

## CHAPTER 2

### COMBAT ZONE

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#### Section I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES

##### 2-1. General

a. The procedures set forth in this section are applicable to the treatment of PW throughout the combat zone, to include the brigade, division, and corps areas. These procedures are generally applicable to all detainees.

b. Throughout the combat zone, the handling of PW by military police is characterized by the following requirements and conditions:

(1) Forward MP acceptance of PW from combat troops.

(2) Firm control.

(3) Accountability.

(4) Humane treatment.

(5) Maximum utilization of returning empty transport.

(6) Minimum essential field processing.

(7) Wide dispersion and frequent displacement of PW collecting points.

(8) Austerity of personnel, facilities, and transportation for PW evacuation.

c. The PW are treated humanely but with firmness at all times. High standards of discipline are required not only of PW but also of capturing and escort troops. Fraternalization with PW or mistreatment or abuse of them is not conducive to good discipline. In addition to not being conducive to good discipline, mistreatment or abuse of PW are violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice for which violators may be punished.

d. All PW are promptly evacuated out of the combat zone. Their presence may not be used to render points or areas immune to attack, nor should they be retained for participation in psychological warfare or other activities. Those PW held in an area should be provided protective facilities and equipment and should be oriented as to procedures to be followed in case of chemical, biological, and radiological agent attack.

e. Generally, the speed of evacuation precludes

a necessity to furnish comfort items to PW. However, when military necessity requires a delay in evacuation beyond a reasonable period of time, health and comfort items will be issued as required. PW should not be denied food, potable water and appropriate clothing and shelter. Necessary medical attention will not be delayed.

f. The control of PW is exercised through the issuance and firm enforcement of necessary instructions in their own language. Instructions relating to their control during evacuation from the combat zone should be as brief as possible, and care must be taken to assure that PW have a clear understanding of them. Warning should be given of the serious consequences which may result from violations of such instructions. Although security problems may be greater in some respects in the combat zone, particularly as relate to escape, recently captured PW, if not still in a demoralized state of mind, normally have an apprehensive rather than an actively rebellious or belligerent attitude, thereby minimizing the control problem. Since each PW, like US personnel, has been trained to continue to resist and escape, rigorous attention to security is essential to prevent their escape and to protect the total security of US and friendly forces.

##### 2-2. Field Processing

a. *General.* That individual processing of PW which is accomplished in the combat zone as essential for security, control, or intelligence reasons or for the welfare of the PW while in evacuation channels is referred to as field processing. Field processing actions include individual searches, segregation, medical care and classification, interrogation, and sanitation measures.

b. *Search.* The PW are disarmed and searched for concealed weapons and for equipment and documents of particular intelligence value immediately upon capture, unless the number of PW captured, enemy action, or other circumstances make such a search impracticable. Until each PW is searched, the responsible troops must be par-

titularly alert to prevent the use of concealed weapons or destruction of documents or equipment.

(1) *Equipment.* Items of personal or individual equipment which are new or appear to be of a type not previously observed may be of intelligence value and should be processed and reported in accordance with the procedures set forth in FM 30-16. Types of such equipment or supplies which may be individually carried or worn include, but are not restricted to, all types of weapons, ammunition, personal equipment (protective masks, first aid kits, etc. ), clothing, and rations.

(2) *Documents.* A captured document is any piece of recorded information which has been in the hands of the enemy. Documents include maps, sketches, photographs, orders, tactical and technical manuals and instructions, code books, log books, maintenance records, shipping and packing slips and lists, war and field diaries, personal diaries, paybooks, newspapers, service records, postal savings books, payrolls, postcards and letters, records of headquarters and post and telegraph offices, and any written, printed, engraved, or photographic matter that may contain information relative to the enemy and to weather and terrain data (FM 30-15 and FM 30-16). Only those documents which appear to be of particular intelligence interest should be taken from PW by other than the intelligence officer or personnel of the interrogation teams. When such documents are taken from PW for safekeeping and delivery to the intelligence officer, care must be taken to assure that they can later be identified with the individual PW from whom taken. Documents and records of a personal nature must be returned to the PW from whom taken. In no instance should the personal identity card of a PW be taken from him.

