Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Acting provost marshal's office. Boston. August 20, 1862. To all sheriffs, deputy-sheriffs, constables, chiefs of police, and their subordinates, and to all mayors and selectmen. Your attention is respectfully called to the following order, and to the orders annexed to this circular. Under these orders you will please act as Special Provost Marshals to enforce the return of deserters from the forces in the field to their duty.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Acting Provost Marshal's Office, Boston, August 20, 1862.

To all Sheriffs, Deputy-Sheriffs, Constables, Chiefs of Police, and their subordinates, and to all Mayors and Selectmen: —

Your attention is respectfully called to the following Order, and to the Orders annexed to this Circular. Under these Orders you will please act as Special Provost Marshals to enforce the return of deserters from the forces in the field to their duty.

Executive Department, Boston, August 12, 1862.

All Sheriffs, Deputy-Sheriffs, Constables, and Chiefs of Police, and their subordinates, are hereby requested to cooperate with Major C. F. Blake, Acting Provost Marshal, in the execution of his duty under the orders of the President of the United States and of the Government of this Commonwealth, concerning the return of their Regiments of absentees and deserters.

JOHN A. ANDREW, Governor of Massachusetts.

Chiefs of Police and Selectmen of towns will please cause the arrest of all officers or soldiers belonging to the Volunteer forces who may be found in their respective towns or cities without a pass from them. They will issue passes to the following persons:

1. To all officers or privates belonging to Volunteer Regiments or Corps who exhibit to them furloughs from the War Department.

2. To all officers or privates of Volunteer Regiments or Corps who exhibit to them furloughs from Lieutenant-Colonel Day, U. S. A., Commanding at Boston.
3. To all officers or privates of Volunteer Regiments or Corps exhibiting to them furloughs from their commanding officers, dated since July 31st last past.

4. To all officers or privates of Volunteer Regiments or Corps having certificates of physical disability from Dr. McLaren, U. S. Medical Inspector, Surgeon-General Dale, or from physicians of good character and standing, either known to the Chief of Police or Selectmen, or certified by a Justice of the Peace to be of good character and standing. Such certificates should be renewed every ten days, but the certificates of Dr. McLaren and of Surgeon-General Dale should in all cases be respected. Duplicates of such medical certificates should be sent to Surgeon-General Dale.

5. To all officers or privates of Massachusetts Volunteer Regiments or Corps on recruiting duty within this Commonwealth.

Chiefs of Police and Selectmen will please issue public notices within their respective cities or towns requiring all persons falling within these five classes to report to them to receive their passes, and stating that all officers and privates found without such passes will be arrested.

The following form of passes is recommended:

“City (or Town) of “A. B., private Co., Regiment, has furlough (or medical certificate) which will expire on the day of Chief of Police of Or Selectmen of

“This pass must be returned to this office when the furlough or medical certificate on which it is granted expires. If it is not returned within twenty-four hours of its expiration, an Order for the arrest of the person holding it will be issued.”

A record should be kept of all such passes issued by Chiefs of Police or Selectmen, setting forth the name, rank, company and regiment of the person to whom it is issued, together with the date of the pass, and the time when the furlough or medical certificate on which it is granted expires.

All officers and privates belonging to the Volunteer forces, found without such passes, or with passes which have expired, should be arrested.

When arrests are made under this Order, the following disposition should be made of the person arrested:—

1. If he claims to be entitled to a pass from the Chief of Police or Selectmen, he should be allowed an opportunity to produce his furlough or medical certificate. In such case the officers making the
arrest should, if the person arrested is a commissioned officer, take his parole to report himself with his papers to the Chief of Police or Selectmen the morning following the arrest. And such parole should be reported to the Chief of Police or Selectmen of the city or town where the arrest is made.

If the soldier arrested is not a commissioned officer, and claims to be entitled to a pass, the officer arresting him should go with him to the place where he says his papers are, and if he produces them, should carry him to the Chief of Police or Selectmen, who will give him the proper pass.

