

Confederate Passes for Perryville and Basic Instruction about Them

— from —

Silas Tackitt, Provost Marshal

This is a facsimile of the pass which will be distributed to your company commander through your battalion's headquarters :

Army of the Mississippi

_____ *Date* 1862.

Guards and Patrols will allow _____ *of Co.* _____
_____ *Reg't of* _____ *Volunteers to pass through the lines.*

This Pass expires at Noon on _____ *Date* 1862.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL BRAXTON BRAGG
Natta Pass

CAPTAIN AND PROVOST MARSHAL

When you receive a pass, it will already be dated and signed by the provost marshal. All you have to do is write your name, company letter, regiment number and state on the pass like so :

Army of the Mississippi

_____ *5 October* 1862.

Guards and Patrols will allow Jedediah Jehoshaphat *of Co. D.*
44th *Reg't of* Tennessee *Volunteers to pass through the lines.*

This Pass expires at Noon on 7 October 1862.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL BRAXTON BRAGG
Natta Pass

CAPTAIN AND PROVOST MARSHAL

You will need a pass signed by the provost marshal if you want to cross the lines. When a soldier attempts to pass through Confederate lines, he must present his *completed* pass to the provost guard. A soldier with an incomplete pass *will be refused transit* through Confederate lines. (Nothing prevents soldiers from attempting to sneak through the lines.) A soldier stopped outside the lines *without a pass* is subject to arrest by the provost and/or refusal to reenter the lines.

Those arrested will be held by the provost guard until an officer or sergeant of said soldier's company vouches for the individual and hauls him away. Unclaimed soldiers will be disposed of at the discretion of the provost marshal. Think of it as "*catch and release*" plus an opportunity to experience a small slice of life as a soldier with and without a pass.

A soldier inside the Confederate encampment and without a pass *is not subject to arrest* by the provost. A pass allows the bearer to the power to cross Confederate lines or remain free outside Confederate lines, but only after his *completed* pass has been inspected.

Period Rules Regarding Passes and Passing Through the Lines

— or —

How not to get arrested or shot by the provost guard

152. A good soldier makes his company and regiment his home, and never absents himself without proper permission, and then returns punctually at the expiration of his pass. The habit of always being absent is exceedingly pernicious ; it cultivates tastes and habits that are detrimental to the soldier's best interests, and he is almost sure to be absent when most wanted, and loses perhaps a favorable moment to do himself a credit. — *Kautz, Customs of Service for NCO's and Soldiers*

162. No soldier can in any case be absent from his proper company without some authority, as an Order, a Furlough, Pass, Permit, or something to show that he is either on duty or has permission to be absent. — *Kautz, The Company Clerk.*

163. The common evidence is a furlough or pass ; the former is given for long periods, and the latter for periods of one or two days or a certain number of hours. — *Kautz, The Company Clerk.*

- C.S. Reg's 388. The countersign, or watchword, is given to such persons as are entitled to pass during the night, and to officers, non-commissioned officers, and sentinels of the guard. Interior guards receive the countersign only when ordered by the commander of the troops.

- C.S. Reg's 411. After retreat (or the hour appointed by the commanding officer), until broad daylight, a sentinel challenges every person who approaches him, taking, at the same time, the position of *arms port*. He will suffer no person to come nearer than within reach of his bayonet, until the person has given the countersign.

- C.S. Reg's 412. A sentinel, in challenging, will call out — "*Who comes there?*"

If answered — "*Friend, with the countersign,*" and he be instructed to pass persons with the countersign, he will reply — "*Advance, friend, with the countersign.*"

If answered — "*Friends,*" he will reply — "*Halt, friends. Advance one with the countersign.*"

If answered — "*Relief*" "*Patrol*" or "*Grand rounds,*" he will reply — "*Halt. Advance, sergeant (or corporal) with the countersign,*" and satisfy himself that the party is what it represents itself to be.

If he have no authority to pass persons with the countersign, if the wrong countersign be given, or if the persons have not the countersign, he will cause them to stand, and call — "*Corporal of the guard.*"

- C.S. Reg's 569. The sentinels on the front, flanks, and rear, see that no soldier leaves camp with horse or arms unless conducted by a non-commissioned officer. They prevent non-commissioned officers and soldiers from passing out at night, except to go to the sinks, and mark if they return. They arrest, at any time, suspicious persons prowling about the camp, and at night, every one who attempts to enter, even the soldiers of other corps. Arrested persons are sent to the officer of the guard, who sends them, if necessary, to the officer of the day.

- C.S. Reg's 604. Grand guards have special orders in each case, and the following in all cases : to examine every person passing near the post, particularly those coming from without ; to arrest suspicious persons, and all soldiers and camp-followers who try to pass out without permission, and to send to the general, unless otherwise directed, all country people who come in.