(3) *Personal effects.*

(a) Except as provided in (1) above, PW should be permitted to retain all of their personal effects including money; valuables; protective equipment, such as helmets, protective masks, and like items; effects and articles used for clothing or eating, except knives and forks; identification cards or tags; badges of grade and nationality; and articles having above all a personal or sentimental value. When items of equipment issued for the personal protection of PW are taken from them, they must be replaced with equivalent items serving the same purpose.

(b) Although money and other valuables may be taken from PW as a security measure, they must then be receipted for and a record thereof maintained in a special register. The ad-

ministrative burden thus imposed is, normally, not practicable prior to arrival of the PW at a PW camp in COMMZ.

(4) *Segregation.* The segregation of PW by categories first requires that individual PW be identified as belonging to a particular category. While time does not permit the detailed interrogation of PW to make all such determinations, it may be possible to readily identify and separate PW according to officer and enlisted status. Female PW are separated from male PW. To the extent that circumstances permit, and as an objective, segregation of PW by the following categories is desirable and will serve to facilitate intelligence interrogation: officers, noncommissioned officers, privates, deserters, civilians, nationality, and ideology.

(5) *Medical care and classification.*

(a) *Medical care.* Medical equipment and supplies to permit the administering of emergency first aid should be available at each PW collecting point and PW holding area. A qualified medical enlisted man, if available, may supervise the administration by the PW of such first aid. All PW suspected of having communicable diseases are isolated for examination by a medical officer.

(b) *Medical classification.* For evacuation purposes, PW may be classified as walking wounded or sick or as nonwalking wounded or sick. Walking wounded PW are evacuated through military police PW evacuation channels. Nonwalking wounded are delivered to the nearest medical aid station and evacuated through medical channels.

(6) *Interrogation.*

(a) Interrogation in the combat zone is a responsibility of the intelligence officer who is assisted by military intelligence interrogation teams.

(b) The system of intelligence parallels that of evacuation. However, interrogation does not take precedence over rapid evacuation of PW from dangerous areas as required by Article 19, GPW.

(c) Special transportation arrangements for a priority movement of selected PW for intelligence purposes are a responsibility of the intelligence officer.

(d) Military police communicate with PW only for the purpose of giving those commands and instructions which are necessary for the administration, movement, and control of the PW.

(e) For a detailed discussion of the interrogation of PW, see FM 30-5 and FM 30-15.

(7) *Sanitation.* Sanitation facilities and sup-

plies should be provided as soon as possible in the evacuation channel to permit the disinfestation of PW and their clothing of vermin. Soap and washing facilities should be made available whenever possible.

### 2-3. Evacuation

a. *General.* Responsibility for the custody and evacuation of PW is normally accepted by division military police at the brigade level. Physically able military personnel who have been properly instructed may be utilized as guards to assist military police. Nonwalking wounded and sick PW are evacuated through medical channels but they remain physically segregated from US and allied patients. The PW guards are provided from other than medical or medical service personnel as prescribed by the SOP of the appropriate command. The PW evacuated through medical channels must be identified prior to evacuation and their accountability established.

#### b. Evacuation Principles.

- (1) Prompt evacuation to the rear.
- (2) Noninterference with tactical movements of US and allied troops.
- (3) Maximum utilization of all types of empty transportation returning to the rear.
- (4) Maximum and timely assistance from higher echelons.
- (5) When circumstances permit, direct evacuation from any area in the combat zone to a designated PW camp or camps in COMMZ.
- (6) Evacuation of PW litter patients through medical channels.
- (7) Except for weapons and documents of intelligence value, PW are allowed, pending arrival at a PW camp in COMMZ, to retain personal property and effects in their possession at time of capture.

#### c. Evacuation Channels and Responsibilities.

(1) Evacuation of PW from the combat zone should be effected within the minimum time after capture. While in the combat zone, not only may PW become casualties as the result of enemy fire, but the fluidity of battlefield movement, the wide dispersion of units, and the austerity of facilities necessitate their rapid evacuation.

