

Prisoners of War and Their Treatment During the American Civil War

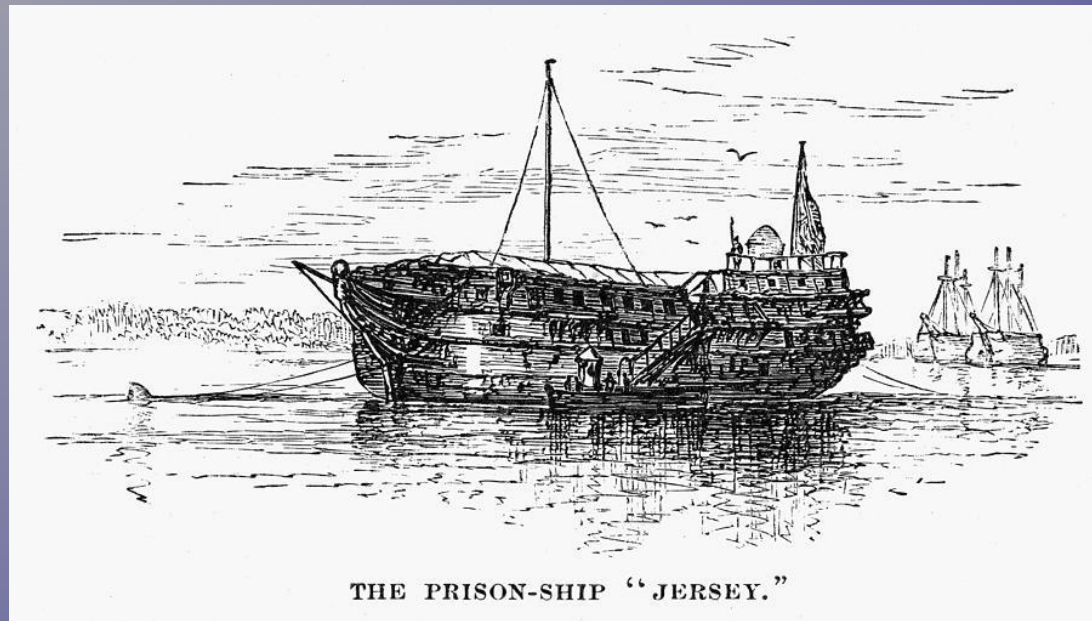


Wayne E. Sirmon, M.A., M.A.Ed.
Adjunct Assistant Professor of History
University of Mobile
Raphael Semmes Camp
Sons of Confederate Veterans

Prisoners During the American Revolution

At war's end, there were only 1,400 survivors among the inmates of the entire prison ship fleet, and at least 11,000 men and boys died aboard the ships from 1776 to 1783.

Estimated 80% of American deaths during war occurred on prison ships.



