

Johnson's Island

War of Rebellion, Series II, Vol VII. p 456

Depot Prisoners of War near Sandusky, Ohio, July 10, 1864

Capt. A.N. Mead, ~~xxx~~ acting assistant adjutant-general

Sir: I have the honor to submit the following report of an inspection of prison this morning.

The policing during the week has been thoroughly done. The grounds are in very good order. Barracks are not as clean as usual on account of the mud, a heavy shower having just fallen. The hospital is clean and airy and is pretty well filled with patients. Out of a total of 2,318 prisoners last Sunday 47 were sick.

The total today is 2,380 with a sick list of 53 showing an increase of ~~40x0x0x0x0x0x~~ 11 from an increase of 42 prisoners during the week. No deaths occurred ~~xx~~ during the past week.

E.A. Scovill

Major 128th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Superintendent of prisons.

Situation: Prison Rations at Libby, retaliation

War of Rebellion, Series II, Vol VII

Lower Cell, Libby Prison, Richmond, Va. July 10, 1864

Mrs. Jennie Schoenle, No. 48 Mansfield Street, Cincinnati, Ohio

My Dear Jennie: It has been many months since I have received any letter from the North. I have written a great many, but doubtless whether they have reached their destination, as all communication by flag-of-truce boat has been stopped.

I hope communication will be soon reopened, so that I may hear from the dear ones at home and learn what has been done to effect my release.

My situation could not be worse than it now is. I have become so weak I can hardly walk.

I have now been in this cell two months and five days. Our rations daily consist of half a pound of corn bread, half a pound of boiled beans, and about two or three ounces of bacon.

This is what the commissary says our rations weigh, but judging from the quantity we actually receive I doubt whether it weighs that much. You can judge how much we get when I assure you that we eat every morsel as soon as we receive our rations and go hungry the balance of the twenty four hours.

I cannot say how long we shall be able to live on such rations. But I am confident that we cannot stand it much longer. I am becoming both blind and deaf; my eyes are very much inflamed and cause me considerable pain; my sense of hearing is getting worse every day.

Write to Fred; tell him my condition and ask him whether he cannot effect my release. Write me when you receive this. My love to mother,

Fannie and the boys, Ichdule, Mr. W. and all our friends. Let me know whether Koenigsberger has sent my trunk etc. home. Give me all the news you have in regard to Colonel Moor, the regiment,

and my dear brother Markbreit.

First Indorsement

War Department, October 10, 1864

Respectfully referred to the Commissary-General of prisoners with directions to subject the officer held as hostage for the within-named prisoner to the same treatment. By order of the Secretary of War.
C.A. Dana, assistant secretary of war.

Johnson's Island (enlarged)

War of Rebellion, Series II, Vol VII p 469

Office of Superintendent of Prison, Johnson's Island Ohio, July 17, 1864

Capt. Junius I. Sanford, acting assistant adjutant-general

Captain: I have the honor to submit the following report of Sunday morning inspection in prison:

The barracks and grounds near them are in good order.

The ground taken in by the moving of the fence is being smoothed down and policed. The sinks on woods side were all moved to new pits along line of fence. The old pits are covered with boards and earth throw over them. Lime cannot be had in sufficient quantities for purifying. Copperas has been used with good effect, but is not as good as lime for the purpose.

No deaths during the week

Number of prisoners last Sunday 2,360; number of prisoners today 2,406; increase 46; sick last Sunday 49; sick today 47; decrease 2; showing an increase of 46 prisoners and a decrease of 2 sick
E.A. Scovill, major 128th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Superintendent of Prison.

