

Nead Quarters, Trans-Mississippi Department, LITTLE ROCK, March 3d, 1863.

General Orders, No. 18.

I. Prisoners charged with military crimes, have repeatedly been sent to Little Rock, unaccompanied by written charges, or any statement whatever regarding the circumstances connected with their arrest.

The consequence of this mode of procedure has, in some instances, been the unnecessary and unjust confinement of innocent parties, who otherwise would have been at once tried and acquitted. On the other hand, it has occurred that guilty persons have escaped a well merited punishment through a similar neglect, viz.: the proper charges not having been forwarded with them.

It is therefore ordered, that every officer in this department who shall cause to be apprehended or arrested, any soldier or citizen, shall immediately, or as soon thereafter as practicable, prefer written charges and specifications against the same, which he shall himseff sign, having or causing to be appended, a list of the names of the respective witnesses in the case.

II. No company, while in process of organization, can incur any debt in the name of the Government; and no person is authorized to impress or seize any property belonging to private citizens, unless under a written order from a commanding officer, duly authorized from these head quarters to issue such an order.

By Command of Lieut. General HOLMES:

S. S. ANDERSON, Ass't Adj't General.



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