Prisoners During the American Revolution



Americans Deaths

KIA 6,800
Disease 17,000

11,000 of the 17,000 deaths due to disease
Were POW on prison ships

Prisoners During the War of 1812

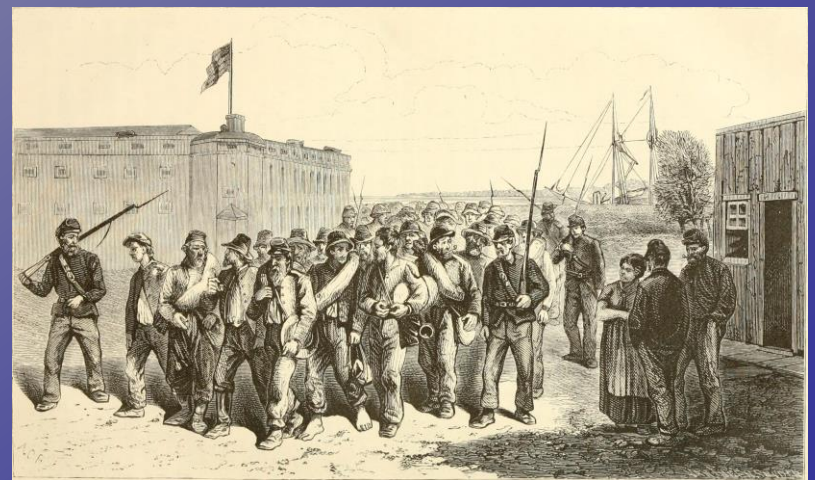
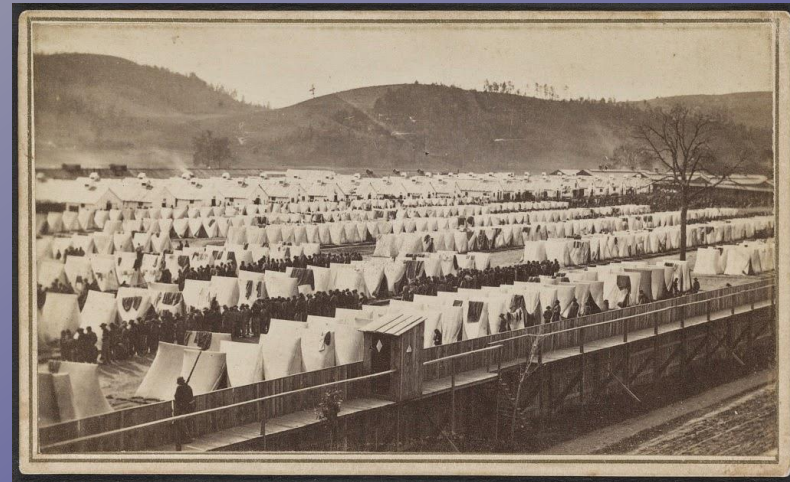
Cartel of 12 May 1813

**Negotiated by
American Commissary General of Prisons
and Prisoners Jon Mason,
and
Colonel Thomas Barclay, British agent for
prisoners of war.**

Rank	Cartel score
Private	1
SGT	2
1LT	4
CPT	6
MAJ	8
LTC	10
COL	15
BG	20
MG	40
GEN	46

Cartel for the exchange of prisoners of war between Great Britain and the United States of America," 12 May 1813, Doct. # 190, Box 10, Entry 127, RG 94.

Prisoners During the War of 1861-65



Exchange vs. Parole



Prisoners of War

	Union Soldiers	Confederate Soldiers
Exchanged/ Paroled	152,015	329,963
POW	210,000	220,000
Deaths	22,600	26,500

Dix-Hill Cartel

22 July 1862

MG John A. Dix (USA) MG D. H. Hill (CSA)

Sporadic – “acts of humanity”

11 Dec 1861 – US Congress resolution - “systematic measure for exchange of prisoners”

War of 1812 arrangement used as model

Dec 1862 - 1st problems – Pres. Davis suspends parole of Union officers after Gen Benjamin Butler orders execution of N. O. citizen.