Johnson's Island: Hospital medical inspection

War of Rebellion, Series II, Vol. VII p 485

Report of medical inspection of the camp and hospital of the prisoners of war at Johnson's Island, commanded by Colonel Hill made on the 22d and 23d days of July, 1864 by Surg. C.T. Alexander, U.S. Army, acting medical inspector of prisoners of war:

1-Camp, name and geographical position--Johnson's island, near Sandusky, Ohio in Lake Erie. 2 topography of surrounding country, --water. 3-Topography of locality, soil, drainage, --island, gravel, loam, drainage good. 4-Water, source, supply, quality, effects--from Lake Erie by pumps, supply not sufficient; quality, effects good. 5. Fuel, whence obtained, kind, supply--wood, mixed, merchandisable, on contract, abundant. 6- Local causes of disease, removal, mitigation--bad police, bad bread, deficient supply of vegetables. 7-Camp, how arranged, how long occupied--in square, nearly three years. 8-Camp, previous use of grounds--farm. 9-Tents, quality, condition--none. Barracks, construction, size, number of men to each--two story wooden, 120 feet by 28 feet, averages 215 to 220 men to each, occupied by prisoners, one used as hospital. 11-Barracks, heating, cleansing, ventilation--stoves, cleansing imperfect, ventilation good. 12-Pinks, and cesspools, construction position, management--wooden frames over vaults, dirty, badly managed. 13-Removal of offal and rubbish, police of camp--not sufficient attention to removal of rubbish, police very bad. 14-Rations, quality, quantity, variety,--quality, quantity, generally good; variety not sufficient. 15 Vegetables and pickles, kinds, amounts, how obtained--none. Rations, how cooked, how inspected, messing--on stoves mostly, very few farmer's boilers, how inspected, messing--messing by barracks, small independent messes allowed. 16-Clothing, condition, deficiencies--good enough. 18-men, moral, sanitary condition, deficiencies, e.g. personal cleanliness, --fair.

1-Hospital--to poverty of locality, soil drainage--one of set of quarter ; drainage, same as camps; hospital buildings, one two story, four wards, 40 x 26 feet, 9 feet high, 20 beds in wards. Hospital warming stove, ridge and side coal oil. Hospital water-closets and sinks, one in rear, 80 feet, wood over vault, 8 feet. Cooking, Farmer's boiler, messing, cooking stove;

Deficient in opium, morphine

Surgeons 1 present; assistant surgeons 1; chaplains; hospital stewards 1; cooks and nurses 3 7 nurses from prisoners. Medical and surgical treatment by rebel surgeons principally; medical operations how performed; none; nursing, how performed , by prisoners; diseases prevalent diarrhea, dysentery, acute. Dysentery caused by bad police, bad bread.

Mortality from diseases, number, per cent, very small, one since 16th of May, 1864. Vaccination through last fall, none since. Interments, how conducted--and recorded--in cemetery in rear of prison yard by prisoners, headboard to each grave properly marked.

Sandusky, Ohio, July 23, 1864--Col. W. Hoffman U.S. Army etc.

Colonel: Inclosed I have the honor to transmit report of inspection of Johnson's Island. I would respectfully call your attention to the following points; first, the bad police of the camp. Seeing the camp you would not know whether to be most astonished at the inefficiency of the officer in charge of the prisoner's camp or disgusted that men calling themselves gentlemen should be willing to live in such filth. The quarters are very dirty; the kitchens filthy. Major Scovill has charge, assisted by Captain Wells. The major is somewhat of an invalid not however, so sick as to be confined to his quarters at all times; judging from his appearance, able to direct. A necessity exists for placing in charge of the prisoners an efficient, practical officer who knows what good police is, and with decision sufficient to enforce orders

The want of police is in part due, in my opinion, to the system of messing allowed. No general mess-room exists. Besides the large messes there are sub-messes of eight or ten, having small private cooking stoves purchased by the prisoners, consequently I saw but few rooms which are not used as kitchen and mess-room as well as sleeping apartment. I would respectfully suggest that two large messrooms with kitchen and storeroom be constructed. What now are used as kitchens could be fitted up with bunks and used as quarters.

The prisoners are allowed to wash their clothes in every part of the camp, even in the halls of the barracks, consequently dirty soapsuds meet you on every turn. To obviate this I would suggest the propriety of building a cheap wash-room upon plan inclosed, furnishing it with two farmer's boilers for heating water. This would protect the prisoners from the weather in winter and could be used as a room in which to bathe.

The soil is a sandy loam and in winter gets very muddy, now would be the proper time to construct such gravel walks as are absolutely necessary. The gravel being near at hand and the laborers abundant the work can be easily accomplished.

