

GENERAL ORDERS,)

No. 131. }

WAR DEPARTMENT,

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,

Washington, March 31, 1864.

General Orders, No. 75, series of 1862, are hereby rescinded, and the following Orders will govern hereafter, in lieu thereof:

I. In organizing new regiments or independent companies of volunteers, the Governors of States are hereby authorized to appoint, in addition to the staff officers heretofore authorized, one Second Lieutenant for each company, who shall be conditionally mustered into service at the date of his appointment. Any officer thus appointed and mustered shall only be entitled to be paid on the muster and pay roll of his company, and should he fail to enlist an organized company within such time as the War Department may designate, the men enlisted by him shall be transferred to some other company; his appointment shall be cancelled, and he shall be discharged without pay, unless the Governor give him a position in the consolidated company to which his men shall have been transferred.

II. Mustering Officers will report promptly to the Adjutant General of the Army the name of every Recruiting Lieutenant mustered into the service by them, under a conditional letter of appointment, together with the company and regiment for which he is recruiting. Officers will be mustered into the service only on the authority of the Governor of the State to which their regiments belong.

III. Articles of enlistment will be made out in duplicate by such Recruiting Officers, and will be disposed of as provided by paragraph 15, page 80, Recruiting Regulations, Volunteer Service. Recruits will be sent to the regimental rendezvous at least as often as once a week, where they will be immediately examined by the Surgeon of the regiment, or other Surgeon employed for that purpose by the Superintendent Volunteer Recruiting Service, and, if found unfit for duty by reason of permanent disability, will be discharged from the service forthwith by the United States Mustering Officer, who will report such discharges to the Superintendent Volunteer Recruiting Service, and also to the Adjutant of the regiment, noting particularly those cases where the disability was obvious at the time of enlistment. As soon as the organization is complete, it shall be carefully inspected and mustered by a United States Mustering Officer, who will see that at least the minimum number of each company is present; no absentees will be counted.

IV..Until regiments or independent companies are organized and mustered in, they will be under the control of the Governor of the State; but all requisitions for Quartermaster, Medical, and Ordnance stores, all contracts for fuel, straw, and subsistence, and all requisitions for transportation, must be approved by the Superintendent of Volunteer Recruiting Service for the State or Division.

V..No accounts for expenses incurred in raising new organizations shall be paid by Disbursing Officers unless approved by the Superintendent of Volunteer Recruiting Service.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL:

Assistant Adjutant General.