Apr 1864 – Gen Grant halts all exchanges

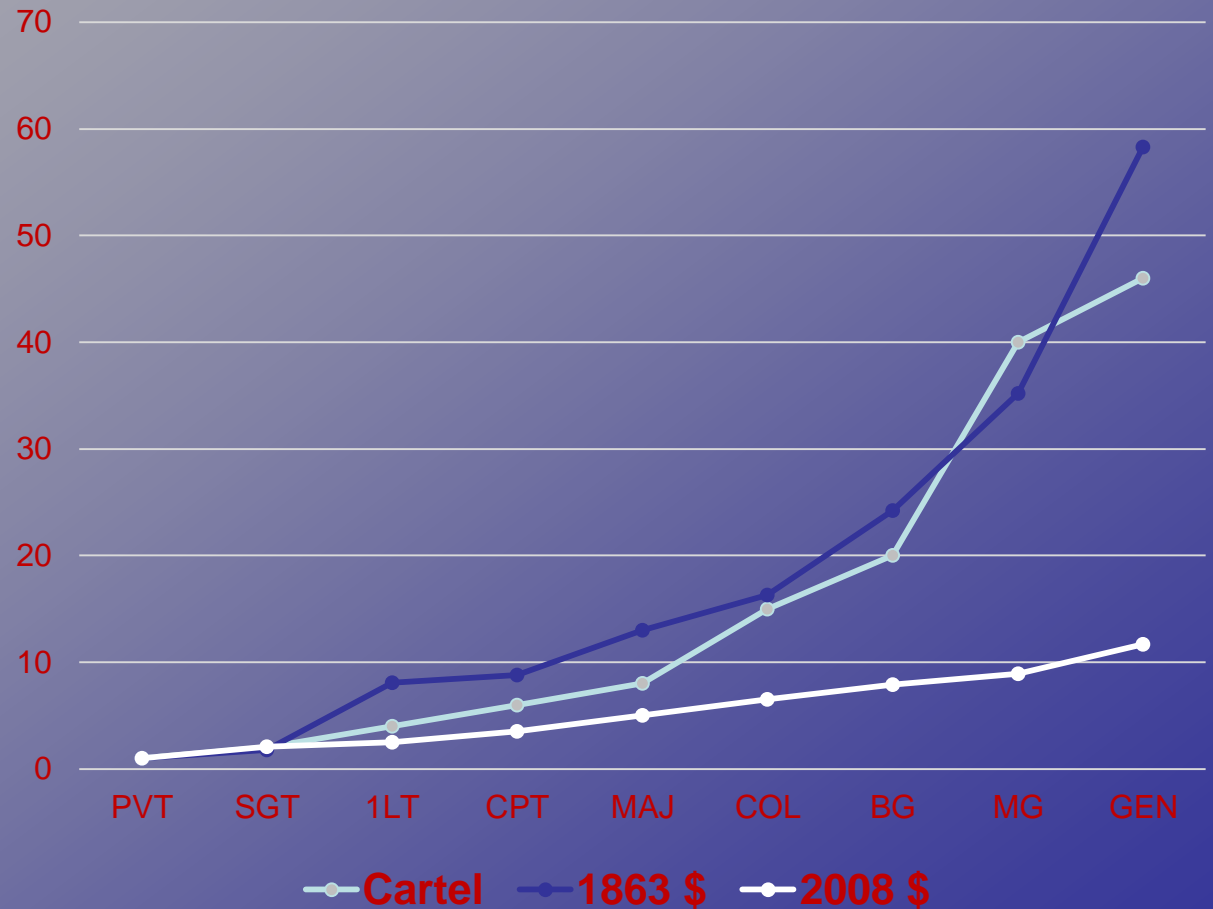
Feb 1865 – Grant recommends exchanging 3,000/week with preference to disabled troops since few “will be got in the ranks again.”

Dix-Hill Cartel

Rank	Cartel score	1863 army	2008 pay
Private	1	1	1
SGT	2	1.8	2.1
1LT	4	8.1	2.5
CPT	6	8.8	3.5
MAJ	8	13.0	5.0
LTC	10	14.0	5.4
COL	15	16.3	6.5
BG	20	24.2	7.9
MG	40	35.2	8.9
GEN	46	58.3	11.7

Dix-Hill Cartel

Rank	Cartel score	1863 army	2008 pay
Private	1	1	1
SGT	2	1.8	2.1
1LT	4	8.1	2.5
CPT	6	8.8	3.5
MAJ	8	13.0	5.0
LTC	10	14.0	5.4
COL	15	16.3	6.5
BG	20	24.2	7.9
MG	40	35.2	8.9
GEN	46	58.3	11.7