All dealing with the sutler is done by the check system. Sub-sutlers are allowed in each barracks; prisoners who buy at wholesale from the sutler and retail to the other prisoners. This trade is also by check. The sutler's prices appeared to me exorbitant. The articles sold are such as are allowed by order, the supply being more limited; coffee, flour, eggs, milk being restricted.

Ascertaining that the potato allowed had been irregularly issued since 1st of this month I instructed the surgeon in charge to recommend an ~~xxx~~ extra issue of onions for eight weeks, at rate of 60 pounds to 100 men, twice a week. The bread being same as is
 among the Federal soldiers even exertion is being made to correct

it's quality.

I am sir, etc. C.T. Alexander, surgeon, U.S. Army.

Plans, et . for mess-room and kitchen with capacity for 3,000 men, for use of prisoners of war on Johnson's Island

The building is to be 300 feet long, 30 feet wide and 7 feet high, with board roof and gravel floor. To be divided into three rooms, viz two mess rooms 375 feet each and one kitchen and store-room 50 feet long; four tables in each mess room 365 feet long and 21/2 feet wide; 80 windows, 6 lights, 9 x 14.

Ninety-four thousand feet of board on 1 inch lumber siding, nattering, roofing; and tables; 26,000 feet timber for sills, rafters, tuddies, and joist; 1,200 pounds of nails. Lumber can be purchased at Saginaw, Mich. and delivered on the island at a cost of \$20 per thousand feet. Lumber can be purchased at Wadusky, Ohio at \$22 per thousand feet. total cost lumber \$2,652 and \$2,892.

Estimate cost of wash house for use of prisoners, 40 feet long, 20 feet wide boardroom; 3,200 feet common lumber; 800 feet timber and joists; 100 pounds nails at \$8.50; total cost \$96.50.

Water estimate by George Morton, civil engineer; based on 5,000 men, estimate five cubic feet equal to 32 gallons per man a day, makes 25,000 cubic feet per day. To supply this amount we will require a pipe of six inches caliber, through which we can throw 2,000 cubic feet per hour, at the rate of 160 feet per minute requiring the pump to be used twelve hours and a half a day. A reservoir 70 feet by 200 feet and 7 feet deep will contain 100,000 cubic feet or about four days supply. For distributive pipes I have estimated for 3 inch caliber. Approximate total cost \$7,079, includes 10 hydrants and fire plugs.

Train Wreck of Prisoners. (Situation)

War of Rebellion, Series II, Vol VII.

Officer Commissary-General of Prisoners, Washington, July 26, 1864

Submitted for information of the Secretary of War. I learned from conversation with the agent of the road that the accident occurred through the misconduct with the agent of one of the telegraph operators, who informed the conductor of the coal train that there was no train on the road. He made his escape immediately after the accident. Whether due notice of the movement of the prisoners' train was given along the road can only be learned by official inquiry by the quartermaster at New York. I am informed that the railway company has agreed to pay damages for injuries to members of the guard. W. Hoffman etc.

Barracks No. 3, Elmira, N.Y. July 22, 1864

Lieut Col. S. Eastman, commanding depot

Sir: As officer in command of guard in charge of prisoners of war from Point Lookout, Md. I have to report that we left on steamer Crescent with a guard of 125 men and 3 commissioned officers and 833 prisoners on the eve of July 12. Arrived at New York at 3 p.m. July 14 and disembarked at Jersey City at 4 p.m. of the 15th.

Left Jersey City at 6 o'clock via Erie Railway and at 3 p.m. came in collision with a coal train near Shohola, Pa., causing a complete wreck of the train and killing 14 of the guard and 40 of the prisoners instantly, mortally wounding 3 of the guard and 8 prisoners, all of whom have since died, and wounding 16 of the guard and 93 prisoners.

Nearly all of the guard on duty were either killed or wounded, and immediately I caused the reserve to be posted around the wreck and prisoners to prevent their escape.

The wounded were extricated as soon as possible and taken to

Shohola, where every attention was rendered by the citizens and guard.

