civil War Prison of all the Richmond Civil War prison camps. Commandants were said to be extremely abusive towards prisoners. Held prisoners from McClellan’s Peninsula campaign	https://www.nps.gov/rich/learn/history/culture/prisoners-in-richmond.htm https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/libby-prison/ https://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/civil-war/Prisons.htm https://www.loc.gov/item/2013645219/ https://civilwarrichmond.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=64&Itemid=1086
Lynchburg Fairgrounds Lynchburg, VA	1862 - 1865	?	2,260 -3,500	250	The location was soon determined to be unacceptable; prisoners would be relocated to Belle Isle, VA; no hospital; just improper conditions to operate a prison; however, conditions better compared to most prisons Conflicting reports on numbers and years of operation Many ultimately transferred to Andersonville	https://critograph.com/2018/02/28/lynchburgs-civil-war-pow-camp/
Montgomery POW Camp Tuscaloosa, AL	Dec 1861	?	700	198	Prison moved to Tuscaloosa, AL	https://sites.rootsweb.com/~prsjr/wars/cwar/pow/0index.htm
Myrtle Street Prison St. Louis, MO	1861- 1862 1862- 1865	Bernard Lynch	150	?	Closed for a few months then reopened again due to overcrowding and the wait	http://www.civilwarmo.org/educators/resources/info-sheets/military-prisons

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					period for transfers to larger prisons	
Newport News Prison Newport News, VA	1865	?	3,490	168	One of the last prisons to be established; very little information located.	https://cdm15904.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p15904coll1 https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=10446 https://www.loc.gov/item/2003684436/
Ohio Penitentiary Columbus, OH	1863-1864	?	?	?	Prisoners here ultimately transferred to Fort Delaware with limited information. Most information relates to Johnson's Island and Camp Chase	https://www.mycivilwar.com/pow/ohio-state-penitentiary.html
Old Capitol Prison Washington DC	1861-1865	William P. Wood	600	?	U.S. Supreme Court now sets on the spot of this once prison camp. Said to have had 20,000 prisoners pass-through Prisoners treated much better here than most prisons Henry Wirz was executed here.	https://blogs.loc.gov/law/2020/01/the-old-capitol-prison-and-the-united-states-supreme-court/ https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/search/commonwealth:h128sg22s https://encyclopediavirginia.org/4361hpr-e699c6a7fe44eee/
Point Lookout Saint Mary's County, MD	1863-1865	Brig. Gen. Gilman Marston Gen. Edward W. Hinks	12,600 – 20,000	3,500 - 4,000	One of the largest and worst prison camps; isolated location Held many prisoners from Gettysburg. Smallpox and scurvy ran rampant No barracks, mostly tents Numbers vary but estimated that over 50,000 prisoners passed thru this prison	https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/civil-war-prison-camps https://www.essentialcivilwarcurriculum.com/union-prisons.html https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/national_cemeteries/maryland/point_lookout_confederate_cemetery.html https://quod.lib.umich.edu/c/clementsead/umich-wcl-M-1688poi?id=navbarbrowselink;view=text

Rock Island Prison Rock Island, IL	1863- 1865	Col. Adolphus Johnson	12,000	2,000	“Andersonville of the North”	https://www.essentialcivilwarcurriculum.com/union-prisons.html https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/national_cemeteries/illinois/rock_island_confederate_cemetery.html http://www.rockislandpreservation.org/post-cards-from-home/arsenal-confederate-prison-camp/
Salisbury Prison Salisbury, NC	1861- 1865	Braxton Craven Major John Gee (1864)	10,000 – 15,000	5,000	More prisoners than town’s population Prisoners played baseball; surprisingly less violent and depressing and initially considered to endure decent conditions (ex: bland food but adequate food)	https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/civil-war-prison-camps https://www.ncpedia.org/confederate-prison-salisbury#:~:text=On%209%20July%201861%2C%20six,hurriedly%20fitted%20for%20th at%20purpose. http://nccivilwarcenter.org/salisbury-prison-north-carolinas-andersonville/ https://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/search/object/nmah_326070
Thomasville Prisoner of War Camp Thomasville, GA	1864 (2 weeks)	Col Henry Forno	5,000	?	Holding for Andersonville	https://www.nps.gov/articles/civil-war-prison-camp-thomasville-ga.htm https://www.exploresouthernhistory.com/thomasvilleprison.html https://thomasvillega.com/attractions/historic-sites/confederate-prisoner-of-war-camp

SERIES II.—VOL. VIII.

CORRESPONDENCE, ORDERS, ETC., RELATING TO PRISONERS OF WAR AND STATE FROM JANUARY 1, 1865, TO THE END.

UNION AND CONFEDERATE CORRESPONDENCE, ETC.

OFFICE COMMISSARY-GENERAL OF PRISONERS,
January 1, 1865.

Consolidated statement of prisoners of war from November 1, 1863, to January 1, 1865.

	Major-Generals.	Brigadier-Generals.	Colonels.	Lieutenant-Colonels.	Majors.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Non-commissioned officers.	Musicians and privates.	Aggregate of prisoners of war.	Equivalent to privates.	Surgeons.	Chaplains.	Citizens.	Total aggregate of prisoners of war and non-combatants.
Number on hand November 1, 1863.	1	7	61	51	74	744	1,685	3,939	22,535	29,097	43,814	117	8	1,417	30,639
Number captured from November 1, 1863, to January 1, 1865.	5	9	33	64	90	684	2,305	6,517	56,444	66,151	85,037	156	18	2,760	69,085
Total on hand and captured.	6	16	94	115	164	1,428	3,990	10,456	78,979	95,248	128,851	273	26	4,177	99,724
Total died, released, exchanged, &c., from November 1, 1863, to January 1, 1865.	2	6	41	42	59	309	717	2,965	26,706	30,947	39,065	156	18	2,760	33,781
Total on hand January 1, 1865.	4	10	53	73	105	1,119	3,283	7,491	52,263	64,401	89,786	117	8	1,417	65,943

U. S. COMMISSARY-GENERAL

Official Records: War of the Rebellion
Union and Confederate Armies
Series II – Volume VIII, Page 1

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<https://www.amazon.com/Civil-War-Prisons-American-Tragedy/dp/B07BFN36VJ>.

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The following websites contain numerous helpful primary sources for my research. Researching the primary documents related to Civil War Prisons is, at times, very daunting and overwhelming. It is difficult as far as time constraints, but it is necessary to thrust my research forward. I do not have all of my primary sources detailed at this time, but I have established a few particular items and locations to access primary sources:

https://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th_century/lieber.asp

This website contains various Civil War primary sources. I obtained General Orders No. 100: The Lieber Codes, paying particular attention to Sections III, VI, and VII as they apply to Civil War prisoners.

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