(2) The normal evacuation channel is from the division forward collecting point to the division central collecting point to a PW camp in COMMZ. When, however, returning transportation bypasses the division central PW collecting

point and proceeds directly from brigade to corps or COMMZ, direct PW evacuation thereto may be effected (fig 2-1). Evacuation may be by foot, vehicle, rail, aircraft, or ship.

(3) The providing of transportation and rations for the evacuation of PW and the coordination of all matters related thereto are responsibilities of the command (brigade and above) from which the PW are being evacuated.

(4) Escort guards and their transportation, if movement is by vehicle or on foot, are furnished by the command (division and above) to which the PW are being evacuated.

#### d. Evacuation Procedures.

(1) *General.* The following procedures apply to all modes of evacuation:

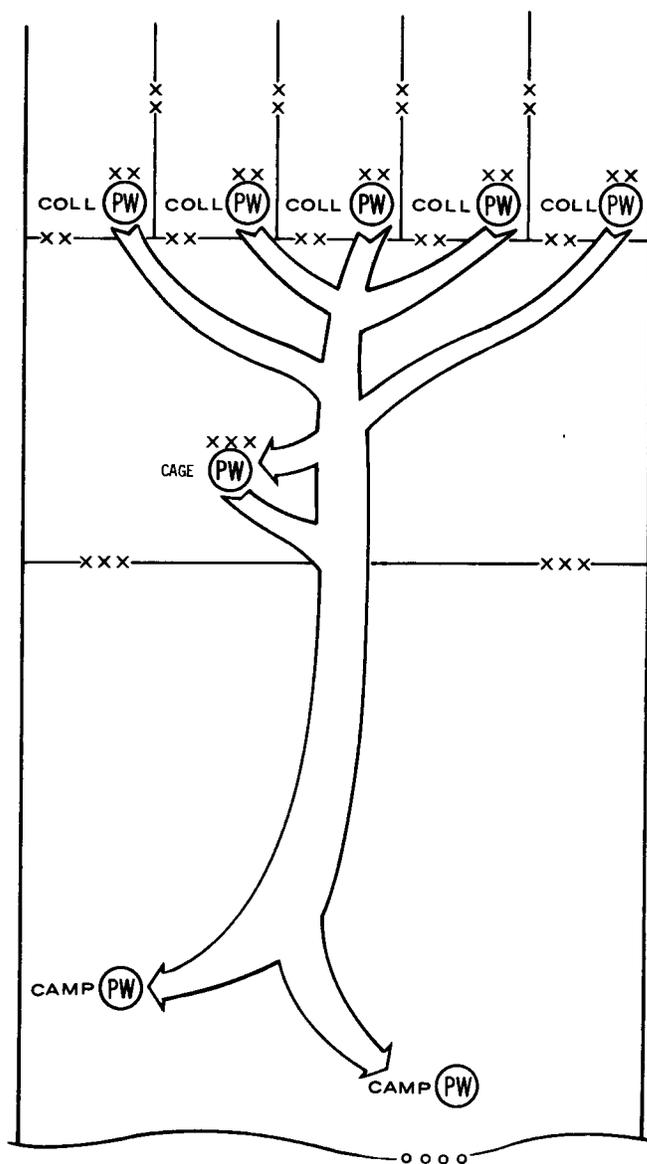


Figure 2-1. Evacuation of prisoners of war in a theater of operations (schematic).

(a) Close liaison should be maintained with the next higher headquarters to transmit current information on the location of collecting points, other prisoner of war facilities, and the number of PW to be evacuated.

(b) Stops are preferably made during daylight and outside towns, cities, or installations.

(c) The providing of sufficient rations is the responsibility of the echelon having custody of the PW. To the greatest extent possible, captured enemy rations and other enemy supplies and materials are used.

(d) Only the minimum conversation necessary to issue orders and maintain discipline is permitted between guards and PW. Orders are given in a language that PW understand.

(e) Punishment for the violation of a rule, regulation, or order during an evacuation is not administered by guards. Measures are taken by the responsible commanders to prevent recurrences of any violations.

(f) The number of escort guards required depends on such factors as the moral physical condition, and number of PW, mode of transportation, terrain, and probability of enemy attack.

