

City Point Prisoner Exchange (1862-64)

Beginning in August 1862, City Point served as a point of exchange for prisoners of war. After a brief lull during the early fall, the exchanges resumed in November and continued until May 1864. Regular train service brought Union prisoners “almost daily” in exchange for Confederates shipped upriver from Fort Monroe. To accommodate the prisoner layovers and exchanges, the Confederate Army established a camp with “an officer in charge, a surgeon, medical supplies and a commissary and quartermaster depot.” By May 1864, this “flag of truce station” had only “a score or so men for guard duty.”