

Head Quarters Western Department,

Corinth, Mississippi, May 18th, 1862.

GENERAL ORDERS,
No. 43.

I. To do full justice to the private soldier, who is seldom accorded his meed of praise, and who rarely receives full credit for his gallant deeds; and to place him, in this respect, more nearly on an equality with the commissioned officer, the Commander of the Forces has determined to distribute a badge of merit, in person, in presence of the troops, to every officer and every private soldier who shall greatly distinguish himself in any engagement with the enemy.

II. This badge will have inscribed upon it the name of the battle in which it was won. During the war it will be a proud testimonial of the wearer's heroism, and will place his name upon the list of those entitled to promotion in the army: when the invader is driven back, and our independence secured, it will gloriously prove his title to the gratitude of his countrymen, and to the highest of civic honors.

III. Commanders of Corps, Divisions, Brigades, Regiments and Companies will, immediately after each engagement, carefully report their bravest men to a military commission, to be appointed for the purpose, upon whose report that their conduct has been *pre-eminently* brave, they will receive this reward of patriotism and courage from the hands of their General.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,
General Commanding,

—OFFICIAL.—

W. H. Smith,
Adjutant