Alton Prison

Camp Chase

Camp Douglas

Camp Randall

Elmira

Fort Delaware

Fort Jefferson

Fort McHenry

Old Capitol Prison

Point Lookout

Rock Island

Andersonville

Camp Sumter

Belle Isle

Cahaba Prison

Castle Morgan

Camp Ford

Castle Pinckney

Charleston harbor

Castle Thunder

Richmond

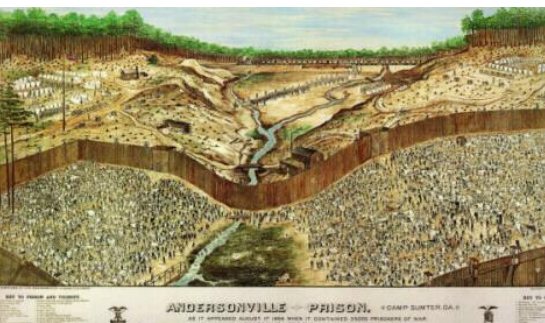
Danville Prison

Libby Prison

Salisbury Prison

Prison Deaths

	USA	CSA
Imprisoned	195,000	215,000
Died	30,000	26,000
% Died	15.5%	12%



Prison Types

Coastal fortifications

Existing jails

Old buildings

Barracks enclosed by high fences

Tent cities enclosed by high fences

Simple stockades

Prison Types

Coastal fortifications



Ft. Delaware
Ft. McHenry & Ft. Jefferson



Prison Types

Existing jails



Prison Types

Old buildings



Old Capitol

Libby Prison

Prison Types



Johnson's Island, OH

Elmira NY

Barracks enclosed by high fences

Tent cities enclosed by high fences

Point Lookout, MD

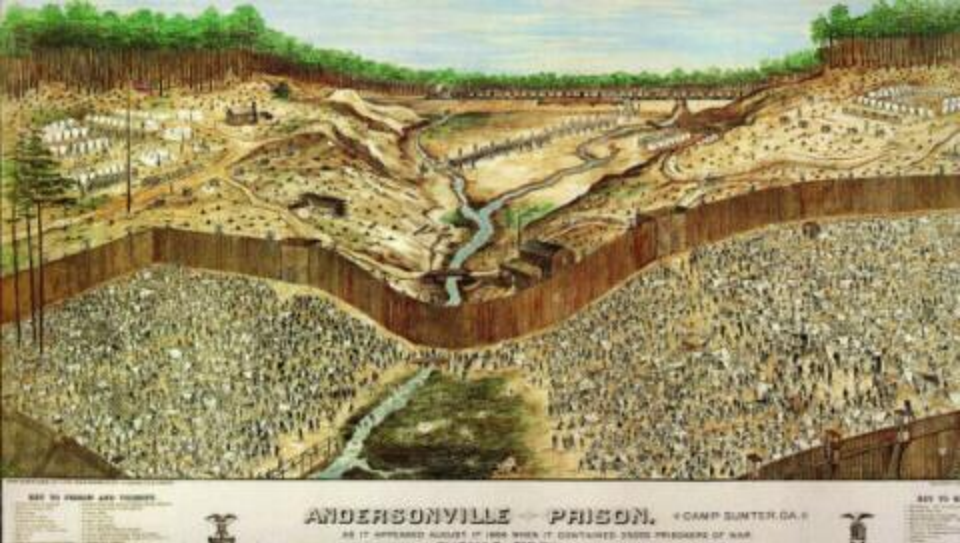


THIS IS A RECONSTRUCTION OF THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE CIVIL WAR PRISON PEN. THE ORIGINAL WALL ENCLOSED APPROXIMATELY 20 ACRES. THE CONFEDERATE PRISONERS LIVED IN TENTS AND SHACKS LOCATED ON THE INSIDE OF THE PRISON PEN. THE UNION PRISON GUARDS WATCHED OVER THE CONFEDERATE PRISONERS BY WALKING AROUND THE RAISED WALKWAY LOCATED ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE FENCE.

