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General Order Number 41: Headquarters, Eastern District of Louisiana, July 29th, 1865

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HEADQUARTERS, EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA,
GENERAL ORDERS, }
New Orleans, La., July 29th, 1865.

No. 41.

It is with pain and regret that the General Commanding feels it his duty to bring to the notice of the officers and soldiers of his Command, the repeated and constantly occurring reports, which reach him, of the misunderstandings, and the gross irregularities flowing therefrom, between the colored troops and citizens at and in the vicinity of most of the posts and stations, within his Command.

There are, undoubtedly, faults on both sides; but it is within the power and it is the duty of local Commanders to put a stop to such a state of things. Citizens must be secure, at all times, in their persons and property, against the intrusion of soldiers, whether white or colored, armed or unarmed. With the question of loyalty of private individuals, the soldier has nothing to do, and all officers and soldiers are cautioned against any private or unofficial action on this subject. Disloyal persons are to be dealt with in a proper and legal manner; and it is the duty of all Commanders to arrest and bring to trial all citizens charged with specific acts of disloyalty. Unless such specific charges can be truthfully framed, it is unjust—it is unwise and impolitic—to generate or propagate an ill feeling between parties by mere assertions. At this juncture, especially, it is the duty of all, to cultivate an amicable and conciliatory intercourse, no higher duty exists.

To bring to an end the irregularities on the part of the troops, it is hereby ordered that more care be taken to carry out the existing orders on the subject of Passes, and, if circumstances require it, they should be withheld altogether.

Soldiers will not be allowed to take from their quarters their arms or side-arms, unless when on armed service.

No parties of colored troops will be sent away from their posts on any armed service, without a commissioned officer.

No soldiers will be allowed to enter the premises of private citizens without the special authority of their commanding officer, in every case.

No party or detachment will enter any premises for the purpose of search without the written orders of the commanding officer of a Post or Camp, and such party must be commanded by a commissioned officer, who will be held strictly responsible for all depredations that may be committed.

All guards are cautioned to exercise greater care and faithfulness in the discharge of their duties, in preventing men from absenting themselves from their quarters, without leave.

Commanding officers will not allow idle freedmen or women to loiter about their posts. They will all be required to seek and obtain occupation; and, if requisite to prevent idleness and vagrancy, work will be assigned them by the commanding officer, or they will be arrested and reported to *T. W. Conway*, Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.

BY ORDER OF BREVET MAJOR GENERAL T. W. SHERMAN.

B. B. CAMPBELL,

Captain, Assistant Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL :

Assistant Adjutant General.