

HEAD QUARTERS, WESTERN DEPARTMENT.

CORINTH, MISS., May 6th, 1862.

GENERAL ORDERS, } No. 38. }

THE Commander of the Forces has found, with profound regret, that sick certificates and furloughs are procured with too great facility by the undeserving; and to such extent has this reached, that the General must invoke the assistance of all good officers to suppress it. To this end the following orders and regulations are announced:

I. Surgeon B. M. Wible and Acting Surgeon C. W. Taliaferro are appointed additional, or assistant Medical Inspectors. These officers will examine the certificates of all officers and men leaving by any train, and will order back to their regiment or station all who do not have furloughs given in strict conformity to General Orders No. 26, from these Head Quarters, dated April 27, 1862; also, any one having a sick leave or furlough granted, apparently, without sufficient reasons. And at the same time they will report to the Adjutant General of the Forces, the name, company, and regiment, of any person ordered back to his regiment; and, when practicable, the name of the Medical Officer, on whose certificate the undeserved or irregular leave was granted.

II. In cases where the sick leave or furlough appears to have been granted on insufficient grounds, the case shall at once be brought before a Board, composed of Surgeons Yandall and Choppin, unless otherwise specially ordered, and a thorough investigation will be made as to the conduct of the Medical Officer giving the certificate.

III. These Assistant Inspectors will also make frequent inspections of the cars of the sick trains; they will see that they are clean, properly provided with fresh water, and with properly cooked rations for the sick while EN ROUTE for the hospitals.

IV. In the performance of their duties, the Assistant Medical Inspectors will be expected to proceed frequently on the cars, as far as necessary for the examinations prescribed; but will return so as to be on duty at the Depot at the usual hour for the departure of the passenger trains.

V. All men reported by the regimental Surgeons as proper subjects for the General Hospitals, will be inspected by the Senior Surgeons of their brigades, who will order back to their regiments all cases that can be treated in camp, or that should be restored fit for duty in eight or ten days. A list of all patients sent to the General Hospitals will be furnished by the Senior Surgeons of brigades to the Chief Surgeons of their divisions, for their examination and approval.

VI. Regimental Commanders will invariably send descriptive rolls with all men sent to General Hospitals, which rolls shall embrace an account of their pay, clothing, and other allowances; also, any stoppages to be made on account of the Government; as well as such other facts as may be necessary to show their character and military history.

VII. Surgeons in charge of General Hospitals, in all incurable cases, or cases likely to prove of long continuance, whether from wounds or other disability, will promptly make out and forward to Commanding officer of the Regiment, or Battalion to which invalid belongs, a certificate (in duplicate) of disability, to be submitted for reference and action of the Brigade Commander, as prescribed in the following paragraph:

VIII. Whenever a non-commissioned officer or soldier shall be unfit for military service in consequence of wounds, disease, or infirmity, his Captain shall forward, through the Commander of the Regiment or Battalion, to the Brigade Commander, or other officer next higher in rank to the Commander of the Regiment or Battalion, a statement of the case, with a "certificate of disability," signed by the medical officer having charge of the invalid, with a recommendation for a discharge or furlough, as the case may require; and if the recommendation be approved, the authority for discharge or furlough shall be endorsed on the "certificate of disability," which shall then be returned to the Commanding officer of the Regiment or Battalion, who will cause the proper papers to be made out — final statements and discharges in the first case, furloughs and descriptive rolls in the second. The certificate of disability, properly endorsed in case of discharge, will be forwarded by Commanding officer to Adjutant and Inspector General of the Army at Richmond.

IX. No soldiers going to a General Hospital, or on sick leave or furlough, will be permitted to take with them guns, canteens, haversacks or other accoutrements, all of which will be turned in to the company commander. Any one who attempts to disobey or evade this regulation will be at once arrested and deprived of his furlough, or otherwise punished.

By command of GEN. BEAUREGARD.

THOMAS JORDAN,

Chief of Staff.