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General Order Number 2: Headquarters, U.S. Colored Troops, Nov 3, 1864

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HEAD-QUARTERS, U. S. COLORED TROOPS,

Department of the Gulf;

PORT HUDSON, LA., November 3d, 1864.

GENERAL ORDERS, No. 2.

The following circular from the War Department is re published for the information of all concerned, and will be immediately complied with by all Commanding Officers of Colored Troops within the Department of the Gulf.

CIRCULAR, No. 60.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, August 1, 1864.

In pursuance of Section 4, of the Act of Congress making appropriations for the support of the Army for the year ending thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and sixty-five, and for other purposes, approved July 4th, 1864, all officers commanding regiments, batteries and independent companies of colored troops, will immediately make a thorough investigation and individual examination of the men belonging to their commands, who were enlisted prior to January 1st, 1864, with a view to ascertaining who of them were free men on or before April 19th, 1861. The fact of freedom to be determined in each case on the statement of the soldier, under oath, taken in connection with the most reliable information that can be obtained from other sources. And when, in view of all the facts in each case, commanding officers are of the opinion that any enlisted men of their commands were free on the date aforesaid, they will, upon the next muster rolls, enter the following remark opposite the names of such soldiers, viz: "Free, on or before April 19th, 1861;" and such soldiers shall be mustered for pay accordingly. Such muster shall be authority for the Pay Department to pay said soldiers, from the time of their entry into service to the 1st day of January, 1864, the difference between the pay received by them as soldiers under their present enlistments, and the full pay allowed by law at the same period to white soldiers.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

E. D. TOWNSEND,

Assistant Adjutant General.

Regimental commanders (through the proper channels) will report to these Head-Quarters the execution of this Order within their respective commands.

By Command of Brig. Gen. GEO. L. ANDREWS:

J. LOVELL

Capt. and Asst. Adjt. Gen.

OFFICIAL:

Lieut. and A. D. C.