If any private arrested claims that he has had a valid furlough, but that he has lost the same, he should be detained and a report of his arrest and of his claim should be forwarded at once to this office.

2. If any commissioned officer of the Volunteer forces is found without proper furlough or medical certificate, his parole should be taken to report at once to Lieut.-Colonel Day, U. S. A., commanding at Boston, and notice of such parole should be immediately communicated to Lieut.-Col. Day, and to this Office.

3. Any non-commissioned officer or private belonging to the Volunteer Regiments or Corps who may be found without proper pass or furlough or medical certificate, should be arrested and turned over to the Sheriff of the County where the arrest is made; but all such soldiers arrested within thirty miles of Boston will be brought to this city and lodged in the city lock-up, and reported at once to Lieut.-Col. Day, U. S. A., and to this office. The deserters brought to the city lock-up are every morning sent to Fort Independence.

Sheriffs will please report to this office daily the deserters arrested and turned over to them, and will, when a sufficient number have been collected, make a requisition on this office for transportation to Boston. Deserters brought to Boston will be reported in writing to this office and to Lieut.-Col. Day, U. S. A.

If any officer shall break his parole given under this order, it should be at once reported to this office, when measures will be taken to secure his arrest and punishment.

Paroled prisoners who are unfit to travel to Annapolis by reason of wounds or disease, will receive a pass from the Chief of Police or Selectmen of the city or town of their domicile, by presenting a physician's certificate properly vouchèd.

By Order No. 72 of the War Department, all furloughs granted by the War Department to paroled prisoners bearing date before June 28, last past, are revoked.
By the General Order No. 92 of the War Department, it is ordered that transportation, reasonable expenses, and a reward of five dollars be paid for all deserters arrested and brought to Boston.

Officers bringing deserters and delivering them at the city lock-up, will receive their dues by presenting to Capt. McKim, U. S. Quartermaster, a certificate from Lieut.-Col. Day of the surrender to him of the person arrested, together with bills of expenses incurred, and a written account.

It is hoped that by enforcing this system, the great evil arising from the unlawful absence from duty of soldiers belonging to the Volunteer forces may be remedied. If it is efficiently carried out it will be impossible for a deserter to remain long undiscovered. But while the public service requires that a remedy should be applied to check the existing mischief, it is also true that no system which can be devised, can fail to work harshly in some cases. It is hoped that the officers charged with the delicate and important duties of special provost marshals, will exercise their power firmly, but kindly. In all cases the claim of a soldier arrested, that he is in any way exempt from detention should be immediately reported to this office, together with a brief statement of the case; and he should be encouraged to submit his claim in such manner as he himself may prefer.

You are respectfully requested to co-operate with this office in the manner set forth in the foregoing Circular.

**CHARLES F. BLAKE, Major, and Acting Provost Marshal.**

Head-Quarters, Boston, August 8, 1862.

Special Order, No. 600.

Charles F. Blake, of Boston, having this day been commissioned by the Commander-in-Chief, Deputy-Quartermaster-General of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, with the rank of Major, will enter immediately upon the duties of his office.

Major Blake is charged specially with the duty of forwarding absentees, and of apprehending and returning deserters from the army, and will act as special Provost Marshal, under the Order of the President of the United States, dated July 31st, 1862, and in furtherance of General Order, No. 30, current series, from these Head-Quarters. He will occupy Room No. 10, in the State House, over the Adjutant-General's Office, and all communications on the subject thus specially committed to his charge should be addressed to him.

By command of His Excellency, John A. Andrew, Governor and Commander-in-Chief.
WILLIAM SCHOULER, Adjutant-General.

War Department, Washington, D. C., July 31.

The absence of officers and privates from their duty under various pretexts, while receiving pay at great expense and burthen to the Government, makes it necessary that efficient measures be taken to enforce their return to duty, or that their places be supplied by those who will not take pay while rendering no service. This evil, moreover, tends greatly to discourage the patriotic impulse of those who would contribute to support the families of faithful soldiers.

