



Evidence

Photograph of Andersonville Prison August, 1864



Andersonville Prison
Photo by A.J. Riddle
August 1864
Showing Prisoner Shelters



Evidence

Letter written by a Confederate Doctor at Andersonville

FIRST DIVISION, C. S. M. P. HOSPITAL,
September 5, 1864.

Surgeon E. D. EILAND, in charge First Division C. S. M. P. Hospital.

SIR: As officer of the day, for the past twenty-four hours, I have inspected the hospital and found it in as good condition as the nature of the circumstances will allow. A majority of the bunks are still unsupplied with bedding, while in a portion of the division the tents are entirely destitute of either bunks, bedding or straw, the patients being compelled to lie upon the bare ground. I would earnestly call attention to the article of diet. The corn bread received from the bakery being made up without sifting, is wholly unfit for the use of the sick; and often upon examination, the inner portion is found to be perfectly raw. The meat received by the patients does not amount to over two ounces a day, and for the past three or four days no flour has been issued. The corn bread cannot be eaten by many, for to do so would be to increase the diseases of the bowels, from which a large majority are suffering, and it is therefore thrown away. All their rations received by way of sustenance is two ounces of boiled beef and half pint of rice soup per day. Under these circumstances, all the skill that can be brought to bear upon their cases by the medical officer will avail nothing. Another point to which I feel it my duty to call your attention is the deficiency of medicines. We have but little more than indigenous barks and roots with which to treat the numerous forms of disease to which our attention is daily called. For the treatment of wounds, ulcers, &c., we have literally nothing except water.

Our wards-some of them-were filled with gangrene, and we are compelled to fold our arms and look quietly upon its ravages, not even having stimulants to support the system under its depressing influences, this article being so limited in supply that it can only be issued for cases under the knife. I would respectfully call your earnest attention to the above facts, in the hope that something may be done to alleviate the sufferings of the sick.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

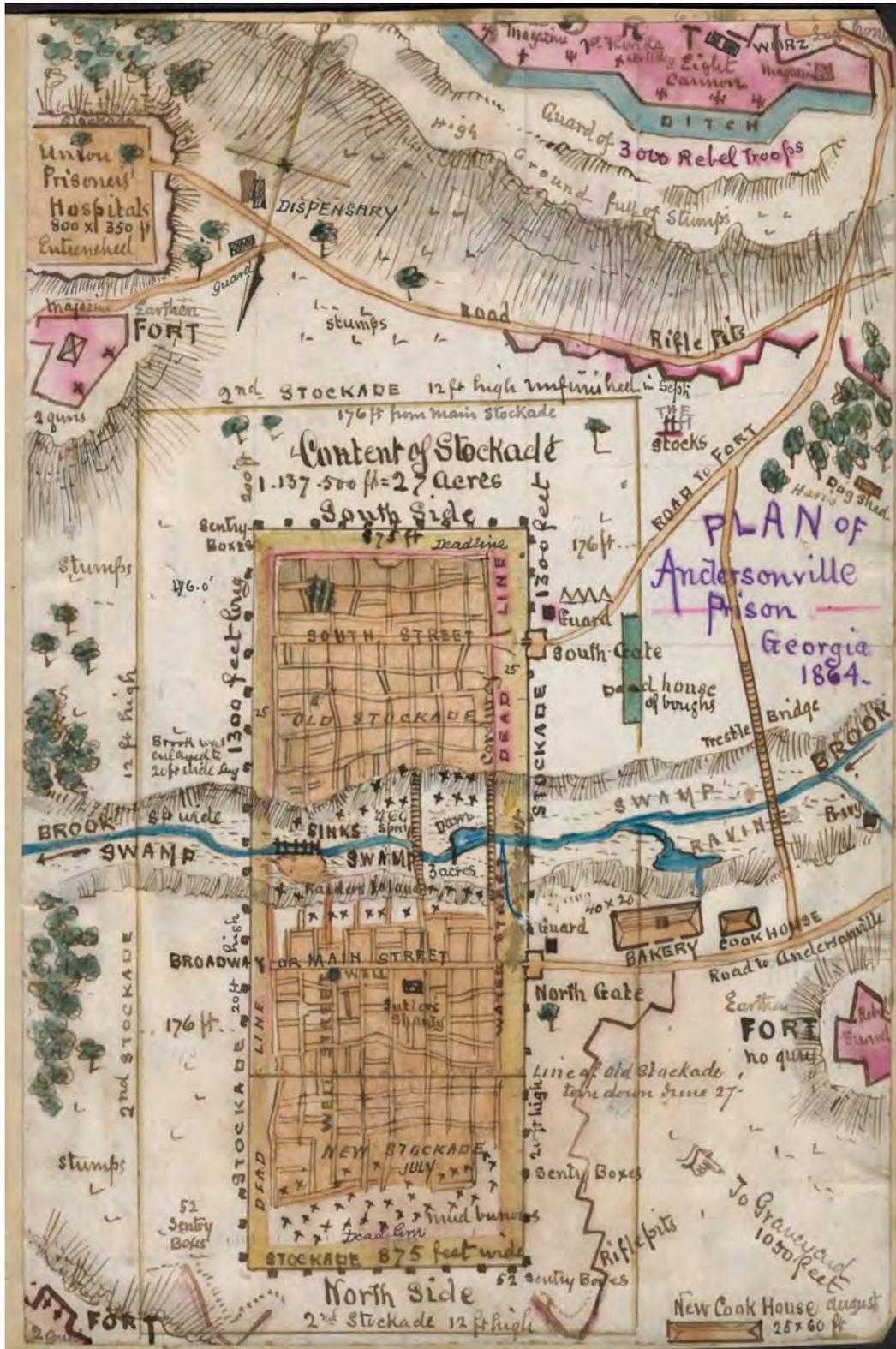
J. CREWS PELOT,
Assistant Surgeon C. S. and Officer of the Day.



