

GENERAL ORDERS, }  
 No. 64. }

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
 ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
 Washington, February 18, 1864.

*Refugees and Rebel Deserters.*

Whenever refugees from within the Rebel lines, or deserters from the Rebel armies, present themselves at U. S. Camps or Military Posts, they will be immediately examined by the Provost Marshal with a view to determine their character, and their motive in giving themselves up. If it appear that they are honest in their intention of forever deserting the Rebel cause, care will be taken to explain to them that they will not be forced to serve in the U. S. Army against the Rebels, nor be kept in confinement. The President's Proclamation of December 8, 1863, will be read to them, and if they so desire, the oath therein prescribed will be administered to them. They will then be questioned as to whether they desire employment from the United States; and if so, such arrangements as may be expedient will be made by the several Army Commanders for employing them on Government works within their commands. Those who come to the Army of the Potomac will be forwarded to the Military Governor of the District of Columbia, at Washington, with reports in their cases, that employment may be given them if desired; or, if not, that they may be sent as far North as Philadelphia.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

E. D. TOWNSEND,  
*Assistant Adjutant General.*

OFFICIAL:

*Assistant Adjutant General.*