

Head Quarters Army Potomac
Camp near Harrison's Landing -
July 27 - 1862.

Brig Gen L. Thomas
Adj Gen USA

I respectfully apply for permission to send an officer from each regiment to the place where it was raised, with authority to bring on every officer and man he can find fit for duty, whether on leave of absence or not, no matter from what source the leave may be granted. I have officers assurance that the number of people absent on leave is having an injurious effect on the recruiting service. Absentees tell such exaggerated stories of the hardships and sufferings of campaign life and of the carnage of the battle field that they deter recruits from enlisting. The leave might be revoked by an order from the Adjutant General's office, except where the case is that of bona fide sick and wounded unable to join. The officers I propose to send



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from each regiment should
report at your office, and receive
orders (such as my application)
to visit all hospitals, and places
where soldiers may be detained
whether on extra duty or otherwise
no matter by what order or
whose authority and bring them
here to their regiments. The recruit
service or other important duty
of course will be excepted. I am
satisfied that the most fertile
source of increases to the disman-
-ished ranks of the regiments is
to get back the absentees from
the army. There are two well
men absent to one really sick
man.

G B McCallum
Maj Genl
Comd

