P8640 PUNISHMENT PARK (USA, 1971)
(Other titles: Straffparken)

Credits: director/writer, Peter Watkins.
Cast: Paul Alelyanes, Carmen Argenziano, Stan Armsted.
Summary: Melodrama set in 1970s California. Set in the indeterminate future when escalation of the Vietnam and/or other Asian wars has intensified relations between the major powers and lead to an increase of anti-war demonstrations and draft evasion. Prisons are overflowing with protesters who are given a choice of prison sentences of 10-20 years or participating in a three-day endurance test in Punishment Park in the southern California. The participants are allowed three days to cross 57 miles of desert on foot to reach an American flag and obtain their freedom. They are pursued during this trek by National Guard soldiers. Filmed as a “live” reality television program which cuts back and forth between the players crossing the desert, the soldiers pursuing them, and offenders being tried by a tribunal with interviews of the various participants.

Proulx, Bernard (see under Boivin, Robert)
Williams, Tony. “Punishment park” Vietnam war films [GB] (Entry 475)

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