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Prisoner Exchange: Policy War of Rebellion, Series II, Vol. VII

Headquarters Georgia Reserves, Macon, Ga., September 9, 1864

Hon. James A. Seddon, Secretary of War, Richmond, Va.

My Dear Sir:

I was gratified to learn from your letter that you fully concurred in the necessity of an exchange of prisoners. The more I reflect upon it the more important do I regard the necessity of effecting an exchange upon terms that can be got.

I venture to make another suggestion in the event the Yankees refuse to exchange at all.

It is this: To find out all the prisoners (who are privates) who are opposed to Lincoln, and to parole ~~them~~ and send them home at the same time addressing a communication through our ~~commissioner of exchange~~ ~~to their~~ ~~commissioner of exchange~~ saying that as they had attempted to deceive their people with the statement that we would not agree to a fair exchange, we send these prisoners home on parole as practical evidence of our wishes and views about an exchange.

As the Yankees have at different times forwarded our prisoners without notice or agreement they cannot complain or take exception to our doing the ~~same~~ same thing. By this course we accomplish at least three things: First, we get clear of feeding and guarding that many prisoners; second we give that many votes and influence against Lincoln's election; third, we show the Yankee people that Lincoln is refusing to exchange for political purposes, and that, I think, will follow.

With proper efforts the right kind of prisoners could be selected. Only be sure to let no more officers be exchanged. They should be held as hostages for good treatment of our prisoners. I write in haste to send by private hands but will add that the feeling in the army and country is improving.

September 13, 1864

To Colonel Ould for his consideration and remarks, J.A.S. Secretary
Second indorsement: Respectfully returned to the Honorable Secretary of
War. My view of the matter is that we had better send off disabled men
and those whose term of service has expired to the extent of the
remaining unexchanged Vicksburg men.

I doubt the policy of ~~not~~ going further.

The Yankees will force the men whose term of service has unexpired
into the field, regardless of any parole which they may give. They
have done so heretofore. If we send more than the Vicksburg capture
it will tend to weaken the pressure which is now bearing upon Lincoln,
and which I doubt ~~not~~ will force him very soon into an exchange.
I fully agree as to the policy of retaining officers, except disabled,
Very much depends upon our holding on to this policy.

RO Ould

agent for exchange

Third indorsement

For conference with the President

J.S.A. secretary.

Headquarters Army of Tennessee

In the Field, September 11, 1864

Maj. Gen. W.T. Sherman, Commanding U.S. Forces:

Sir: I had the honor on the 8th instant to propose to you an
exchange of prisoners, officers and men captured by both armies since
commencement of ~~xxxxxx~~ the present campaign. On the same day you
answered my communications stating that you accept my offer to exchange
prisoners of war in hand at this moment. There being no condition attached
to the acceptance on your part of my offer to exchange prisoners I
regarded it as obligatory to the extent of the number of prisoners

represented by you to be within your jurisdiction.

At the meeting on the 9th instant between our respective staff officers, Maj. J.B. Eustis, assistant adjutant-general and Lieut. Col. W. Warner, inspector general, intended to arrange such preliminaries as the time and place of delivering etc. a communication was received from you rendering, I regret to inform you, an exchange of prisoners impossible.

Your refusal to receive in exchange your soldiers, belonging to regiments whose times are out and who have been discharged discloses a fixed purpose on the part of your Government to doom to hopeless captivity those prisoners whose terms of service have expired or will soon expire.

The new principle which you seek to interpolate upon the cartel of our respective governments, as well as upon the laws and customs of war, will not be sanctioned by me.

All captives taken in war who owe no obligations to the captors must stand upon the same equal footing.

The duration of their terms of service can certainly impose no duties or obligations on the ~~captors~~ captors.

The volunteer of a day and the conscript of the war who may be captured in war are equally subject to all of the burdens and equally entitled to all of the rights secured by the law of nations. This principle is distinctly conceded in the cartel entered into by our respective Governments and is sanctioned by reason, justice and the public law of all civilized nations. My offer to exchange the prisoners captured during this campaign precludes any intention on my part in the delivery to discriminate between your prisoners, as all would have been delivered, and even had it been intended, this discrimination between your men whose term of service had and had not expired, would have been impossible and could not have been effected, as I had no

means of ascertaining what proportion of your men were entitled to their discharge.

