

Orders Fort Dodge Kansas
May 8th 1864

Special Order
No. 56

Pursuant to S. O. No. 15 dated St. Louis Dist. Upper
Arkansas in the Field. Camp near Fort Dodge Kansas - April 26th 1864
providing for the protection of the Southern Overland Mail Line between
Kansas Kas. and Fort Lyon C. T., the following regulations are publish-
ed for the government of all concerned.

I. The following stations between Fort Larned
Kansas and Fort Lyon C. T. will be supplied each with a Non-Commissioned
Officer & nine men - viz. Big Boon, Cimmaron Crossing, Bluff Ranch, Fort
Aubrey, Prathy Encampment and Sand Creek. The detail at Big Boon
and the escorts relieving it, will be made from Co. G 37th U. S. Infantry
stationed at Fort Larned Kas. Company I 37th U. S. Infantry at Fort
Dodge Kas. will furnish the details for Cimmaron Crossing, Bluff Ranch
& Fort Aubrey. Sand Creek, Prathy Encampment & Fort Aubrey
will be provided with details by Co. G 37th U. S. Infantry, stationed at Ft.
Lyon C. T.

II. The method to be adopted in escorting stages
is as follows. The stage leaving Fort Larned will be escorted by a non-
commissioned officer & nine men as far as Big Boon. The detail already
stationed there will escort the coach to Fort Dodge, leaving the 1st escort
at Big Boon. At Fort Dodge the returning coach will be escorted back
to Big Boon by the same escort with which the eastern coach arrived at
Fort Dodge, and the 1st escort will be relieved in order to proceed with
coach to Larned.

III. The escorts will be conveyed in six mule wagons
and will invariably move in advance of the stage, and the rate of travel must
not exceed four miles per hour. Within this limit the rate of travel must
conform to the condition of the government stock, for which the Non. Com-
missioned Officer commanding escort will be held responsible. Post Quartermasters at the
respective Posts will furnish transportation.

IV. The Non Commissioned Officers in charge of
escorts will be held strictly responsible for the good conduct of their men.
Squads & Messengers belonging to the Companies will report any improper
conduct on the part of the escort.

V. The Non Commissioned Officer in charge of
parties at the stations will be held responsible for the discipline & good
conduct of the men, and the proper care and maintenance of Govt.
Stock, and will guard vigilantly all public property at the stations. He will
establish his guards, so as to prevent being surprised by Indians, and will
report to these Head Quarters all violations of this order, by owners of stations
their employes, or any other Citizens to whom this order applies.