(g) Guards for PW transported by air, highway transport, rail, water, or on foot are so organized and equipped as to provide adequate security.

(2) *Specific.* The following procedures apply to specific modes of evacuation:

(a) When PW are evacuated by air, a

minimum of two guards per plane is normally required. Guards protect the aircrew and maintain order and discipline within the plane during flight.

(b) When PW are evacuated by highway transport, the loading must be closely supervised and load limits adhered to. The ideal loading formula is 10 PW per truck ton. An armed guard may be placed in the cab of each vehicle to guard the PW in the preceding vehicle. Motor patrols may be interspersed in the column to reinforce the guard detail in a very large convoy. Armed helicopters may be employed to provide aerial protection and observation when movements are over rough terrain or through known guerrilla territory.

(c) When PW are evacuated by rail, approximately 120 PW may be transported in each passenger car. Each passenger car normally requires four guards. Two guards are placed at each end of the car. One of the four guards may be a supervisor. If boxcars are used, approximately 40 PW may be transported in each boxcar. One guard may be stationed in the center of each boxcar inside a barbed wire lane. A guard supervisor for each three boxcars should be provided.

(d) When PW are evacuated by water, the number of guards depends on the type and size of the ship and the time and distance of the voyage.

(e) When PW are evacuated on foot, close column formations are recommended. Guards march at the head, rear, and both flanks of the column.

## Section II. DIVISION

### 2-4. Capturing Troops

a. Capturing troops disarm and search PW immediately for weapons and for documents which appear to be of particular intelligence value. If immediate search is not feasible, it is made as soon as possible. Until such time as the PW can be searched, capturing and escort troops must be alert to prevent the use of concealed weapons and the destruction of documents or equipment.

b. A receipt will be given to PW from whom personal property or documents are taken. A copy of this receipt, which will include the name, rank, and Army or other serial number of the PW; a brief description of the document taken; and the name, rank, serial number, and unit of the person who took it, is delivered to the senior guard or officer responsible for escorting a movement of PW to the division forward collecting point. Upon arrival at the brigade, such documents together with the receipts are delivered to the officer or

noncommissioned officer in charge of the PW collecting point.

c. Except for the taking of weapons and documents as set forth in a above, sums of money, personal and sentimental property may not be taken from PW except on the orders of an officer and then only for reasons of security. When this occurs, itemized receipts must then be provided (b above).

d. The PW are segregated insofar as possible and are normally escorted to the division forward PW collecting point by capturing troops. The PW may be accepted by military police at any point from capture through the evacuation chain.

e. Capturing troops should be familiar with the five S's concerning prisoners of war. They are:

(1) Segregate—by rank, sex, nationality.

(2) Search—for weapons, military documents or equipment in the vicinity of capture.

(3) Speed—evacuate from point of capture.

(4) Silence—prohibit talking among PW for ease of control.

(5) Safeguard—to prevent harm or escape.

See FM 21-75 or FM 30-15 for additional information.

## 2-5. Brigade

a. A division forward PW collecting point is established in or near the brigade trains. A partially fenced or inclosed area (fig 2-2), utilizing concertina wire, that insures maximum security of PW with minimum of guards is chosen, if available. In the absence of an inclosed area, the limits of the forward PW collecting point should be visibly defined, utilizing engineer tape (fig 2-2—continued), and the PW required to remain within the defined area. The size of the inclosed area and number of guards required will depend upon the number of PW captured or the number of other detainees at brigade level. The forward PW collecting point must be capable of easy displacement due to changes in the tactical situation.

b. The operation of the division forward PW collecting point is a responsibility of the division military police platoon operating in support of the brigade. If it is not within the capability of this platoon to operate the forward PW collecting point and also perform other required military police missions, the necessary augmentation must be requested by the platoon leader from the division military police company commander.

c. A military intelligence interrogation team is

normally located in close proximity of the division forward PW collecting point for tactical interrogation of PW.

d. As a normal practice, PW are evacuated from the division forward PW collecting point to the division central PW collecting point by personnel from the division military police company. When transportation is available, evacuation may be made by military police escort guard company personnel directly from the division forward PW collecting point to corps or COMMZ.

e. Guards for PW escort are provided by the division military police company for the evacuation of PW from brigade to division. The PW escort guards for the direct evacuation of PW from the division collecting point to Corps or COMMZ are provided by Corps or COMMZ through Corps.

f. Functions performed at the division forward collecting point include:

(1) The accepting and securing of PW delivered by the brigade combat troops to include the receipting for any documents or property received from the escorting guards.

