

GENERAL ORDERS, }

No. 142.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,

Washington, Sept. 25, 1862.

The following is the cartel under which prisoners are exchanged in the existing war with the Southern States:

HAXALL'S LANDING ON JAMES RIVER, VA.,

July 22, 1862.

The undersigned, having been commissioned by the authorities they respectively represent to make arrangements for a general exchange of prisoners of war, have agreed to the following articles:

Article 1. It is hereby agreed and stipulated that all prisoners of war held by either party, including those taken on private armed vessels known as privateers, shall be discharged upon the conditions and terms following:

Prisoners to be exchanged man for man and officer for officer; privateers to be placed upon the footing of officers and men of the Navy.

Men and officers of lower grades may be exchanged for officers of a higher grade, and men and officers of different services may be exchanged according to the following scale of equivalents:

A General commanding in chief or an Admiral shall be exchanged for officers of equal rank or for sixty privates or common seamen.

A Flag Officer or Major General shall be exchanged for officers of equal rank or for forty privates or common seamen.

A Commodore carrying a broad pennant or a Brigadier General shall be exchanged for officers of equal rank or twenty privates or common seamen.

A Captain in the Navy or a Colonel shall be exchanged for officers of equal rank or for fifteen privates or common seamen.

A Lieutenant Colonel or a Commander in the Navy shall be exchanged for officers of equal rank or for ten privates or common seamen.

A Lieutenant Commander or a Major shall be exchanged for officers of equal rank or eight privates or common seamen.

A Lieutenant or a Master in the Navy or a Captain in the Army or Marines shall be exchanged for officers of equal rank or six privates or common seamen.

Master's Mates in the Navy or Lieutenants and Ensigns in the Army shall be exchanged for officers of equal rank or four privates or common seamen.

Midshipmen, Warrant Officers in the Navy, Masters of merchant vessels, and Commanders of privateers shall be exchanged for Officers of equal rank or three privates or common seamen.

Second Captains, Lieutenants, or Mates, of merchant vessels or privateers, and all petty officers in the Navy and all non-commissioned officers in the Army or Marines, shall be severally exchanged for persons of equal rank or for two privates or common seamen; and private soldiers or common seamen shall be exchanged for each other man for man.

Article 2. Local, State, civil, and militia rank held by persons not in actual military service will not be recognised, the basis of exchange being the grade actually held in the naval and military service of the respective parties.

Article 3. If citizens held by either party on charges of disloyalty or any alleged civil offence are exchanged, it shall only be for citizens. Captured sutlers, teamsters, and all civilians in the actual service of either party, to be exchanged for persons in similar position.

Article 4. All prisoners of war to be discharged on parole in ten days after their capture, and the prisoners now held and those hereafter taken to be transported to the points mutually agreed upon, at the expense of the capturing party. The surplus prisoners not exchanged shall not be permitted to take up arms again, nor to serve as military police or constabulary force in any fort, garrison, or field work held by either of the respective parties, nor as guards of prisons, depots, or stores, nor to discharge any duty usually performed by soldiers, until exchanged under the provisions of this cartel. The exchange is not to be considered complete until the officer or soldier exchanged for has been actually restored to the lines to which he belongs.

Article 5. Each party, upon the discharge of prisoners of the other party, is authorized to discharge an equal number of their own officers or men from parole, furnishing at the same time to the other party a list of their prisoners discharged and of their own officers and men relieved from parole; thus enabling each party to relieve from parole such of their own officers and men as the party may choose. The lists thus mutually furnished will keep both parties advised of the true condition of the exchange of prisoners.

Article 6. The stipulations and provisions above mentioned to be of binding obligation during the continuance of the war, it matters not which party may have the surplus of prisoners, the great principles involved being—1st. An equitable exchange of prisoners, man for man, officer for officer, or officers of higher grade exchanged for officers of lower grade, or for privates according to the scale of equivalents; 2d. That privateers and officers and men of different services may be exchanged according to the same scale of equivalents; 3d. That all prisoners, of whatever arm of service, are to be exchanged or paroled in ten days from the time of their capture, if it be practicable to transfer them to their own lines in that time; if not, as soon thereafter as practicable; 4th. That no officer, soldier, or employé in the service of either party is to be considered as exchanged and absolved from his parole until his equivalent has actually reached the lines of his friends; 5th. That the parole forbids the performance of field, garrison, police, or guard, or constabulary duty.

(Signed) JOHN A. DIX,

Major General.

(Signed) D. H. HILL,

Major General C. S. A.

SUPPLEMENTARY ARTICLES.

Article 7. All prisoners of war now held on either side, and all prisoners hereafter taken, shall be sent with all reasonable despatch to A. M. Aikens', below Dutch Gap, on the James river, Virginia, or to Vicksburg, on the Mississippi river, in the State of Mississippi, and there exchanged or paroled until such exchange can be effected, notice being previously given by each party of the number of prisoners it will send, and the time when they will be delivered at those points respectively; and in case the vicissitudes of war shall change the military relations of the places designated in this article to the contending parties so as to render the same inconvenient for the delivery and exchange of prisoners, other places, bearing as nearly as may be the present local relations of said places to the lines of said parties, shall be by mutual agreement substituted. But nothing in this article contained shall prevent the commanders of two opposing armies from

exchanging prisoners or releasing them on parole at other points mutually agreed on by said commanders.

Article 8. For the purpose of carrying into effect the foregoing articles of agreement, each party will appoint two agents, to be called Agents for the exchange of prisoners of war, whose duty it shall be to communicate with each other, by correspondence and otherwise, to prepare the lists of prisoners, to attend to the delivery of the prisoners at the places agreed on, and to carry out promptly, effectually, and in good faith, all the details and provisions of the said articles of agreement.

Article 9. And in case any misunderstanding shall arise in regard to any clause or stipulation in the foregoing articles, it is mutually agreed that such misunderstanding shall not interrupt the release of prisoners on parole, as herein provided, but shall be made the subject of friendly explanations, in order that the object of this agreement may neither be defeated nor postponed.

JOHN A. DIX (Signed) JOHN A. DIX,
Major General.

D. H. HILL (Signed) D. H. HILL,
Major General C. S. A.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

L. THOMAS,
Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL:

Assistant Adjutant General.