Your avowal that this class of your soldiers will not be exchanged but will be rewarded by the sufferings and privations incident to military imprisonment, because their boldness and courage subjected them to capture, although their term of service had nearly expired, is deeply regretted by me as I share the earnest desire of my prisoners held by both parties. Permit me, as I share the earnest desire of my government to release from prolonged confinement the large number of prisoners held by both parties.

Permit me to hope that this declared policy of your government will be reconsidered, as it is unjustly oppressive to those whom the hazards of military service have rendered prisoners, and is violative of the well understood obligations assumed by a Government toward those who are enlisted in its service.

As was proper I notified my Government of my offer to you to effect an exchange of prisoners captured during this campaign, and not only was my action approved, but my Government placed at my entire disposal ~~and ordered~~ for immediate exchange man for man, all the prisoners of Andersonville.

I have the honor to renew my offer to exchange prisoners as proposed in my first communication, and remain.

You obedient servant

J.B. Hood, general

p. 808

Hqrs. Military Division of the Mississippi, In the Field,
Atlanta, September 12, 1864

General J.B. Hood, commanding Army of Tennessee

General: I have yours of today. You asked to exchange prisoners and

I consented, as far as those which remained in my hands here and this side of Chattanooga.

These I will exchange in the manner I have stated and not otherwise.

As you could not know these of our men whose terms have expired, I authorized Colonel Warner to say I would receive any number taken of the army between certain dates, say the last 2,000, or in any other single period, but as a matter of business I offered terms that could not be misunderstood.

You have not answered my proposition as to the men captured in Atlanta who are soldiers of the Confederate Army detailed to extra duty in the shops.

I think I understand the laws of civilized ~~war~~ nations and "customs of war," but if at a loss at any time I know where to seek information to refresh my memory. If you will give our prisoners at Anderson's (cq) a little more elbow room and liberty to make out of the abundant timber shelters for ~~themselves~~ themselves, ~~as~~ as also a fair allowance of food to enable them to live in health, they will ask nothing more until such time as we will provide for them.

I am, with respect, your obedient servant

W. T. Sherman

Major-General, Commanding

Johnson's Island

War of Rebellion, Series II, Vol. VII

Headqrs. U.S. Forces, Johnson's Island and Sandusky,

Johnson's Island, Ohio, September 11, 1864

Capt. John Lewis, acting assistant adjutant-general

Captain: Below I have the honor to submit Sunday morning report on the condition of the prison and prisoners.

The grounds of the prison and inclosure are not as clean (in) condition as usual on account of the transfer of cooking and messing of the prisoners to the new mess-halls and kitchens which took place so late in the week that there was not time to thoroughly police.

The old difficulty, getting the quarters sufficiently policed, still exists in some of the blocks. In some of them nothing short of cutting off privileges or allowances will induce the occupants to keep them clean. The sinks are in good order. The wagon roads are being improved by throwing up the earth and putting on a layer of limestone, the whole covered by gravel from the beach.

The walks also are being improved. The sanitary condition of the prisoners continues excellent. Whole number of prisoners is 2,560; number in hospital 53; last return 2,560. number of deaths since last report 1.

The difficulty that some wounded and one-limbed prisoners experience in getting to and from the mess-halls induces me to recommend that one or two small messes be permitted to cook and eat at their quarters. I would again most urgently recommend that some way be provided to separate those prisoners who have made application to take the amnesty oath from the rest. The most feasible plan, in my opinion, would be to erect a small building within the inclosure surrounded by a line of stakes beyond which neither class of prisoners would be allowed to pass. E.A. Scovill, lieut col. 128th Ohio, supt of prison

Johnson's Island

War of Rebellion, Series II, Vol VII

Johnson's Island, Ohio, Sept 12, 1864 Military Prison

Col. William Hoffman, commissary-general of Prisoners, present:

Colonel: I would respectfully ask on the part of the prisoners that the prison sutler be permitted to sell to us candles and lamp oil and brooms.

There are many prisoners at times sick and confined to their rooms, as the hospital is not large enough to accommodate all, and since they have no means of procuring lights it is impossible to ~~admin~~ administer medicines etc. The brooms are much needed for police purposes.

I am colonel, your obedient servant

Brigadier-General, Provisional Army, C.S., Prisoner of war.

Wm. N. P. Beall.

Headquarters Johnson U.S. Forces Johnson's Island and Sandusky

Johnson's Island, September 12, 1864

Approved and respectfully forwarded

Under present regulations it seems that prisoners are deprived of lights unless the combustible material and lamps ~~are~~ or candlesticks are brought from beyond the lines. Aside from the ordinary use of lights in the evening, in case of sickness in the quarters, lights would be very necessary.