(2) Within capabilities to do so—

(a) The providing of medical supplies to enable PW to treat minor wounds. Nonwalking wounded or sick PW should be sent to the brigade medical detachment for medical attention and evacuation through medical channels.

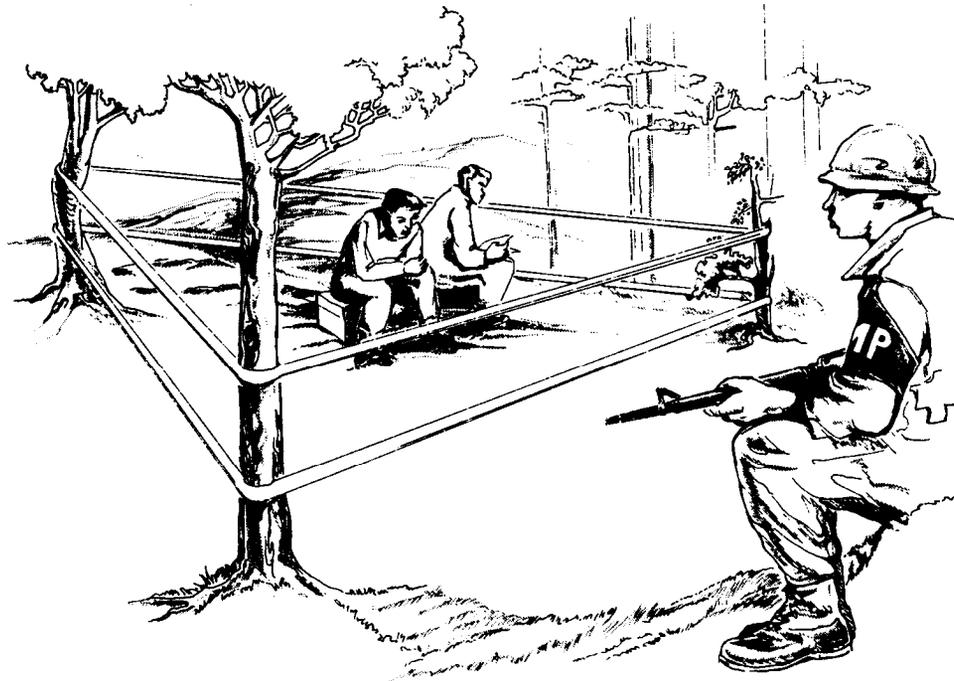
(b) The searching of each PW for concealed weapons and assisting interrogation teams in their search for documents of intelligence value.

(c) The providing or improvising of shel-



(Concertina)

Figure 2-2. Forward PW collecting point.



(Engineer tape)  
Figure 2-2.—Continued.

ter to protect PW from the elements. The first and following contingents of able-bodied PW received should be required to dig an adequate number of foxholes.

(3) The providing of water and, if required, food for PW.

(4) Segregating of PW.

(5) The coordinating of the use of return transportation with the brigade transportation officer.

(6) The releasing of PW together with documents and personal effects, if any, to division military police for evacuation to the division collecting points.

g. Reports regarding PW are made at the brigade level as required by command directives.

