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General Order Number 25: Headquarters, Department of Louisiana, August 7th, 1865

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Penalties for neglect of duty on the part of Officers in charge of Troops about to be discharged.

GENERAL ORDERS, No. 25. HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF LOUISIANA, New Orleans, La., August 7, 1865.

I. The following Order from the War Department, is hereby re-published for the information of this Command :

"GENERAL ORDERS,	WAR DEPARTMENT,	
	- ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE.	
No. 119.	Washington, June 29, 1	1865.

In many instances delays have resulted in paying mustered out troops in consequence of regimental and company officers allowing their men to disband, in violation of orders, prior to their commands being reported for payment and final discharge to the Chief Mustering Officer or his Assistant, after arrival at the designated State rendezvous. In other cases there has been delay from company and regimental officers neglecting to furnish full data relative to the enlisted men, thus rendering the muster-out rolls imperfect, and necessitating corrections.

With the arrangements of the War Department as now completed, there need be no delay, and consequently no *hardship or inconvenience to the enlisted men*, if full data from the rolls be furnished in the field, and, if after arrival in their respective States, as well as during transit thereto, commissioned officers look closely after the comfort and interests of their men, and remain constantly with them, so as to enforce orders and control them.

It is therefore Ordered:

That Chief Mustering Officers, and their Assistants, report by telegram the names of all neglectful officers, with the charges against them, to the Adjutant General of the Army, (withholding in the meantime their final payments and honorable discharges,) with a view to their summary and dishonorable dusmissal from the service with forfeiture of all pay. The report, by telegraph, will be sent promptly upon cases of neglect being brought to notice, and, at the same time, the facts in full will be reported by mail.

Governors of States are requested to report delinquencies coming to their notice, to the Chief Mustering Officer of the State, and to the Adjutant General of the Army, so that a prompt remedy may be applied.

By order of the Secretary of War :

E. D. TOWNSEND,

Assistant Adjutant General.

II. The attention of officers and enlisted men of volunteer organizations of this Department, now being, or about to be mustered out of the service, is hereby called to the fact that they are not thereby out of service, and relieved from all duty and obligations as soldiers, but are still subject to military authority until fairly discharged and disbanded by proper authority at the proper rendezvous in their respective States. Officers of such organizations are required to preserve order and maintain discipline, and, under the 32d Article of War, will be held personally and pecuniarily responsible for any misconduct on the part of their respective commands.

This order will be read as soon as practicable after it is received at least three times before each volunteer organization in this department.

BY ORDER OF MAJOR-GENERAL E. R. S. CANBY:

WICKHAM HOFFMAN,

Major, Assistant Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL: