

War Department,

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,

Washington, September 16, 1866

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE PAYMENT OF BOUNTIES UNDER THE ACT TO EQUALIZE BOUNTIES, APPROVED JULY 28, 1866.

1. All applications shall be filed within the period of six months from the 1st day of October, 1866, and before any payments are made, shall be classified by regiments, battalions, or other separate organizations; and no application filed after that period shall be settled until the first payment has been made.
2. No application shall be entertained unless accompanied by the original discharge of the soldier and the affidavit required by the 14th section of the act, and the further affidavit that he has not received, nor is he entitled to receive, from the United States, under any laws or regulations prior to the act of July 28, 1866, more than \$100 bounty, for any and all military service rendered by him during the late rebellion, over and above the amount therein claimed.
3. All applications for the additional bounty authorized by this act from surviving soldiers shall be in the form hereinafter prescribed, and the evidence of identity shall be the same as is now required; and applications from the heirs of deceased soldiers shall be in the form now required by the Treasury Department.
4. As soon as the examination of the claims of any regiment, or other independent organization, shall have been properly acted upon, the Paymaster General shall take the necessary steps for their prompt payment.
5. A register shall be kept in the Paymaster General's Office, and also in the Office of the Second Auditor, of all claims presented under the law, in which the claimants will be classified by regiments, &c. If the claims be allowed, the amount of bounty paid to each; if rejected, the cause of rejection.
6. In the applications for bounty, as required by the act, there shall be stated, in each and every period of service rendered by the claimant, and also that he never served otherwise than as therein stated.
7. Organizations irregularly in the service of the United States, or called out for special purposes, as State Militia, Home Guards, &c., and not included in the general bounty laws, are not included within the meaning of the act.
8. Soldiers enlisted for "three years or during the war," who were discharged by reason of the termination of the war, shall be considered as having served out the period of their enlistment, and are entitled to bounty under this act.
9. The minority of heirs, claimants for bounty under this act, must be proven to have existed at the date of its passage. Parents shall receive *jointly* the bounty to which they may be entitled as heirs, unless the father has abandoned the support of his family, in which case it shall

be paid to the mother. Non-residence in the United States shall not be a bar to the claims of heirs who would otherwise legally inherit.

The provisions of the act exclude from its benefits the following classes:

1. Those who, after serving the full period of their enlistment, were dishonorably discharged at its expiration.
2. Those discharged during enlistment by way of favor or punishment.
3. Those discharged on account of disability contracted in the service, but not occasioned by wounds received "in the line of duty," who shall not have previously served two or three years, respectively, at the time of discharge.
4. Those discharged on account of disability existing at the time of their enlistment.
5. The heirs of those who have died, since their discharge, of wounds or disease not contracted in the service and in the line of duty.
6. The surviving soldiers and heirs of deceased soldiers who, under previous laws, have received or are entitled to receive a bounty of more than \$100 from the United States.
7. The surviving soldiers, as well as the heirs of deceased soldiers, when such soldiers have bartered, sold, assigned, loaned, transferred, exchanged, or given away their final discharge papers, or any interest in the bounty provided by this or any other act of Congress.
8. The act of the 28th of July, 1866, creates no right of inheritance beyond those vested by the law under which these heirs received or were entitled to receive the original bounty, and debars certain classes—brothers and sisters of heirs that were entitled to receive the original bounty—from any claim for the additional bounty provided by this act.

Respectfully referred to the Attorney General for his opinion on the point whether the Rules and Regulations, as within amended, are in conformity with law.

SEPTEMBER 14, 1866.

EDWIN M STANTON,
Secretary of War.

I have examined these amended Regulations, and am of opinion they are in conformity with law.

SEPTEMBER 15, 1866.

HENRY STANBERRY,
Attorney General.

The foregoing Rules and Regulations are published for the information and guidance of all concerned.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.

[FORM No. 17.]

War Department,

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,

Washington, September 10, 1866

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5. A register shall be kept in the Paymaster General's Office, and also in the Office of the Second Auditor, of all claims presented under the law, in which the claimants will be classified by regiments, &c. If the claims be allowed, the amount of bounty paid to each will be noted; and if rejected, the cause of rejection will be distinctly stated.
6. In the applications for bounty, as required by the 3d of these rules, the affidavit shall state each and every period of service rendered by the claimant, and also that he never served otherwise than as therein stated.
7. Organizations irregularly in the service of the United States, or called out for special purposes, as State Militia, Home Guards, &c., and not included in the general bounty laws, are not included within the meaning of the act.
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