Charles W. Hall, colonel, commanding post.

Prisoners: Letters and mail

Headquarters Fort Delaware, Del. Sept. 12, 1864

Col. William Hoffman, U.S. Army, Commissary-General of Prisoners,
Washington D. C.

Colonel: In reply to your communication of the 9th instant I inclose true copies of my orders in regard to correspondence concerning rebel prisoners

I found it impossible to permit them to write to everybody as they pleased for the reason that four clerks in the post-office could not have read 2,000 letters a day which at that time was the general average, and even now there are (with the restriction) several thousand letters unread.

Another reason for this restriction is that they found out the names of notorious rebel sympathizers to whom hundreds of letters of notorious rebel sympathizers to whom hundreds of letters were ~~sent~~ daily directed asking for assistance. I am etc.

A. Schoepf,

Brigadier-General commanding

....

Special Orders No. 296 Hdqrs. Fort Delaware, Del. Aug 26, 1864

All prisoner of war letters must hereafter be limited to ten lines of ordinary letter or note paper; must be legibly written and confined strictly to family matters. All letters exceeding this limit will be destroyed. By command of Brig. Gen A. Schoepf,

Geo. W. Ahl, captain and acting adjutant-general

Special Orders 261

...Hereafter no letters from prisoners at this post will be forwarded excepting those written to a father, mother, sister, brother, wife, son or daughter. by Command of Brig. Gen A. Schoepf, Geo. W. Ahl, captain and acting assistant adjutant-general.

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Prisoners: Cooking facilities

War of Rebellion, Series II, Vol. VII

Washington, Sept. 14, 1864, Col. William P. Richardson
Commanding Camp Chase, Columbus, Ohio.

Colonel: Your letter of the 8th instant, inclosing a report of the weekly inspection of the prison by Captain Parker, is received.

As it is not contemplated to cook provisions for prisoners of war in any other way than by boiling, ranges and cooking stoves which are calculated to roast and cook in other ways, at considerable extra expense, cannot be allowed.

The Farmer boilers, which you pronounce worthless, have been very successfully introduced into all the prison camps except Chase, and many of the general hospitals, and they must now be tried at Camp Chase. They have been recently provided for Camp Morton, and Colonel Stevens reports them a complete success, paying for themselves by the saving of wood the first month.

I have several times ordered their use at Camp Chase, but always without success. This time I hope to be more successful. The 120-gallon size is found to be the most convenient, though some of smaller size maybe required in each kitchen.

Several are placed in a row, their pipes leading into a large ~~xxxxxx~~ horizontal one, which is connected with a large vertical pipe, which carries the smoke through the roof. Cooking or baking in small messes cannot be any longer allowed.

How is your baking done, by contract, or have you bake ovens?

W. Hoffman, Colonel Third Infantry Commissioner General of Prisoners.

Johnson's Island: (Plot to overthrow)

War of Rebellion, Vol IIX, Series VII

Washington D.C., September 21, 1864

Col. C.W. Hill, commanding, Johnson's Island, Sandusky, Ohio

Colonel: Your telegram of last evening reporting the capture of steamers
Island Queen and Parsons by a company of Southern rebels from Canada is
received.

An event of this character should have been reported to this office by
telegram ~~immediately~~ immediately on its occurrence, so that such steps
might be taken in the case as might be deemed advisable. Hereafter
give me the earliest information of any such raid or any rumor
of preparations for such an undertaking that may reach you.

You are authorized to permit the sutler to sell candles or oil to
prisoners of war, but the use of them at night for lights must not be
permitted beyond 9 o'clock except in cases of sickness, when, on the
recommendation of the surgeons, you may extend the privilege at your
discretion. Brooms may also be sold to prisoners.

W. Hoffman, colonel third infantry and
commissary-general of prisoners.

Johnson's Island, September 20, 1864.

Capt. W.H. Potter, assistant adjutant-general Columbus, Ohio

Late yesterday, on suspicion, with my advise, Captain Carter of the U.S.S.

Michigan arrested Cole at Sandusky. He was the principal agent of the
rebels on this side. Disclosed the whole plot, showing that the men were
to come in on different trains at Sandusky last evening, and with boats
capture the Michigan and attack this post.

I placed men at Sandusky and searched each train on arrival. Cole
implicated Stanley, Brown, Williams, Merrick, Strain and
Rosenthal. citizens of Sandusky, to some extent, I can't say how far.