## 2-6. Division

a. The division central PW collecting point is established in the vicinity of the division support command. The selection of a specific site for the collecting point is governed by the availability of facilities for PW and its accessibility to a main supply route (MSR) and/or aircraft landing facilities.

b. The division central PW collecting point is manned by a platoon from the division military police company. Additionally, this platoon evacuates PW from any forward collecting points which

are in operation. This collecting point may be constructed of similar materials as the forward PW collecting point. However, it should be larger and contain some type of tentage or shelter from bad weather and a bunker in each subarea or free access to one in the event of attack, artillery or mortar fire, etc. (fig 2-3). The size will depend upon capture rate and numbers of other detained persons. The division central collecting point should allow for ease of displacement due to changes in the tactical situation. Normally, PW should not remain at division level in excess of 24 hours.

c. A military intelligence interrogation team is normally located in close proximity to the division central PW collecting point for additional tactical interrogation. Counterintelligence reformation may also be obtained. The military intelligence interrogation team can also assist MP personnel in additional segregation and classification of PW.

d. Necessary PW escort guards are provided by corps, or by COMMZ through corps, for the direct evacuation of PW from division central PW collecting point to corps or COMMZ. For direct evacuation of PW from division forward PW collecting points to corps or COMMZ, escort guard company personnel may, in coordination with the division provost marshal, be provided by direct dispatch from corps to brigade.

e. When mass PW captures are being effected.

