

GENERAL ORDERS, }  
No. 190. }

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
Washington, May 3, 1864.

*In relation to Prisoners of War and State Prisoners.*

1. Orders heretofore published, place the supervision of prisoners of war and political or State prisoners, in the hands of the Commissary General of Prisoners, and it is hereby required that commanders of depots, and other places at which prisoners may be assembled, be directly accountable for them to the Commissary General of Prisoners, from whom they will receive orders direct, and to whom they will report directly in all matters relating to prisoners.

2. When the Commissary General of Prisoners has occasion to order the transfer of prisoners from one post to another, he will furnish a copy of the order to the General commanding the department in which they are held, that he may be apprized of the movement; and when the Commissary General of Prisoners finds it necessary, he is authorized to call on department commanders for such assistance in the execution of his duties as the case may demand.

3. If not otherwise provided, guards for depots and prison stations will be detailed by the Department Commander on the application of the Commissary General of Prisoners, and they will not be relieved or changed without informing him of the fact; but all returns and reports of these guards will be made to department commanders, to whom they are responsible for discipline, as in the case of other troops.

4. The principal depots for prisoners are at Point Lookout, Maryland; Fort Delaware; Johnson's Island, in Sandusky Bay; Camp Chase, near Columbus, Ohio; Camp Morton, near Indianapolis, Indiana; Camp Douglass, near Chicago, Illinois; and at Rock Island, Illinois. Generals who order temporary depots, will appoint suitable officers to take charge, which will be immediately reported to the Commissary General of Prisoners; and the officers so appointed, will be directed to make all returns and reports required from the permanent depots. Prisoners will be forwarded from the temporary depots to the permanent ones with as little delay as practicable.

5. Commanders of departments and of armies in the field, in all cases, when having prisoners in possession, will require full rolls, giving rank, regiment, and company, and time and place of capture, to be forwarded, without delay, to the Commissary General of Prisoners, with a letter of transmittal, showing what disposition is made of the prisoners, and giving any other information that may be useful. All rolls should be signed by the officer who is in charge of the prisoners at the time they are prepared.

6. Sick and wounded prisoners of war will be collected at such hospitals as may be designated under the instructions of the Surgeon General, for their exclusive use, as far as practicable; and a suitable guard will be detailed by the department commanders, or the General in immediate command, which guard will be responsible for the security of the prisoners. The commander of the guard will make all the returns and reports required of depot commanders.

Convalescent prisoners will be sent to the permanent depots as often as may be convenient.

7. The attention of commanders is called to the regulations in relation to prisoners of war, contained in appendix "B," of the Revised Army Regulations of 1863, page 523, as follows:—

117. Officers and soldiers of the United States who are or may become prisoners of war, shall, during their imprisonment, be entitled to and receive the same pay as if they were doing active duty.

118. The rations of prisoners held in the rebel States shall be commuted for and during the period of their imprisonment; the commutation to be rated at cost price. To entitle a soldier to this commutation he must furnish to the Commissary General of Prisoners such evidence of the fact of capture and time of detention as he may consider necessary, to be laid before the Secretary of War, and if approved, a certificate will be issued by the Commissary General of Prisoners, on which payment will be made by the Subsistence Department.

119. A General commanding in the field, or a department, will make arrangements for the safe-keeping and reasonable comfort of his prisoners. For this purpose he will place them under a guard already on duty, or detach a guard for the special service. The General will give no order exchanging prisoners, or releasing them, except under instructions from the Secretary of War.

120. In emergencies admitting of no delay, the General will act upon his own authority, and give any order in relation to his prisoners the public interest might require, promptly reporting his proceedings to the War Department through the Adjutant General.

121. In time of war a Commissary General of Prisoners will be announced, whose general duties will be those of an inspector, and all communications relating to prisoners will pass through him. Depots for prisoners will be designated by the Secretary of War, to which suitable and permanent guards will be assigned, the whole to be under the orders of the Commissary General of Prisoners. He will establish regulations for issuing clothing to prisoners, and will direct the manner in which all funds arising from the saving of rations at prison hospitals or stations

shall be accounted for and disbursed by the proper disbursing officer, in providing such articles as he may deem absolutely necessary for the welfare of the prisoners. He is authorized to grant paroles to prisoners on the recommendation of the medical officer attending the prison, in cases of extreme illness, but under no other circumstances.

122. The Commissary General of Prisoners has authority to call for such reports from officers in command of guards over prisoners as may be necessary for the proper discharge of his own duties, and he will be prepared to furnish such information in relation to prisoners as may be called for by the Adjutant General.

123. A full record of all prisoners will be kept in the office of the Commissary General of Prisoners, in suitable books, giving the name, rank, regiment, and company of each military prisoner, the residence, county, and State of each civil prisoner, with the charges against him, and the time and place of capture or arrest. Any special information of importance will be added from time to time in the column of remarks. When disposed of by exchange or otherwise, the fact and the authority for it, with the time, should be noted on the record.

124. The Commissary General of Prisoners is empowered to visit places at which prisoners may be held, and will recommend to the General whose guards are responsible for them, whatever modification in their treatment may seem to him proper or necessary, and report the same to the War Department.

125. The Commissary General of Prisoners has charge of the United States officers and men on parole, and correspondence relating to them. All details concerning them will pass through him.

126. Generals commanding departments, or in the field, may, at their discretion, send their prisoners to the general depots, furnishing a proper roll with them, showing the rank, regiment, and company, and when and where captured; after which their charge of them will cease. Immediately on the arrival of prisoners at a depot, the commanding officer will forward to the Commissary General of Prisoners, a copy of the roll received with them, noting such changes as may have been made by escape or otherwise.

127. The principle being recognized that medical officers and chaplains should not be held as prisoners of war, all medical officers and chaplains so held by the United States, will be immediately and unconditionally discharged.

128. Whenever prisoners of war are released on parole and sent through the lines, the officers who release them will immediately send rolls to the Commissary General of Prisoners; containing an exact list

of the prisoners' names, rank, regiment, and company, date and place of capture, and date and place of parole. These rolls are indispensable in effecting exchanges of prisoners.

129. Blanks for monthly returns and for rolls of federal and other prisoners of war will be furnished from the office of the Commissary General of Prisoners, on their being called for by commanders who require them.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR :

E. D. TOWNSEND,

*Assistant Adjutant General.*

OFFICIAL :

*Assistant Adjutant General.*