On the direction of ~~Captain and Steiner, Provost Marshal~~ the
commander of the Michigan I hand d their names to ~~the~~ Captain Steiner,
provost marshal. He arrested them, and I now have them in charge.

The Michigan left on a cruise outside at daylight this
morning; will probably be back soon unless she gets fairly in chase. If
scoundrels come this way, even in the absence of the Michigan, I will
give a good account of them, but wish I had all my detachment back.

Hill, colonel commanding

(September 20, 1864--For correspondence regarding capture of steamers
on Lake Erie and attempted release of U.S. prisoners on Johnson's
Island, not herein published, see Series I, Vol. XXXIX, Part II, p. 436
et seq.

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Johnson's Island--P lot to overthrow
War of Rebellion, Series II, Vol VII.

Toronto, Canada West, September 22, 1864

Colonel Hill, commandant of post, Johnson's Island, Ohio

Sir: We have just learned that Capt. Charles H. Cole, an escaped
prisoner, has been arrested by the military authorities of your post and
that he is to be tried on the charge of being a spy.

As agents and commissioners of the Confederate States we protest against
his trial on this charge. As a prisoner, he was brought into your lines
against his will. Since his escape from prison he has never been able to
return to his own country; therefore he was legitimately where he was found
and taken. Whatever designs he may have conceived he had done nothing
whatever in violation of the law of nations, of any law of the United
States nor regulations of the Army. It would be contrary to every principle
of law, either public, common, civil or statutory to punish him for
his designs or purposes provided he had carried none of them into execution
on the hypothesis that you have reason to believe he contemplated an act
of violence. If he fail to carry it out or make any attempt
looking to that end he cannot ~~and~~ surely be adjudged guilty of any offense.

If you proceed to extremities with Captain Cole we feel ~~xxxxx~~ it
our duty to call on the authorities of the Confederate states to adopt
measures of retaliation. If you can justly condemn Captain Cole as a
spy, every soldier and officer of the United States caught within
the lines of the armies and limits of the Confederate States would be
tried and condemned as spies. We admit your right to return him to
prison as a recaptured prisoner but any other punishment would be, in
our judgment, against justice and public law. If any importance is
attached to his being within your lines without wearing his uniform,
the circumstances which surrounded him as an escaped prisoner will
readily explain the reason of its absence. He had no uniform to wear.

He did, however, change his name, which is usual in such cases/ He has conducted himself with the boldness courage and frankness of a true soldier in all his associations. He deserves the fate of none other.

"e are colonel etc. J. Thompson, V.C. Clay Jr.

Toronto, Canada West, September 22, 1864

His Excellency Jefferson Davis

Sir: Some time since Charles H. Cole, Captain C.S. Army and also a lieutenant in the Navy was sent to reconnoiter the position of the war steamer Michigan and ascertain whether it was possible to capture her.

He found her lying opposite Sandusky guarding Johnson's island.

He conceived and perfected a plan for her capture. The scheme was admirably laid, and promised success and the gravest consequences--the release of the prisoners and their return to the Confederate States.

A few hours before the consummation of the plan, by some treachery he became suspected and was arrested, which defeated the execution of his design. He is now held as a prisoner and we are informed that he is charged with being a spy, and a trial has been awarded him by a court-martial.

Captain Cole is an escaped prisoner, and having never returned to his own country since his escape was legitimately within the enemy's lines.

Whatever may have been his designs, he has violated no law or regulation of the enemy. On the contrary he was popular with the officers of the boat and of the island. We think the Government should interpose for his release. On the principal by which he would be considered a spy every soldier or officer of the Federal Army within our territory can be so considered. He is a brave, true man, a good officer and every way worthy the special protection of the Government... We hope you will

3.

do all that can be done for his protection, either in the way of exchange, or, if need be, by way of retaliation. On this subject you are better judge than ourselves.

He has been acting in the line of duty with a courage and discretion that deserves the highest commendation. With great respect etc.

J. Thompson, C.C. Clay Jr.

first indorsement October 12, 1864

Secretary of War for attention

Through the commissioner of exchange or otherwise as may be indicated let all practicable efforts be made in behalf of Mr. Cole.

Jeff'n Davis.

Colonel Culp Oct 14, 1864

It seems clear that this officer is not liable as a spy, but is entitled to the protection of his Government. The enterprise was a legitimate one, and the release of our prisoners could not be looked upon as other than a laudable object for a Confederate officer to essay. A magnanimous foe would respect and admire him.

