

HEAD-QUARTERS, SUFFOLK, VA., }

NOVEMBER 22, 1862. }

GENERAL ORDERS, }
No. 28. }

The provisions of the Army Regulations, the instructions in the Manual furnished by the War Department, and the frequent orders issued from these and other Head-Quarters, if due attention has been given them, would seem to render ignorance of the duties of officers commanding guards impossible. Henceforth all irregularities must be treated as wilful violation of orders.

ADVANCED OR GRAND GUARDS.

Each Brigade will furnish the Guard for its own front, connecting with the Guards of Brigades on the right and left. Each Guard shall consist of a line of sentinels called **Pickets**, of a line of **Supports**, and of a **Reserve**.

The **Reserve** will occupy a commanding position from a mile to a mile and a half from the main body of the Brigade, serving as a rallying point for the Pickets and Supports if driven in, and holding its ground until it repulses the enemy or time is gained for the formation of the main body.

The **Supports**, two or more according to the nature of the ground, will be thrown out about one mile to the front of the Reserve, near the main avenues of approach, so as to have easy communication with each other and with the Reserve.

The **Pickets**, in groups of three or four, are on a line some two hundred yards in advance of the Supports. The groups will be near each other, and keep up communication by one man of each walking half way to the group on the right, while another walks half way to the group on the left. They will always be prepared for action, and, in case of attack, will act as skirmishers, holding on to the last moment.

The Supports will be in readiness to aid the Pickets, or relieve them and repel the enemy.

The Reserve will furnish sentinels to communicate with the Supports and with Brigade Head-Quarters, so that intelligence

may be passed from the Pickets with the utmost celerity; also patrols to examine the country in front of the Pickets.

Pickets should be located during the day on the highest points, and in front of ground covered with timber, so as to secure the most extensive observation. They should see every thing without being seen by the enemy. At night care and vigilance must be redoubled by officers and men of the Guard, constant communication being kept up between Reserves, Supports, and Pickets. All unusual circumstances, such as the discharge of fire-arms, the extra running of cars, signal lights, fires, rumbling of wagon trains, must be reported to the Field Officer of the Day. As contrabands often have valuable information, they will be sent in at once for examination by the Commanding General.

It is a high offence to permit men to lay aside their arms or accoutrements, to engage in any amusements or other occupations not in the line of their duty, or to quit their stations.

At no time will more than one relief be allowed to sleep, the other relief not on post being vigilant and prepared to turn out with the utmost alacrity.

No fires will be allowed on the Picket line. They must be extinguished at the Supports before nightfall.

Private houses and enclosures are not to be entered, nor private property molested, by officers or men.

Unnecessary firing will subject the offenders to the severest penalties.

Rations for the entire tour of duty must be taken from camp in haversacks. If this is neglected no man will be suffered to return for them.

After sunset and before sunrise no citizen will be permitted to enter or go past the lines. Before sunset the passes of the Provost Marshal will be respected in the case of citizens and negroes. No officer or soldier will pass (armed parties under orders excepted) unless upon written permission from these Head-quarters. After nightfall, possession of the countersign will not be sufficient evidence of authority to pass the lines. Authorized persons will have, in addition, written passes as by day. Persons attempting to evade these regulations will be brought in arrest to these Head-quarters.

Officers of Guards will satisfy themselves that persons with carts and carriages are taking out nothing contraband.

Time during the day should be employed by officers in familiarizing themselves with their duties, and in instructing their men in their proper positions and course of action in case of attack.

Men who have been passed out, and who return with articles of any kind, must show that they came legitimately into their possession.

ORGANIZATION.

Whether in camp or on the march the Advanced Guard will consist of about one tenth of the effective strength. In camp the Reserve will comprise at least one half, the other portion being subdivided between Supports and Pickets.

MARCHES.

The advance is taken by a line of Skirmishers, extending from four to six hundred yards beyond the flanks on each side. About one hundred yards behind this line march the Supports, at least three in number, the center one keeping the route to be followed by the column. The flank Supports move at least three hundred yards to the right and left. The Reserve marches about one hundred and fifty yards behind the centre Support. The main body follows from half a mile to a mile behind the Reserve.

The flanks of the column are protected by Flankers, in lines at least four hundred yards distant. Supports for the Flankers move about one hundred yards inside their lines.

The Rear Guard marches about half a mile behind the main body, throwing out skirmishers on the flanks. In advancing it need not exceed one fiftieth or twentieth of the command. On a retreat it should not be less than one eighth of the Infantry, and as much Artillery and Cavalry as can be used.

These numbers and distances, &c., are given as general rules, subject of course to modification by existing circumstances. They are the results of the observation and experience of the ablest military men, and in the main observed by the armies of the United States.

By COMMAND OF

MAJOR GENERAL PECK:

MAJOR, ASST. ADJT. GENL.

(HAND THIS TO YOUR SUCCESSOR.)