**TYPE CONSTRUCTION** *(Not mandatory)*

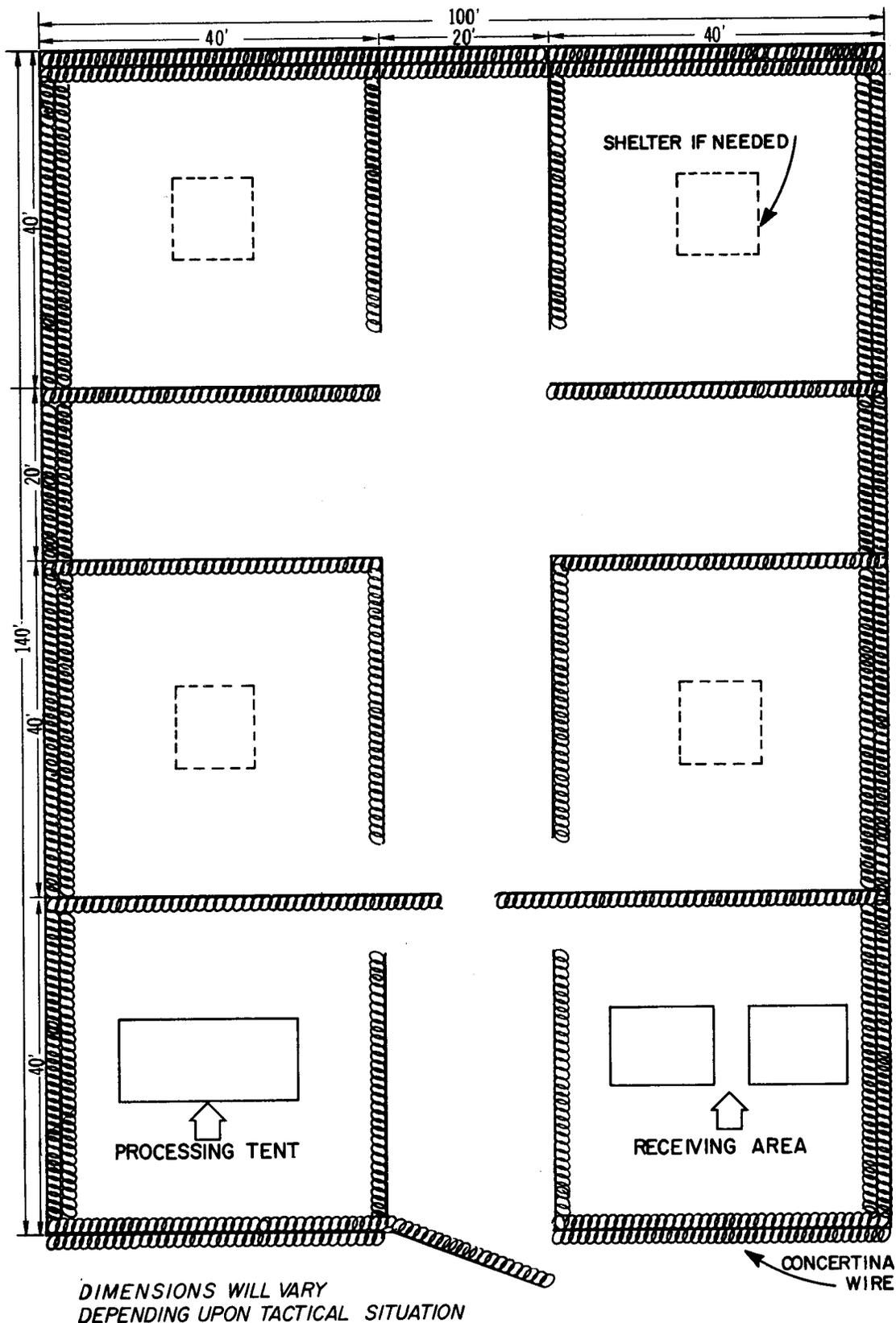


Figure 2-3. Division central PW collecting point.

requirements for additional PW escort guards and transportation are placed upon corps.

*f.* Functions performed at the division central PW collecting point include:

(1) The providing of security for PW evacuated from brigade, to include the receipting for any PW documents or property received from the escorting guards.

(2) The providing of food, water, first aid, and medical attention as required.

(3) The segregating of PW.

(4) The coordinating of the use of return transportation with the division transportation officer.

(5) The releasing of PW together with document and personal effects, if any, to corps or COMMZ military police for evacuation to the corps processing station or to COMMZ.

*g.* Required PW reports are made as prescribed by command directives.

### Section III. CORPS

#### 2-7. Evacuation Responsibilities

The corps MP group/brigade commander is responsible for the operation of the corps PW holding area and for providing required PW escort guard support to divisions for the evacuation of PW in either routine or medical channels. The MP group/brigade commander is responsible for arranging and coordinating all transportation requirements and for providing rations and water, if required, for the movement.

#### 2-8. Expediting Evacuation

The expeditious evacuation of PW is provided by the prior dispatch of escort guards (Military Police Escort Guard Company, TOE 1947) to establish a ready reserve of escort guards at each of the supported divisions. This reserve evacuation capability is maintained by the dispatch of additional escort guards on a continuing or as required basis.

#### 2-9. Temporary Holding Facilities

When distances or conditions preclude movement of PW from the division PW collecting point to the corps PW processing station during daylight hours or within an 8- to 10-hour period, it may be necessary to establish temporary holding facilities along the evacuation route. Whenever possible, a suitable existing facility which will provide shelter from the elements and which has a perimeter fence, wall, or other barrier to facilitate security should be used. If shelter is completely lacking, it may be necessary to provide some tentage.

#### 2-10. PW Holding Area.

A temporary construction, building, or enclosed area, to which prisoners of war are evacuated for interrogation and temporary detention pending further evacuation.

*a.* Dependent upon the size of the corps area, terrain factors, and main supply routes, it may be necessary to establish as many as two or three PW holding areas. For economy of personnel, the minimum number of holding areas, preferably one, is desirable.

*b.* The first consideration in the selection of a PW holding area is that it be adjacent to the evacuation route. The evacuation route is largely predetermined by the MSR, rail lines, or the location of air fields, dependent upon the mode of transportation which constitutes the primary means for the evacuation of PW. Related considerations include the location of suitable existing facilities for use as a PW holding area, proximity to supply facilities, and protection from enemy activities.

#### 2-11. PW Holding Area Operations

*a.* The PW holding areas are operated on an austere basis and should be designed to meet the minimum requirements necessary for the temporary retention of PW pending their further evacuation to COMMZ.

*b.* All PW are counted and receipted for upon arrival at the corps PW holding area. A receipt for the PW and any accompanying documents is given to the commander of the escort guard.

*c.* The field processing at the Corps PW holding area may include a further search of PW for weapons and a closer examination by intelligence personnel of documents found in their possession. Sanitary measures may include the delousing of each PW and, if feasible, the disinfestation of clothing. Bathing facilities, if available, should be used. All PW suspected of having communicable diseases, or other need for medical care, are isolated for examination by a medical officer. If necessary, clothing is issued to individual PW.

