S. 138. D. T. 1862.

3313

Head Qrs Post of Bethel
Bethel Tenn Feby 17. 1863.

S 88 A.G.O.
Dist of Jackson
Sanford

Col W. W. Comdg Post.

Respectfully ask instructions in regard to S. D. Smith T. J. Roff J. Carroll Beavers who are held as hostages for the safety of Arnold jr. a loyal Union man arrested by Capt Newsham near Henderson Tennessee.

(One Enclosure)

Citizens

Head Quarters Post of Bethel
Bethel Tennessee Febry 17. 1863.

Capt T. H. Harris
A. A. Genl Head Quarters Dist of Jackson.

On the 29th of January Capt. Newham comd'g what is said to be a company of Guerillas but claimed by him to be regular Cavalry of the so called confederate States seized and carried off Willis N. Arnold jr a citizen of Henderson County and a undoubted loyal Union man. Capt. Newham left word for his wife and also sent word to the Comd'g Officer at Henderson that he would hold said Arnold until he gave a bond with good security for $20,000 to idemnify the persons living near Henderson who had been assessed as Rebel sympathizers and disloyal to the U. S. Goverment for the damage done by raid on Henderson in which raid Cotton owned by loyal citizens and Govt. property was destroyed to a large amount. This assessment was made by Special Order No 15 from Head Quarters Dist of Jackson. Arnold owned some of the cotton destroyed at the time. As soon as notified of the arrest of Arnold I ordered Major Stephenson comd'g

at Henderson to arrest and hold as hostages three prominent Rebel Sympathizers living near Arnold on the 3rd of Febry 1863, he arrested:

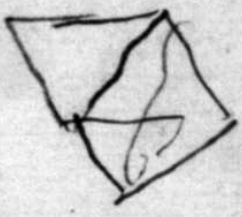
S. D. Smith Father in law of Capt Newsham
T. G. Rop and Carroll Beavers

all of them being prominent in their Rebel principles. They were notified that they would be held responsible for the safe Return of Arnold and given ten days to get him back in. This they stated they thought they could effect in that time This action on my part I reported to your Head-Quarters at the time asking for the approval of the Genl Comdg. On the 5th of Febry Mr John L Carathans acting as the Agent of the arrested persons started for the Tenn. River to find Newsham and effect the release of Arnold, when he found Captain Newsham Arnold had been sent to Columbia Tennessee, he then croped the river and proceeded to Columbia and had an interview with Genl Forrest Comdg at Columbia, who refused to deliver Arnold up, for reasons which he sets forth in a Communication he gave said Carathan to bring back, which he delivered to the Comdg Officer at Henderson on the 15th of Febry. A copy of this communication is now in the possession of the Genl Comdg Dist of Jackson. In view of

the above facts I respectfully ask from the Genl Comdg an order to govern my further action in this case, also as to whether I shall release the hostages or still keep them as security for Arnolds safety.

Wm W Sanford
Col 48th Ills
Comdg Post.

S 88 A.G.O.
Dist. of Jackson



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S. 138. D.J. 1863

Brigade Head Quarters
Columbia Tenn Feb 13th 1863

Major W J Stephenson
Comdg W S Forces
Henderson Station

Sir

Mr John L Carthen has been here and done all he could do for the release of Willis A Arnold who was arested and by my order sent to Genl Bragg for trial as a counterfitter Wm Arnold was not arested as a union man or a union sympathiser but as a bad man and a counterfitter there was found upon his person $4940 00/00 of counterfit money also orders from Genl Sulavan authorizing said Arnold to impress the property of Secesionists and that resistance to said Arnold would be regarded by Genl Sulivan as resistance to the Federal Government and it is due from me in all candor to say to you that a man bearing Arnolds previous character as a counterfitter and found in possession of forty nine hundred and forty dollars of counterfit money on his person secreted in his socks and hid in the waistband of his pants cannot be released without a trial again he carried with him the authority to impress to any extent without limit the property of any person

that he (Arnold) not Genl Sulivan might regard as Southern Sympathizers in other words a "Cart Planche" to rob and plunder when he pleased. therefore he will be tired as a counterfeiter and an Enemy. I am informd that you have arested and held in confinement three citizens of Henderson County as Hostages for this Man Arnold. that they have ben forced to take the Oath of Alegeance to your Government and are to be delt with nevertheless and not with Standing the Oath as our Authorities may do to Arnold. now justice humanity and Self respect aught to present such a course to wrong innocent men and while I am ever anxious to conduct all my operations upon strictly human just and honorable principles you may rest assured that in the event of punishment to these men I Shal retaliate and that to full extent. while in west Tennessee I arested no man for his principles or his Sentiments and but few at any time in my Military operations for there acts and no law humane or divine can justify punishment of the innocent citizen for the acts of a violator of Law. hence I ask there releace upon the score of justice and hope when you fully understand the character and offences of this man Arnold. a bad man in any country you will at once releace them

Official Copy
A L Wellman
A A Post

Very Respectfully
N B Forrest Big Genl
Comdg Confed. forces West Tenn