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Documents on Prisoners of War

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## DOCUMENT NO. 24

**GENEVA CONVENTION FOR THE AMELIORATION OF THE CON-  
DITION OF THE WOUNDED IN ARMIES IN THE FIELD  
(22 August 1864)**

## SOURCES

22 Stat. 940  
1 Bevans 7  
55 BFSP 43  
1 AJIL Supp. 90  
129 Parry 361

## NOTE

This was the first of the series of humanitarian conventions drafted in Geneva. It has been superseded by its counterparts of 1906 (DOCUMENT NO. 32), 1929 (DOCUMENT NO. 48), and 1949 (DOCUMENT NO. 106). It and its successors are the true "Red Cross" Conventions, although this term in sometimes improperly used to include the other humanitarian conventions which had their origin in Geneva.

## EXTRACT

ART. VI. Wounded or sick soldiers shall be entertained and taken care of, to whatever nation they may belong.

Commanders-in-Chief shall have the power to deliver immediately to the outposts of the enemy soldiers who have been wounded in an engagement, when circumstances permit this to be done, and with the consent of both parties.

Those who are recognized, after their wounds are healed, as incapable of serving, shall be sent back to their country.

The others may also be sent back, on condition of not again bearing arms during the continuance of the war.

Evacuations, together with the persons under whose directions they take place, shall be protected by an absolute neutrality.