The wounded all being cared for, the dead were buried in the immediate vicinity of the accident, and each grave properly designated. The prisoners were removed to Shohola where they remained until 11 a.m. July 16 when we proceeded on our way arriving at Elmira at 9:30 p.m.

Many of the prisoners killed were so disfigured that it was impossible to recognize them, and five escaping whose names were unknown, I am unable to give a correct list of killed.

etc. .

Morris H. Church, captain eleventh regt.
Veteran Reserve Corps, Comdy. Guard.

Andersonville

Series II, Vol VII

Charlotte, July 23, 1864

Hon J.A. Seddon, secretary of war.

Over 500 Yankee prisoners left here this morning for Anderson, Ga.

Might it not be politic to send no more to Anderson until the fate of Atlanta is decided.

Wm. Johnson, president.

H. Wirz, captain commanding prisoner for camp Sumter, Andersonville, Ga
for the week ending July 24, 1864..

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July 22, total 29,518 (maximum for month) in hospital around 1,600
a day; deaths ranged up to 70 daily. only 1 sent to other posts;
receptions ranged from 7 to 516 daily.

Johnson's Island

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Depot Prisoners of War Office of the Superintendent of the Prison,
Near Sandusky, Ohio, July 24, 1864.

Capt. Junius R. Sanford, acting assistant adjutant-general

Captain: I have the honor to report the following of the condition of prison
this Sunday morning and improvement needed.

Condition of prisoners last Sunday, number 2,406. Number of prisoners
today 2,404; decrease 2; sick report last Sunday 47; sick
report today 52, increase 5; actual increase of six 3; 2 men taken to
hospital and reported sick were wounded by sentinel last night. No deaths
during the week.

The policing has been somewhat neglected during the latter part of
the week; it will be remedied immediately. Owing to the scarcity of
time the sinks are very offensive and the drains are becoming foul from
the same cause.

With one stove and one kettle to cook with they are compelled to
cook about two hours for breakfast; another hour is consumed in eating
and clearing the tables; then they must begin to cook for dinner.
They have no place to store their rations, their pork is hung
everywhere, greasing everything near it; sometimes it is in the mess room,
then on a shelf in the kitchen, again on the floor. A kitchen and store
room with mess room in each block would be a great improvement.

etc. F.A. Scovill, Major 128th Ohio Volunteers, superintendent of
prison.

Headquarters U.S. Forces, Johnson's Island, Ohio, July 26, 1864

Approved and respectfully forwarded to Col. William Hoffman

The report handed in Sunday morning was returned as insufficient
and this comes in its place today though dated on Sunday. Major
Scovill has been in poor health for some time but with his

approbation Captain "ells, an efficient officer, who has been on duty here for nearly three years, was detailed to assist on the 8th instant and ordered to devote his whole time in the prison. The order, I believe, has been obeyed.

The prison inclosure was extended to an average of ninety-five feet to the northwest on the 12th and six new sinks previously made thus brought into use along that line.

The offensive sinks are on the side toward the bay and not well constructed. I should have submitted a plan with profiles and estimates two weeks since showing what changes and improvements I think most essential, but the work was delayed by the illness of the engineer assisting me. In a few days I hope to submit the papers in a satisfactory manner.

Charles W. Hill ~~Major~~ ~~Commanding~~

Colonel, commanding.

Andersonville

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Andersonville, July 25, 1864

General S. Cooper

There are 29,400 prisoners, 2,650 troops, 500 negroes and other laborers and not a ration at the post.

There is great danger in this state of things. I have ordered that at least ten days rations should be kept on hand, but it has never been done.

Jno. H. Winder, commanding.

Winder:

Special Orders ~~12x~~ 175, Adj't and Insp'l General's Office,
Richmond, July 26, 1864

XLVII. Brig. Gen John H. Winder, Provisional Army, C.S. is assigned to the command of the military prisons in the states of Georgia and Alabama and Brig. Gen . A.M. Gardner, Provisional Army C.S. to the command of the military prisons in the other States east of the Mississippi River.