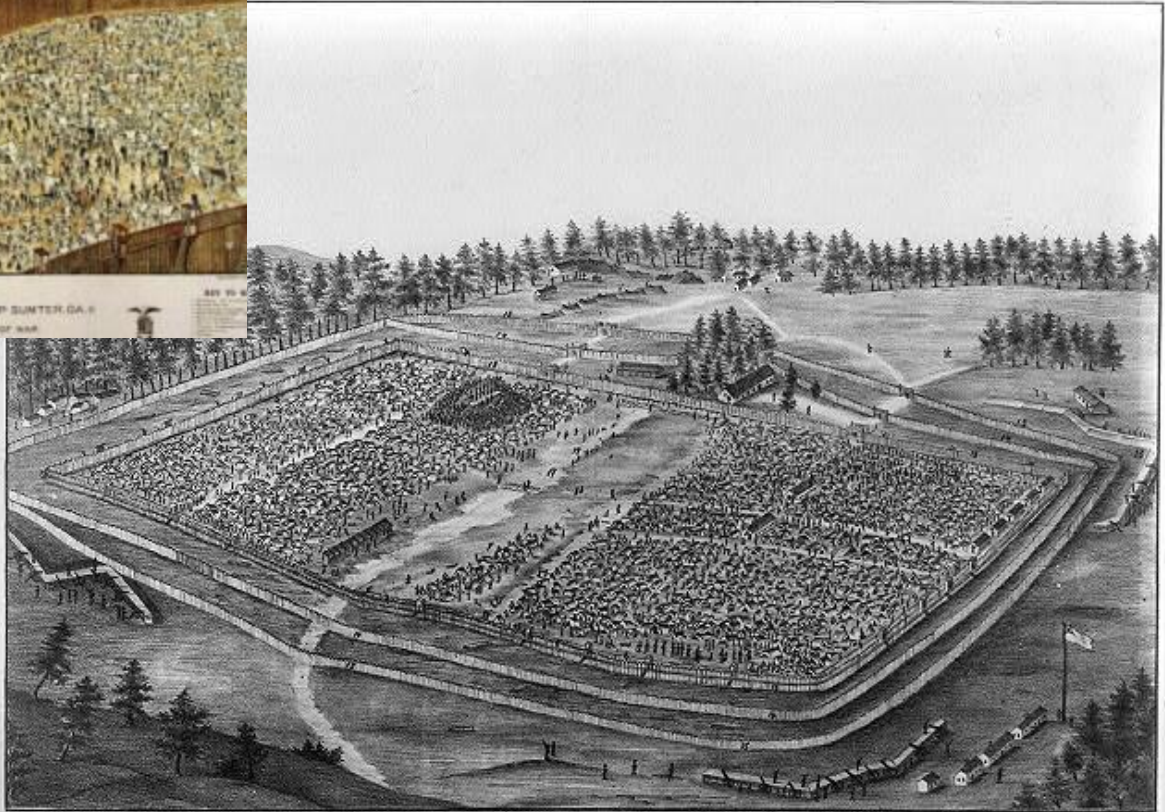
MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT THE VISITOR CENTER AND CIVIL WAR MUSEUM, LOCATED IN THE CAMPING AREA OF THE PARK.

RECONSTRUCTED BY: FREDERICK COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND MARYLAND FOREST, PARK AND WILDLIFE SERVICE.

Prison Types



Simple stockades



ANDERSONVILLE PRISON
 AS SEEN BY
JOHN L. RANSOM,
 AUTHOR AND PUBLISHER OF "ANDERSONVILLE DIARY, ESCAPE AND LIST OF THE DEAD,"
 WASHINGTON, D. C.

- 1. Head Quarters.
- 2. Rebel Camp.
- 3. Hospital.
- 4. Cook House.
- 5. Death House.
- 6. Death Line.
- 7. The Island.
- 8. Soldier's Camp.
- 9. Police Quarters.
- 10. Stings along the Death Line.
- 11. Star Line Street.
- 12. Broad Street.
- 13. Middle Stockade.
- 14. Second Line Stockade.
- 15. Third Line Stockade.
- 16. Lines Head Quarters.
- 17. Washing Place.
- 18. Side Pen.
- 19. Army House Mess.