Make proper representation in the case, J.A.S.

Johnson's Island: Storm

War of Rebellion, Series II, Vol VII. p 876

HdQRS. U.S. Forces Johnson's Island and Sandusky

Johnson's Island, Ohio, September 25, 1864

Capt. John Lewis, acting assistant adjutant general

Captain: I have the honor to submit herewith my Sunday morning report of the condition of the prison and prisoners:

On the night of the 23d of September at 8:30 o'clock this island was visited by the most violent storm of wind and rain ever known in this neighborhood. The damage to the prison was the unroofing of ~~xxx~~ blocks, 4 5 and 9 entirely, and one wing of the hospital. A very heavy wind the whole of the day following prevented work on the roofs.

To day the as many men as can be supplied with tools are pushing on the repairs. This week will probably see everything in good shape again. The prison fence was prostrated entirely on the northwest side and about fifty yards on the southwest side. The balance of the fence stood, with the exception of a small gap made by the falling of a tree. The fence will probably be up tonight as all the force that can be put on are at work.

Up to the time of the storm the police of the quarters and grounds was very good. The sinks are also in good order. The sanitary condition of the prisoners is as follows: Whole number of prisoners 2, 664, number in hospital 51; deaths since last report 2; some 10 prisoners were more or less bruised and otherwise injured by the falling of timber, chimneys etc. but one seriously and his only a severe flesh wound.

E.A. Scovill, Lieut col 128th Ohio Vol. Infy. supt of prison.
..as to damage from the tornado and the time required to repair..four large trees were blown down in the prison yard and one of the new mess halls was badly canted over...Charles W. Hill, colonel commanding.

Johnson's Island

Series II, Vol III, War of Rebellion

Depot of Prisoners of War, Near Sandusky, Ohio, Oct. 9, 1864

Capt. J.F. Huntington, acting assistant adjutant-general

Captain; Below I have the honor to submit my Sunday morning report of the condition of the prison and prisoners. The police of the prison for the past week has not been good, solely on account of the weather, it having rained every day but one.

The police of the quarters continues good. The floors of the mess halls have been in bad condition, and - fear always will be during wet weather. The buildings injured by the late storm are all repaired, with the exception of a little ~~xxx~~ work on the chimneys which could not be completed sooner on account of want of brick, which could not be obtained nearer than Cleveland. The sinks are in as good condition as the weather will allow. Owing to the sickness and death of Capt. L.M. Brooks, assistant quartermaster, there has been a delay in supplying the prison with stoves and the prisoners with clothing. This delay will undoubtedly be obviated the coming week.

The sanitary condition of the prisoners is as follows: Whole number of prisoners 2,606; number in hospital 46; deaths since last ~~xxxxx~~ report 1.

E.A. Scovill, Lieut Col 128th Ohio Vol.

Infy Superintendent of prison

Headquarters U.S. Forces

Johnson's Island and Sandusky, Ohio, Oct. 9, 1864

Approved and respectfully forwarded to Col. William Hoffman,
Third Infantry, U.S. Army, Commissary-General of Prisoners.

The floors of the mess-halls are about six inches of gravel with a slight admixture of clay at the top to serve as a cement. The roofs, of

of course leak to some extent and the prisoners passing in and out during a rain-storm of several days' duration of course bring in damp mud, which becomes distributed through the mess-hall, but which cannot be removed as it might be from a wooden floor.

This inconvenience is inherent and its recurrence will accompany every storm and every thaw. The difficulty about the quartermaster I think need not exist after today, as an officer is detailed to attend to that duty.

W. W. Hill, colonel, commanding.

Prisoners: Situation: Suffering

Series II, Vol III, War of Rebellion

Statesburg, S.C. October 12, 1864

Dear Sir: Inclosed you will find an account of the terrible suffering of the Yankee prisoners at Florence, S.C.

In the name of all that is holy, is there nothing that can be done to relieve such dreadful suffering? If such things are allowed to continue they will most surely draw down some awful judgment upon our country. It is a most horrible national sin that cannot go unpunished. If we cannot give them food and shelter, for God's sake parole them and send them back to Yankee land, but don't starve the miserable creatures to death.

Don't think I have any liking for the ~~Yank~~ Yankee; I have none. Those near and dear to me have suffered too much from their tyranny for me to have anything but hatred to them, but I have not yet become quite brute enough to know of such suffering without trying to do something, even for a Yankee.