It is therefore ordered by the President:

First—That on Monday, the 11th day of August, all leaves of absence and furloughs by whomsoever given, unless by the War Department, are revoked and absolutely annulled, and all officers capable of service are required forthwith to join their regiments under a penalty of dismissal from the service, or such penalty as a Court Martial may award, unless the absence be occasioned by a lawful cause.

Second—The only excuse allowed for the absence of officers or privates from duty after the 11th day of August, are, first, the order of leave of the War Department; second, disabilities from wounds received in the service; third, disability from disease that renders the party unfit for military duty. But any officer or private whose health permits him to visit watering places, places of amusement, or to make social visits, or walk about the town, city or neighborhood in which he may be, will be considered fit for military duty, and as evading his duty by absence from his command or the ranks.

Third—On Monday, the 18th day of August, at 10 o'clock, A. M., each Regiment and Corps shall be mustered. The absentees will be marked, three lists of the same made out, and within forty-eight hours of the muster one copy shall be sent to the Adjutant-General of the army, and one to the commander of the Corps. The third is to be retained, and all officers and privates, fit for duty, absent at that time, will be regarded as absent without cause. Their pay will be stopped, and they will be dismissed the service or treated as deserters, unless restored; and no officer shall be restored to his rank, unless by the judgment of a Court of Inquiry, to be approved by the President. He shall establish his innocence of the charge that his absence was without cause.

Fourth—Commanders of Corps, Divisions, Brigades, Regiments and Detached Posts, are strictly enjoined to force the muster and return aforesaid. Any officer failing in his duty herein, will be deemed guilty of gross neglect of duty, and be dismissed from the service.
Fifth—A Commissioner shall be appointed by the Secretary of War to superintend the execution of this Order in the respective States. The United States Marshals in the respective Districts; the Mayor and Chief of Police of any town or city; the Sheriff of the respective Counties in each State; and all Postmasters and Justices of the Peace; are authorized to act as Special Provost Marshals, to arrest any officer or private soldier, fit for duty, who may be found absent from his command without just cause, and convey him to the nearest military post or depot.

The transportation, reasonable expenses of this duty, and five dollars, will be paid for each officer or private so arrested and delivered.

By order of the President.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

[ Extract from General Orders, No. 72, War Department. ]

III. No more furloughs will be granted to paroled prisoners. All furloughs heretofore given to them are hereby revoked; and all prisoners, now at large on their parole, or who may hereafter be paroled by the rebel authorities, will immediately repair—if belonging to regiments raised in the New England and Middle States, to the Camp of Instruction, established near Annapolis, Md.; if belonging to Regiments raised in the States of Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan, to Camp Chase, near Columbus, Ohio; if belonging to Regiments raised in the States of Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and Missouri, to the Camp near Jefferson Barracks, Mo.,—and report for such duty, compatible with their parole, as may be assigned to them by the officers in command of said camps. And all, whether officers or soldiers, who fail to comply with this Order, within the space of time necessary to do so, will be accounted deserters and dealt with accordingly.

The attention of all commanding, mustering, and recruiting officers is particularly directed to this Order, and they are required to use their utmost exertions, not only to give it the widest circulation in their neighborhoods, but to see that it is faithfully carried out. And their Excellencies, the Governors of the several States, are respectfully solicited to lend their efforts to the same end.

IV. The transportation necessary to a compliance with this Order, can, on application, be procured from the Governors of the several States, or from the United States mustering or commanding officers in the various cities within them.

V. The commanders of the different Camps of Instruction, to which paroled men are sent, will have them organized into Companies and Battalions, keeping those of the same Regiment and of the
same State as much together as possible; and will have correct *muster rolls* of them made out and forwarded to this office; and, on the 15th day of every muster month, will furnish a list of them to the Company commanders;—from whom, in return, they will procure full and exact *descriptive lists* of each man, and *accounts* of the *pay, clothing, &c.*, due to or from him to the government.

By order of the Secretary of War.

L. THOMAS, Adjutant-General.