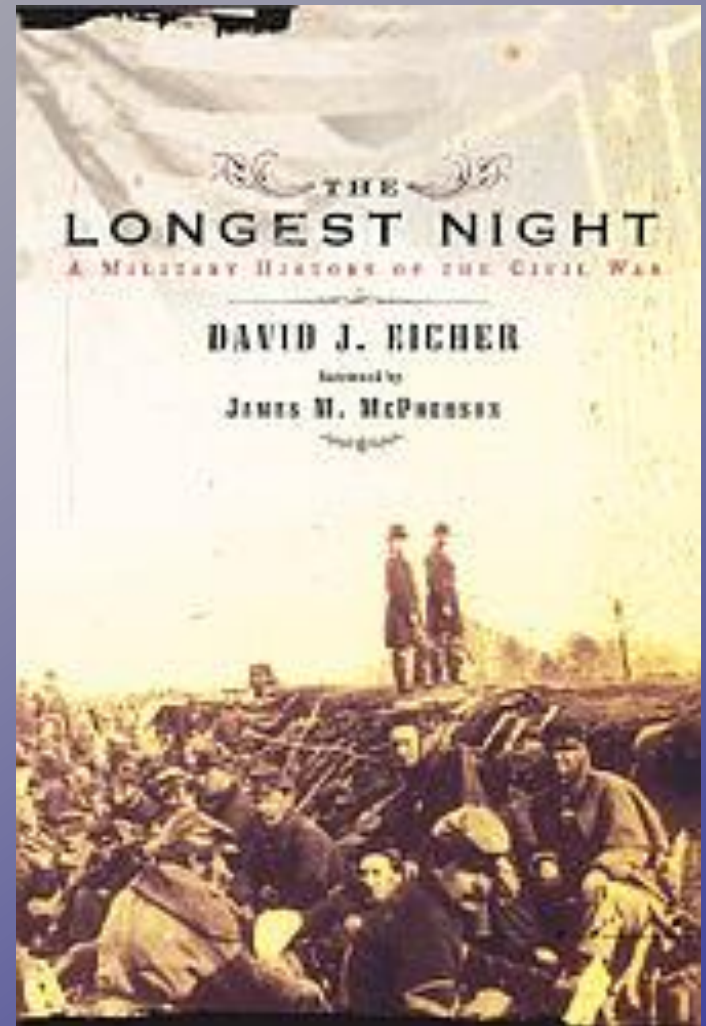
6 Pages (628-632, 733)

Mentions: Andersonville, GA
Belle Isle, VA
Salisbury, NC
Danville, VA
Libby, VA
10 others