Sabina Dismukes

"The Yankee Camp at Florence "...our party had charge of animals of all sizes, sexes and conditions, from the patriarch of the herd, whose seamed and wrinkled front bore the marks of many a bloody battle to "old crumple," who had served her day at the milk pail...

The camp we found full of what were once human beings, but who would scarcely now be recognized as such. In a old field with no inclosure but the living wall of sentinels who guard them night and day are several thousand filthy, diseased, famished men, with no hope of relief except by death.

A few dirty rags stretched on poles give some of them a poor protection from the hot sun and heavy dews.

All were in rags and barefoot and crawling with vermin. As we passed around the line of guards I saw one of the brought out from his miserable booth, by two of his companions, and laid upon the ground to die. He was nearly naked. His companions pulled his cap over his face and straightened out his limbs. Before they turned to leave him he was dead. A slight movement of the limbs and all was over.

The captive was free! The commissary's tent was near one side of the square and near it the beef was laid upon boards preparatory to its distribution. This sight seemed to excite the prisoners as the smell of blood does the beasts of a menagerie. They surged up as near the lines as they were allowed, and seemed in their eagerness about to break over. While we were on the ground a heavy rain came up, and they seemed greatly to enjoy it, coming out a puris naturalibus, opening their mouths to catch the drops, while one would wash off another with his hands and then receive from him the like kind office. Numbers get out at night and wander to the neighboring houses in quest of food.

From the camp of the living we passed to the camp of the dead--the hospital; a transition which reminded me of Satan's soliloquy:

"Which way I fly is hell; myself am hell;
And in the lowest deep, a lower deep,
Still threatening to devour me, open wide.

A few tents covered with pine tops, were crowded with the dying and dead (35 to 40 dying a day) in every stage of corruption. Some lay in prostrate helplessness; some had crawled under the shelter of the bushes; some were rubbing their skeleton limbs. Twenty or thirty of them die daily, most of these, as I am informed, of the scurvy.

The corpses lay by the roadside waiting for the dead cart, their glassy eyes turned to heaven, the flies swarming in their mouths, their big toes tied together with a cotton string, and their skeleton arms

folded on their breasts.

You would hardly know them to be men, so sadly do hunger, disease and wretchedness chan "the human face divine."

Presently came the carts. They were carried a little distance to trenches dug for the purpose, and tumbled in like so many dogs; a few pine tops were thrown upon the bodies, a few shovelful of dirt and then haste was made to open a new ditch for other victims.

The burying party were yankees, details for the work; an appointment which, as the sergeant told me, they consider as a favor, for they get a little more to eat, and enjoy the fresh air.

Thus we saw, at one glance, the three great scourges of mankind, war, famine and pestilence; and we turn from the spectacle sick at heart as we remember that some of our loved ones may be undergoing a similar misery.

Man's inhumanity to man makes countless millions mourn."

Some 8,000 more will be added to their number, and where the provisions are to come from to feed this multitude is a difficult problem.

Five thousand pounds of bacon or 10,000 pounds of beef daily seems in addition to more urgent drafts upon her, far beyond the ability of South Carolina.

The question is: Are we not doing serious injury to our ~~own~~ cause in keeping these prisoners to divide with us our scanty rations? Would it not be better at once to release ~~them~~ them on parole?

Howard respectfully referred by direction of the ~~President~~ President to the honorable Secretary of War. Burton N. Harrison, private secretary. (Other endorsements)

Atten called to Col. G.P. Harrison, commanding etc. at Florence.

"This report is sustained by that of Captain Rutherford of General Gardner's staff who recently made an inspection of the prison. (see page 1193)

Garnett Andrews, assistant adjutant-general.

Headquarters, Florence Military Prison, December 17, 1864

Respectfully returned: Howard visited Florence when necessity forced the removal of prisoners here without any preparation whatever being made for their proper care or for subsistence. In my opinion, if one of those ominous O.B.'s was sent him to report to the front there would be no danger of his exciting the nerves of ladies and it might perhaps do the service some good.

Mrs. Dismaks may rest easy and quiet in eference to the treatment of prisoners at that prison, for since I assumed command, the 10th of October, 1864) the deaths have decreased from thirty five to forty 00 per day to one single demise which my hospital and sexton's report shows for the last twenty-four hours....and challenge any prison in the Confederacy, taking everything in consideration for health, cleanliness, neat-looking prisoners, neat burial grounds etc. They are ~~xxxx~~ given everything the Government issues to them.
etc.

Jno. F. Iverson

Lieutenant Colonel Commanding.