In reference to all matters relating to prisons and prisoners they will communicate directly with and receive orders ~~directly~~ from the Adjutant and Inspector General. By Command of the Secretary of War
Saml. . Melton, assistant adjutant general

Johnson's Island: Prisoners named

War of Rebellion, Series II, Vol VII

Washington City D.C. July 30, 1864

Col. William Hoffman; Commissary-General of Prisoners, Sir:

In a letter from Charles A. Pavey, Lieutenant, Eightieth Illinois Volunteers to Hon. L. Trumbull, dated Libby Prison, Richmond, June 5, 1864

Lieutenant Pavey gives the following names of men said to be confined at Johnson's Island on account of whose confinement Lieutenant Pavey and others have been put in close confinement in Richmond, to wit: John

Harr, Company I, Independent Kentucky Infantry; George P. Simms, Barbour County, Ky.; W.S. Burgess, Harrison County, Ky.; Thomas W. Campbell, Nicholas County, Kentucky. I will thank you to state the circumstances under which these men are held at Johnson's Island and the manner of their confinement, very respectfully etc.

E.A. Hitchcock

Major General of Vols. Commissioner for Exchange of Prisoners.

Prisoners: Johnson's Island, named, "condemned"

Office Commissary-General of Prisoners, "ashington D.C. July 30, 1864

Maj. Gen F.A. Hitchcock, commissioner for Exchange, "ashington D.C.

General: I reply to your note of this date requesting information

in relation to the confinement of certain prisoners at Johnson's Island

I have the honor to inform you that two only of the four received are in close confinement viz; George P. Simms, no county or state given,

captured at Ruggles' Mills, Ky, April 19, 1863, a "spy" sentenced to be

hung May 29, 1863; has applied to take oath of allegiance, and William

S. Burgess, no county or state given, captured at Ruggles' Mills, Ky,

April 20, 1863, a spy, sentenced to be hung May 29, 1863.

The others, viz John Marr, alias Perkins alias Hawkins captured

at Paris, Ky, April 5, 1863, a "spy," sentenced to be hung May 20, 1863 and

Thomas M. Campbell, no county or state given, captured at Ruggles' Mills

Ky, April 11, 1863 and still at Johnson's Island but not in close

confinement.

There are two other prisoners in close confinement, viz H.P. Esteph, private,

Fourteenth Kentucky, Company H., no place or date of capture given,

a "spy" sentenced to be hung, and Private John C. Shore, one hundred

and ninth Illinois Infantry, Company F, a deserter, under sentence to

be shot.

I am general, very respectfully, your obedient servant

W. Hoffman, Colonel Third Infantry and Commissioner

General of Prisoners.

Andersonville, Historical background

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Camp Sumpter, Anderson, Ga., August 4, 1864

Lieutenant-Colonel Chandler, Assistant Adjutant General

Sir: The prison was located about the 20th of December, 1863, and the first work was done about the 10th of January, 1864. There was great difficulty in procuring labor and teams. "All the transportation we ever had is what we were able to hire from a refugee, the government is furnishing none until June, ~~1863~~ 1864.

The prison was first designed to 6,000 prisoners, subsequently and in time before completion it was extended to 10,000. Before the stockade was completed necessity compelled us to send about 3,000 prisoners to occupy it.

The interruption caused thereby retarded the work. The arrival of the prisoners made greater demands on the already insufficient labor, and prevented completion of the original design.

The constantly increasing number of prisoners rendered the necessary improvements almost impossible, the improvements about the stream of water for the time impossible, and it now be very difficult. This prison, as above stated, was originally designed for 10,000 and the extent of the baking and cooking and all other arrangements was designed for that number.

Subsequently the number was constantly increased until it has reached over 32,000... Jno H. Winder, brigadier-general

Prisoner Exchange: Policy

War of Rebellion, Series II, Vol. VII

City Point Va., August 18, 1864

Major-General Butler, commanding etc. I am satisfied that the object of your interview had the proper sanction and therefore meets with my entire approval.

I have seen from Southern papers that a system of retaliation is going on in the South while they keep from us and which we should stop in some way.

On the subject of exchange, however, I differ from General Hitchcock.

