

GENERAL ORDERS, }
No. 78. }

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, July 14, 1862.

I..The many evils which arise from giving furloughs to enlisted men, require that the practice shall be discontinued. Hospitals, provided with ample medical attendance, nurses, food, and clothing, are established by the Government, at great expense, not only near the scenes of active military operations, but in many of the Northern States. When it is expedient and advisable, sick and wounded patients may, under the direction of the Surgeon General, be transferred in parties, but not in individual cases, to hospitals at the North; and, as far as practicable, the men will be sent to States in which their regiments were raised, provided United States hospitals have been established there. Such regulations will be adopted at all the hospitals as will permit relatives and friends to visit the patients, and furnish them with comforts, at such hours and in such manner as will not interfere with the discipline of the hospitals and the welfare of the mass of patients. The men will thus be under the fostering care of the Government while unfit for duty; will be in position to be promptly discharged if proper, and, being always under military control, will be returned to their regiments as soon as they are able to resume their duties. The unauthorized removal of soldiers from under the control of the United States authorities, by any agents whatever, subjects them to loss of pay and other penalties of desertion.

II..At large camps, depôts, or posts, where absentees arrive *en route* to their companies, the commanding officers will immediately set apart a particular place where the men may be quartered, in buildings, tents, or huts, as soon as they arrive, and may, *without delay*, receive food and clothing. Parties will be detailed to await at landing places the arrival of such soldiers, and to direct them to their quarters. They will be assigned immediately to temporary companies, composed as far as possible of men from the same regiments or brigades; and each of these companies will be forwarded in a body to the command to which they belong, according to the directions contained in paragraph I of "General Orders," No. 72.

III..Chaplains appointed by the President for hospitals, will be assigned by the Surgeon General to hospitals in the cities for which they were appointed. Should the breaking up of a hospital leave a chaplain supernumerary in any city, the fact will be immediately reported to the Adjutant General. Chaplains will be subordinate to the hospital surgeons. Leaves of absence will be granted them by the Surgeon General when approved by the Surgeons in charge of their hospitals.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

L. THOMAS,
Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL:


Assistant Adjutant General.



