

ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Richmond, November 27, 1862.

GENERAL ORDERS, }
No. 96. }

Commandants of Conscripts will cause the following Order to be published for at least seven times, in a sufficient number of newspapers in each State of the Confederacy, to insure its reaching every part of the country :

I. All commissioned officers and enlisted men, who are now absent from their commands from any other cause than actual disability, or duty under orders from the Secretary of War, or from their department commanders, will return to their commands without delay.

II. Commissioned officers failing to comply with the provisions of the foregoing paragraph, within a reasonable length of time, in no case to exceed twenty days after the publication of this Order, shall be dropped from the rolls of the army in disgrace, and their names will be furnished to the Commandant of Conscripts for enrollment in the ranks.

III. All enlisted men who shall fail to comply with the provisions of paragraph I of this Order, within a reasonable length of time, shall be considered as deserters, and treated accordingly; their names to be furnished to the Commandant of Conscripts in their State, for publication, or such other action as may be deemed most efficacious.

IV. In order to insure the efficient co-operation of all concerned, to carry this order into immediate effect, department commanders are directed to require from the commanding officer of each separate command, in their departments, a prompt report of the names of all commissioned officers and enlisted men now absent from their commands. These reports must state in each case the cause of absence; and any regimental, battalion or company commander, who shall neglect to furnish such a report, or who shall knowingly be guilty of concealing any case of unauthorized absence, shall, on conviction thereof, be summarily dismissed.

V. Under the provisions of the 2d clause of paragraph II of General Orders, No. 82, commissioned officers and privates who are incapable of bearing arms in consequence of wounds received in battle, but who are

otherwise fit for service, are required, if not otherwise assigned, to report to the nearest Commandant of Conscripts in their respective States, who will, if they are fitted for such duty, assign them to the collection of stragglers and the enforcement of the provisions of this Order, with full powers to call upon the nearest military authority for such assistance as may be necessary thereto.

VI. Officers of the Quartermaster's Department charged with payment of troops, are hereby directed not to pay any commissioned officer, non-commissioned officer or private who does not furnish satisfactory evidence that he is not liable to the penalties described in the foregoing Order. Any disbursing officer who shall make payment in violation of this Order, shall be liable on his bond for the amount of such payment.

By order.

S. COOPER,
Adjutant and Inspector General.