It is hard on our men held in Southern prisons not to exchange them but it is humanity to those left in the ranks to fight our battles. Every man we hold, when released on parole or otherwise, becomes an active soldier against us at once either directly or indirectly. If we commence a system of exchange which liberates all prisoners taken we will have to fight on until the whole South is exterminated. If we hold those caught they amount to no more than dead men. At this particular time to release all rebel prisoners North would insure Sherman's defeat and would compromise our safety here.

U.S. Grant, Lieutenant-General

Bounty Jumpers: Prisoner Exchange Policy

City Point Va., August 19, 1864

Hon W.H. Seward, Secretary of State, Washington D.C.

I am in receipt of a copy of F.W. Morse's letter (no copy found) of the 2x2x 22d July to you inclosing copy of statement of C.W.G. in relation to deserters from this army.

There are constant desertions, though, but few of them go over to the enemy. Unlike the enemy, however, we do not lose our veterans and men who enter the service through patriotic motives. The men who desert are those who have just arrived and who have never done any fighting and never intended to when they enlisted.

There is a class known as "bounty jumpers," or substitute men, who enlist for the money, desert and enlist again. After they have done this until they become fearful of punishment they join their regiments in the field and desert to the enemy.

Of this class of recruits we do not get one, for every eight bounties paid, to do good service. My provostmarshal general is preparing a statement on this subject, which will show the reinforcements received from the class of recruits.

Take the other side, the desertions from the enemy to us. Not a day passes but men come in to our line, and men too, who have been fighting for the South for more than three years. Not unfrequently a commissioned officer comes with them.

Only a few days ago I sent a regiment numbering 1,000 men for duty to General Pope's department ~~numbering~~ composed wholly of deserters from the rebel army and of prisoners who took the oath of allegiance and joined it.

There is no doubt but many prisoners of war have taken the oath of allegiance and enlisted as substitutes to get the bounty and to effect their return to the South and fight her battles and it is

their return to the South.

These men are paraded abroad as deserters who want to join the South and fight her battles and it is through our leniency that the South expects to reap great advantages.

We ought ^{not} to make a single exchange nor release a prisoner on any pretext whatever until the war closes.

We have got to fight until the military power of the South is exhausted, and if we release or exchange prisoners captured it simply becomes a war of extermination

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U.S. Grant, lieutenant-general

C.S. Prison, Charleston, S.C. August 14, 1864

The President of the United States

The condition of the enlisted men belonging to the Federal armies now prisoners to the Confederate rebel forces is such that it becomes our duty and the duty of every commissioned officer, to make known the facts in the case to the Government of the United States and to use every honorable effort to secure a general exchange of prisoners, thereby relieving thousands of our comrades from the horrors now surrounding them.

For some time past there has been a concentration of prisoners from all parts of the rebel territory to the State of Georgia, the commissioned officers being confined at Macon and the enlisted men at Andersonville.

Recent movements of the federal armies of General Sherman have compelled the removal of the prisoners to other points, and it is now understood they will be removed to Savannah, Ga. and Columbia and Charleston, S.C., but no change of this kind holds any prospect of relief to our poor men.

Colonel Hill, provost-marshal -general C.S. Army at Atlanta, stated to one of the undersigned that there were 35,000 prisoners at Andersonville and all accounts from U.S. soldiers who have been confined there the number is not overstated by him. These 35,000 men confined in a field of some thirty acres inclosed by a board fence heavily guarded; about one-third have various kinds of indifferent shelter, but upwards of 20,000 are wholly without shelter or shade of any kind and are exposed to the storms and rains which are of almost daily occurrence. The cold dews of night and the more terrible effects of the sun striking with almost tropical fierceness upon their unprotected heads, this mass of men jostle and crowd each other up and down the limits of their inclosure in storm and sun, and then lie down on the pitiless earth at night with no other covering than their clothing upon their backs, few of them having even a blanket.

Upon entering the prison, every man is deliberately stripped of money and other property, and as no clothing or blankets are ever supplied to their prisoners by the C.S.A. authorities the condition of the apparel of soldiers just from an active campaign can be easily imagined. Thousands are without pants or coats, and hundreds without even a pair of drawers to cover their nakedness.