Evidence

The Trial of Henry Wirz
Mock Trial Curriculum

Map of Andersonville



Map drawn by prisoner Robert Sneden. Library of Congress, Virginia Historical Society, Library of Virginia Richmond



Evidence

List of supplies sent to Andersonville by the US Sanitary Commission

Stores sent to prisoners at Andersonville, Georgia.

5, 052 wool shirts.	5, 431 wool socks.
6, 993 wool drawers.	50 pillow cases.
3, 950 handkerchiefs.	258 bed sacks.
601 cotton shirts.	122 combs.
1, 128 cotton drawers.	100 tin cups.
2, 100 blouses.	2 boxes tin ware.
4, 235 wool pants.	4, 092 pounds condensed milk.
1, 520 wool hats.	4, 032 pounds condensed coffee.
2, 565 overcoats.	1, 000 pounds farina.
5, 385 blankets.	1, 000 pounds corn starch.
272 quilts.	4, 212 pounds tomatoes.
2, 120 pairs shoes.	24 pounds chocolate.
110 cotton coats.	3 boxes lemon juice.
140 vests.	1 barrel dried apples.
46 cotton pants.	111 barrels crackers.
534 wrappers.	60 boxes cocoa.
69 jackets.	7, 200 pounds beef stock.
12 overalls.	Paper, envelopes, &c.
817 pairs slippers.	Pepper, mustard.
3, 147 towels.	One box tea, 70 pounds.

From the Trial of Henry Wirz, p. 417



Evidence

Letters written by Captain Henry Wirz

Headquarters Commander of Prison
Camp Sumter, Andersonville, GA
June 6, 1864

Captain A.D. Chapman:

I most respectfully call the attention of the colonel commanding post, through you, to the following facts: The bread which is issued to prisoners is of such an inferior quality, consisting fully of one-sixth of husk, that it is almost unfit for use, and increasing dysentery and other bowel complaints. I would wish that the commissary of the post be notified to have the meal bolted [filtered], or some other contrivance arrange to sift the meal before issueing. If the meal, such as is now, was sifted, the bread rations would fall short fully one-quarter of a pound. There is a great deficiency of buckets. Rations of rice, beans, vinegar, and molasses, cannot be issued to prisoners for want of buckets; at least 8,000 men in the stockade being without anything of the sort. If my information is correct any number of buckets can be got from Columbus, Georgia, if the quartermaster of the post would make the requisition for the same. Hoping that you will give this your attention as soon as possible. I remain, captain, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. Wirz
Captain Commanding Prison

Headquarters Confederate States Military Prison
Camp Sumter Sumter, August 1, 1864

Colonel D.T. Chandler:

...Allow me to point out to you some items which, if possible, ought to be attended to. We have an inadequate supply of tools to put the interior of the priosn in a proper condition; we need axes, wheelbarrows, and such things; we need lumber, lime, iron, sheet iron for baking pans.

The prison, although a large addition has been made, is too crowded; almost daily large numbers of prisoners arrive, and before two weeks it will be in the same condition it was before the addition was made, and all internal improvements, which you are aware yourself are of the utmost importance, will come to a dead halt for want of room. As long as 30,000 men are confined in any enclosure, the proper policing is altogether impossible...

...The rations are mostly the same as for our own men, 1/2 of a pound of bacon, 1 1/4 pound cornmeal, or 1 pound of fresh beef in lieu of bacon; occassionally beans, molasses, and rice is issued; vinegar and sop, both very important articles, are very seldom issued, as the commissary says he cannot get them. Scurvy is the principal disease, and it and all other diseases are in an undue proportion confined to the old prisoners, who were first at Belle Isle, Richmond. The guard which I require for safe keeping of the prisoners is entirely insufficient...[they] are perfectly undrilled and undisciplined...

...Hoping your official report will make such an impression with the authorities at Richmond that they will issue the necessary orders to enable us to get what we so badly need.

I remain, Colonel, most respectfully, your obedient servant,
H. Wirz
Capt., AAG, Commanding Prison