Camp Chase, OH
Johnson's Island, OH
Point Lookout, MD
Elmira, NY
6 others

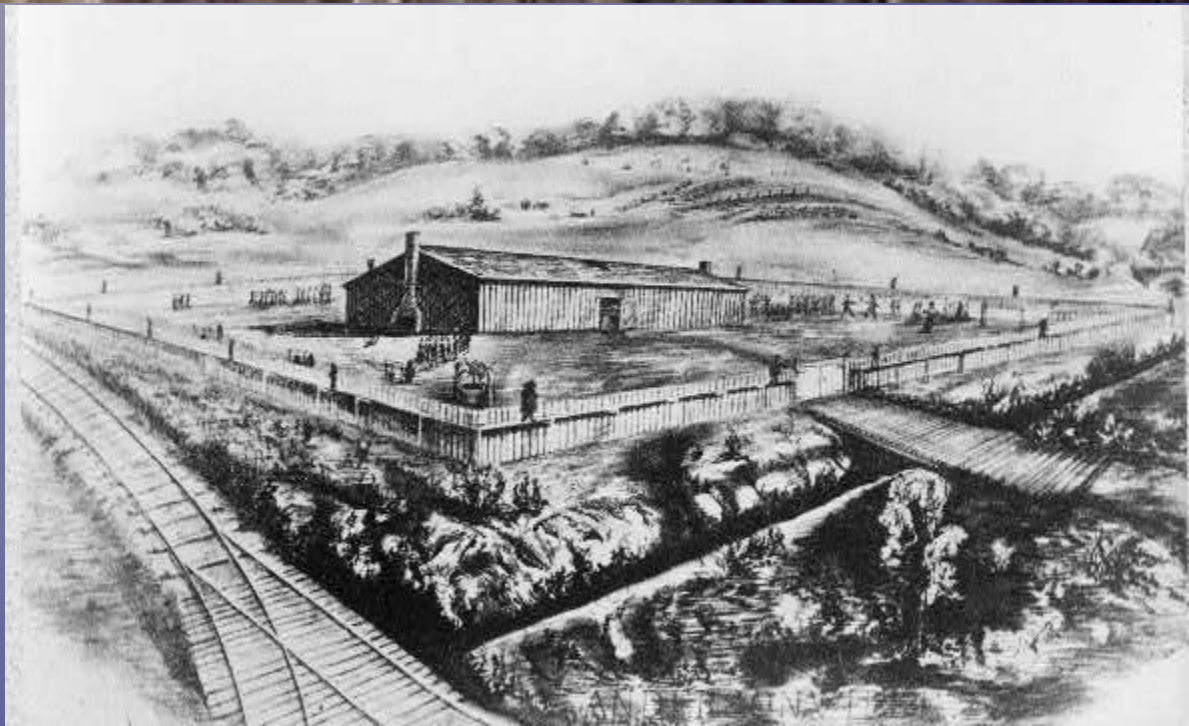
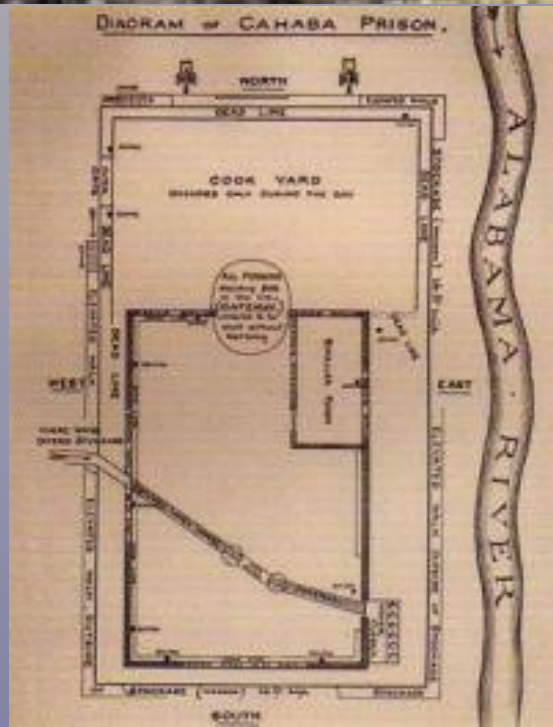
2 1/2 times as much space on southern prisons

“polluted water from only source, the trickling flow of Providence Spring”
(INCORRECT)



On Aug 9, 1864, a spring burst forth during a heavy summer rainstorm - an occurrence attributed to Divine Providence

Cahaba Prison, Alabama "Castle Morgan"



Cahaba Prison, Alabama

“Castle Morgan”

Cahaba was the capital of Alabama (1820-25)

Lafayette's visit (3 days) Vine & Olive Colony

Castle Morgan

(John H. Morgan had recently escaped from Ohio Ste. Penitentiary)

15,000 sq. ft.

Bunks for 432

Population 3,000 (max)