*d.* Food and water are provided. The prepara-

tion of the food, if required, is accomplished by PW under the supervision of custodial personnel.

e. Intelligence interrogation of PW at the corps holding area is selective. The length of time devoted to any single interrogation is dependent on the value of the information being obtained, and detailed and lengthy interrogations may be conducted at this echelon.

f. The PW are evacuated from the corps holding area to COMMZ with the least possible delay. The corps cage commander is responsible for the coordinating of all transportation arrangements, to include the number of vehicles, railroad or passenger cars, or aircraft to be provided and the time and place of departure. He is further responsible for providing rations, if required, for the movement and for having PW evacuated in readiness for delivery to the COMMZ escort commander at the proper time.

g. The COMMZ escort guard officer, prior to acceptance of PW for evacuation, verifies the readiness and adequacy of the transportation to be used, the availability of rations and water, prepares the loading plans, and determines

whether any special security measures are necessary.

## 2-12. PW Mass Captures

Under conditions involving mass captures or surrenders, the corps PW facilities and capabilities of the assigned military police units may be inadequate. Prior planning and reconnaissance should provide for the selection or construction of the most suitable facility available for the temporary internment of large numbers of PW. As a minimum, such a facility should be located in the proximity of a main supply route (MSR) and preferably near a major transportation terminal, have an adequate water supply, and have sufficient shelter to provide at least the minimum required protection from the elements. Perimeter fences and security personnel will be provided on a minimum basis. If possible, the military police or other military units to be temporarily diverted to PW security under such circumstances should be predetermined. The ready availability of essential messing and sanitary equipment and supplies should be assured.

## Section IV. SPECIAL OPERATIONS

### 2-13. River-Crossing Operations

a. A PW collecting point is established on the near side of the river sufficiently far to the rear to prevent interference with tactical operations and to afford reasonable protection against hostile fire.

b. The PW are evacuated from the bridgehead area as soon as possible to prevent congestion. The movement of PW from the far side of the river must be coordinated with traffic control personnel at the crossing sites. Secondary crossing sites are used if available.

### 2-14. Amphibious Operations

a. The handling of PW in an amphibious operation varies little from that in land operations. Initially, the shore party or helicopter support teams operate PW collecting points in the beach support areas or landing zones. The PW are evacuated from collecting points to designated ships by landing craft, helicopter, or amphibious vehicles. Coordination with the support force is required for the handling of PW once they have been evacuated from the beachhead.

b. Retention in the objective area is begun and increased as facilities, supplies, and personnel per-

mit, consistent with reasonable safety of PW from enemy action.

### 2-15. Airborne Operations

a. The military police company of an airborne division is capable of providing a PW collecting point for each brigade.

b. In an airborne operation, the manner of collecting PW is dependent upon such factors as the geographical location of the airhead, the tactical plan, availability of transportation, and plans for linkup with ground forces.

c. Since PW will be evacuated primarily by air, the PW collecting point (at least during the early stages) for an airborne division must be located near the landing zone. Plans should provide for the attachment of personnel from COMMZ military police escort guard units to the airborne force to guard PW during evacuation.

### 2-16. Armored Operations

Because of their inherent characteristics, such as mobility, firepower, and communications, armored units are able to quickly penetrate deep into hostile territory. Such penetrations may bypass enemy strongpoints and leave isolated enemy groups which would hinder the normal evacua-

tion of PW. In this circumstance, it may be necessary to hold PW in the area of capture until they can be escorted by the capturing unit or until follow and support units reach the area to take over the control and further evacuation of captured PW. Consideration should be given to necessary coordination for placing the escort guard company well forward with the division prior to the operation, even as far forward as the brigade area.

### **2-17. Airmobile Operations**

Collection and evacuation operations by the military police company of an airmobile division are

basically similar to those of an airborne division. Organic military police elements accompany assault elements to the objective areas so they can collect and evacuate captured PW. Collecting points are established as required near heliports or airfields. Arrangements must be made for nondivisional military police to accompany designated incoming or resupply aircraft to guard PW during their evacuation from division. Any enemy civilians who must be taken into custody by the assault elements should be evacuated in the same manner as PW but should be kept separated from PW during evacuation.