To these men, as indeed to all prisoners, there is issued three-fourths of a pound of bread or meal and one eighth of a pound of meat per day, this is the entire ration and upon it the prisoner must live or die. The meal is often unsifted and sour, and the meat such as in the North is consigned to the soap-maker.

...Numbers, crazed by their sufferings, wander about in a state of idiocy; others deliberately cross the "dead-line" and are remorselessly shot down.

Is it not ~~xxxxxxxx~~ consistent with the national honor, without ~~xxxxxxxx~~ waiving the claim that the negro soldier shall be treated as prisoners of war, yet to effect an exchange of ~~the~~ the white soldiers?

The two classes are treated differently by the enemy, the white is confined in such prisons as Libby and Andersonville, starved and treated with a barbarism unknown to civilized nations, the black on the contrary, is seldom imprisoned; they are distributed among the citizens or employed upon Government works.

Under these circumstances they receive enough to eat and are worked no harder than accustomed to; they are neither starved nor killed off by the pestilence in the dungeons of Richmond and Charleston. It is true they are again made slave, but their slavery is of freedom and happiness compared with the cruel existence imposed upon ~~them~~ our gallant men.

They are not bereft of hope as are the Union soldiers dying by inches.

...let 35,000 suffering, starving and dying enlisted men aid this appeal to the Chief Magistrate of the Republic for prompt and decisive action in their behalf; 35,000 heroes will be made happy. For the 1,800 commissioned officers, now prisoners, we urge nothing. Although desirous of returning to our duty we can bear imprisonment with more fortitude if the enlisted men, whose sufferings we know to be intolerable, were restored to liberty and life.

J. B. Door, colonel Eight Iowa Cavalry
T. J. Harrison, colonel eighth Indiana
Cavalry

George Stoneman, major-general U.S.
volunteers.

Headquarters of the Army, Washington, Aug. 27, 1864

Lieut-General Grant, City Point

General: I have directed General Canby to permit no more exchange of prisoners of war. That point of the cartel which authorized commanders to exchange on the field troops just captured, man for man, has been considered heretofore as still in effect.

I do not see any objection to it, as it can give no advantage to either party, and saves our men from barbarous treatment by the rebels.

To exchange their healthy men for ours, who are on the brink of the grave from their hellish treatment, of course gives them all the advantage. Nevertheless it seems very cruel to leave our men to be slowly but deliberately tortured to death. But I suppose there is no remedy at Present.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant

H.W. Halleck, major-general and chief of staff.

Washington City, D.C. August 27, 1864

Hon E.M. Stanton, secretary of war

Sir: I have observed lately several paragraphs in newspapers purporting to represent statements made in the South by officers in the rebel army to Federal prisoners of war, importing that the rebel authorities have been willing to exchange prisoners of war, and that the fault in not making exchanges is with the Government of the United States.

I desire to say that, so far as I am informed and believe, this statement is essentially untrue.

The question of exchanges continues to be, as I understand, precisely what it was when interrupted by the rebels themselves several months ago.

You are aware that several months ago the duties connected with the business of exchange were committed by ~~my~~ your orders to Major-General Butler, since which time I have had very little to do in the matter of exchanges, and have not been in communication with the rebel agent for exchange. I know, however, that Major-General Butler effected some exchanges and that while they were in progress the Richmond papers contained many paragraphs averring that the exchanges were not man for man on their side, but that the number sent by them was less than that sent by General Butler in the proportion of the number of prisoners held in the South against those held in the North.

While this matter was in progress Lieutenant-General Grant assumed command of the army and received, as I understood, some instruction from yourself to communicate with General Butler on the subject of exchanges since which time I have received no reports from General Butler, being his junior officer; but I am under the impression that the precise difficulties which stood in the way of exchanges a year ago are in full operation at this time, and that the fault is not with this Government but with the rebel authorities.

I have etc.

E. A. Hitchcock, maj. Gen. of Vols. commissioner for
Exchange of Prisoners.