

The Team visited Ikot Ekpene prison - formerly a civil one - and there saw 379 POWs, 235 BOFFs and 23 suspected BOFFs. They did not appear to be undernourished but were dirty and possessed only a minimum of clothing - usually a ragged pair of shorts. The reason for this was that they had discarded uniforms and arms before surrendering or being captured. These POWs had spent, on average, only a few days in captivity.

The remaining POWs, some 1,500, had been despatched to Port Harcourt where the the federal army provide them with shorts and vest.

Inevitably, the inmates of Ikot Ekpene prison were very overcrowded. It was the declared intention of the federal troops to evacuate them as soon as possible.

The observers also saw approximately 200 rebel policemen being evacuated from Owerri.

Throughout the newly liberated areas visited, the observers saw orderly, but pathetic, streams of refugees emerging. Owerri was dominated by federal troops reforming before continuing the advance. These troops were flushed with success and their morale was correspondingly high.

Owerri does not appear to be much more extensively damaged than it was when in federal hands several months ago.

The observers noted that roads throughout the newly liberated areas visited were in very good condition. Bridges on the Aba-Owerri road had been repaired with commendable efficiency. It is possible that the present heavy traffic is liable to damage them.

The newly liberated Okigwi-Umuahia road has cut travelling time between the two towns in half.

#### Final discussion with GOC

Before returning to Lagos, the observers had a further discussion with the GOC of the Third Marine Commando Division who said that with his own resources, he was capable of dealing with all problems within his Division's area of responsibility.