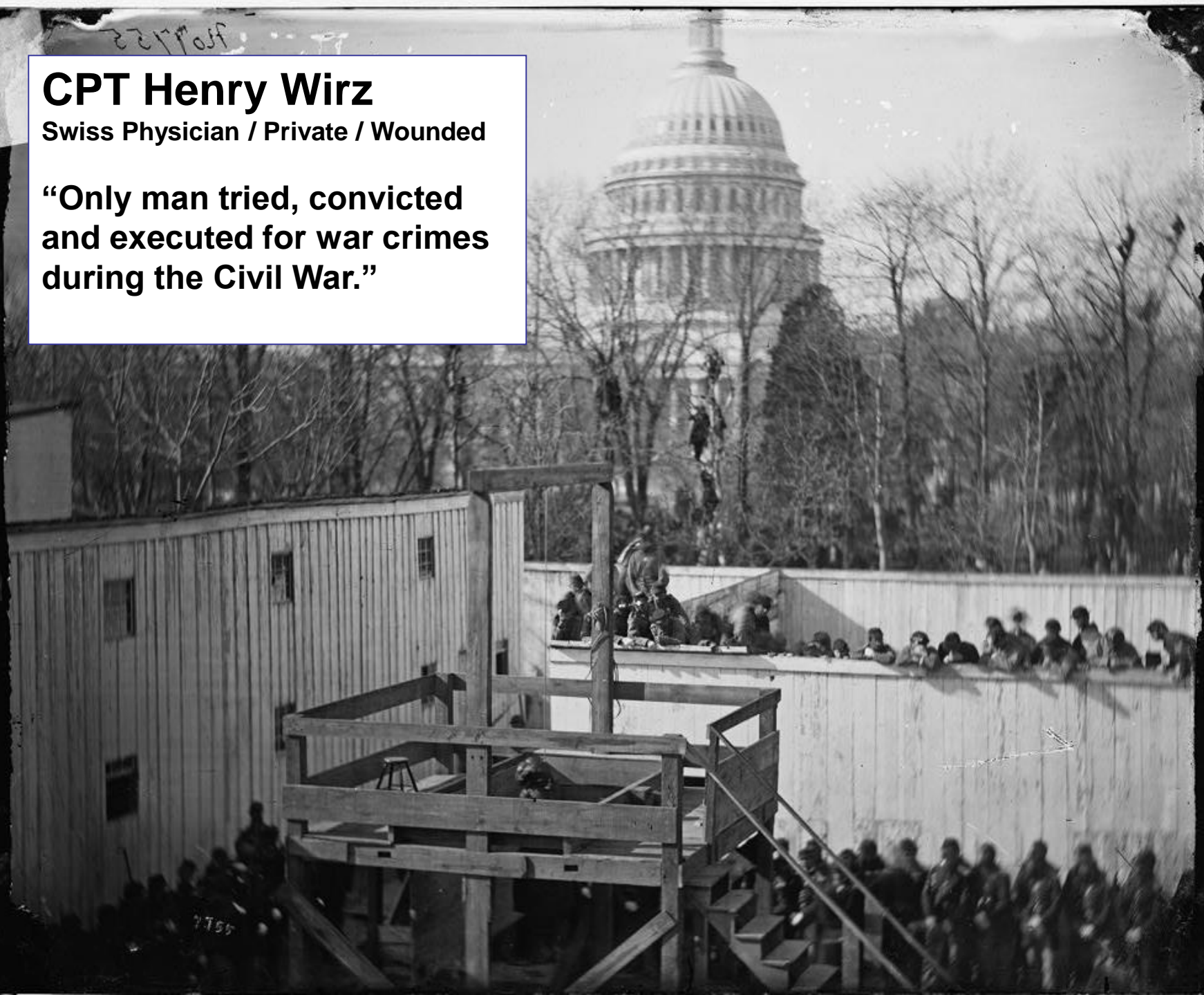
6 sq. ft. at night / 12 sq ft. in day
(Andersonville ~ 35 sq. ft./prisoner)

5% death rate (1/3 of average)

CPT Henry Wirz

Swiss Physician / Private / Wounded

**“Only man tried, convicted
and executed for war crimes
during the Civil War.”**



We cherish his memory here.

***We commend his spirit to God
who gave it.***

***And consign his body to the
earth whence it came.***



*Confederate Monument, Columbus, Ohio
2260 Confederate soldiers of the war of 1861-1865
buried in this enclosure*



*Prisoners of War
and Their Treatment
During the American Civil War*

**Questions
And
Comments**