

S U P P L E M E N T  
TO  
GENERAL ORDERS.

SEPARATE No. 35 OF 1842.

BY THE HONORABLE THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL.  
BOMBAY CASTLE, 27th JULY 1842.

The Hon'ble the Governor in Council is pleased to publish the following Compilation of all existing orders under the head "Deserters:"

*By order of the Hon'ble the Governor in Council,*

P. M. MELVILL, Lieut. Col.

*Secy. to Govt.*



## DESERTERS.



- I. If any Man deserts, and afterwards returns, and is re-admitted into the Service, he shall forfeit the time he has served before his Desertion, and shall contract anew without receiving any Bounty. G. O. 6th  
Dec. 1768.
- II. All Deserters from the Hon'ble Company's Service, who may hereafter voluntarily surrender themselves, and obtain pardon, are agreeably to the rules of the Service, to forfeit all arrears of Pay, &c. that may be due to them. G. O. 22d  
Apr. 1786.
- III. Desertion shall deprive a Soldier of all title to increased allowance from the antecedent Service. G. O. 23d  
Apr. 1808.
- IV. A Description Roll of all European Deserters shall be in future furnished to the Superintendent of the Indian Navy, as well as to the Town Major, by Commanding Officers of Regiments to which they may belong. G. O. C. 5th  
Dec. 1820.
- V. A reward of 10 Rupees is granted for the apprehending of every European Deserter, and to be drawn upon indent on the Paymasters, signed by the Town Major at the Presidency, by the Fort Adjutant at Subordinate Garrisons, and by the Senior Staff Officer, in the Field or Cantonments. G. O. 2d  
Aug. 1793.
- VI. The Commander in Chief having received information that it has become a frequent practice for Sepoys to desert from one Corps and enlist into another, he directs that such pernicious and unprincipled conduct, when detected, shall be punished with the utmost severity. Commanding Officers will exert themselves to put an end to this evil, and be careful in not receiving any Recruit who may offer, without a strict and previous inquiry, to ascertain his former mode of life, and discover whether he may have served before as a Sepoy. The habits which Soldiers soon acquire, are so strong and peculiar, that a Man may be easily detected who has been but a short time in the Service. No Sepoy who may be found in this predicament, is on any account to be harboured, or to receive the least countenance; on the contrary, whenever any Person is suspected, he is to be taken up and sent Prisoner to Head Quarters. G. O. C. 12th  
June 1793.
- VII. The Commanding Officers of Corps are to give every assistance in detecting culprits of this nature, and it is positively directed, that no Officer Commanding a Corps or Station shall refuse admittance to any Party that may be sent from another Corps to look after Deserters, either in their Barracks or on their parade of exercise; such Party carrying a written requisition from their Officer, expressive of the Mission on which they are employed. After producing this testimony, and acquainting the Commanding Officer with the information they have received, they are to have full permission to inspect and search in the best and most likely manner to ensure detection.
- VIII. It appearing that much abuse has arisen from that part of the Recruiting Regulations which grants a Reward to those who bring Recruits to the Service of Two Rupees for every approved Grenadier, and One Rupee for every Battalion Man, thus holding out to the designing, a temptation to encourage Desertion and re-enlist in other Corps, a circumstance which frequently occurs from the supposed difficulty of detection, and the expense of Bounty and Reward becomes accordingly multiplied; the Governor in Council therefore abolishes those Regulations, so far as relates to Reward; and in order to give as effectual a check as possible to the Desertions, he is pleased to substitute one of Four Rupees for the apprehension of every Native Deserter, to be paid on conviction before a Court-Martial, by indent from the Adjutant on the Paymaster, countersigned by the Commanding Officer, specifying the name of the Deserter and the Person by whom he is apprehended. G. G. O. 24th  
Aug. 1800.
- IX. When Deserters are sent by land from one Station to another, to join their Corps, the usual Subsistence shall not be given into their possession, but to the Non-Commissioned Officer of the Escort, who will regularly subsist the Deserters so long as they shall continue under his charge. G. O. C. 8th  
July 1814.
- X. Subsistence to European and Native Deserters, instead of eighty and forty reas per diem, to be three annas four pias and one anna eight pias. G. G. O. 10th  
Sep. 1834.
- XI. Many instances of Desertion having occurred among the European Troops in the Garrison of Bombay, from the facility afforded of communicating with the numerous Shipping in the Harbour; the Governor in Council is pleased to notify, that a Reward of Ten Rupees will be given to any Person or Persons who may detect and produce at the Town Major's Office, any European Soldier who may be proved to the satisfaction of the Commanding Officer of his Corps, to have deserted or attempted to desert from the Garrison. G. G. O. 11th  
June 1829.
- XII. The Owners or Crews of all Boats plying at the different Bunders are hereby prohibited, on pain of legal Prosecution from receiving on board their Boats and conveying to the Shipping in the Harbour, any European Soldier, without such Soldier producing his Passport.
- XIII. Any Soldier who shall be found guilty of Desertion by a General, District, or Garrison Court Martial where such Finding shall be duly approved, or of Felony by a General Court-Martial, or in any Court of Civil Judicature—shall thereupon forfeit all advantage as to additional Pay and to Pension on Discharge in addition to any punishment which may be awarded;—and moreover, in case of his being found guilty of Desertion as aforesaid, shall forfeit his Pay for the Days on which he shall have been absent by such Desertion. Mutiny Act  
of 1841, page 6,  
Article 36, Ho-  
norable Compa-  
ny's Troops.



ABSENCE WITHOUT LEAVE.

Mutiny Act,  
Hon'ble Com-  
pany's Troops,  
Sec. 33.

XIV. The Governor General in Council and the Governor in Council at the several Presidencies may give Orders for withholding the pay of any Officer or Soldier for any period during which such Officer or Soldier shall be absent without leave.

Ditto Sec. 35.

XV. If any Soldier shall absent himself without leave for any period not exceeding five days; and shall not account for the same to the satisfaction of the Commanding Officer, the Commanding Officer may (if he shall think fit) order and direct that, in addition to such other punishment as he has authority to inflict, such Soldier shall also suffer forfeiture of his Pay for the day or days in which he has absented himself, and thereupon such pay shall be forfeited—and the Soldier shall not be afterwards liable to be tried by a Court Martial for the said offence. But the Soldier who shall be so ordered to forfeit his pay shall have a right to insist on being tried by a Court-Martial for his offence instead of submitting to such forfeiture.

XVI. When any Officer, Non-Commissioned Officer or Sepoy shall absent himself without leave, or over-stay the period for which leave of absence may have been granted him, all his Military Pay and Allowances shall be withheld until a satisfactory explanation shall have been given, and he shall further be liable to such additional punishment as upon conviction thereof before a Court Martial shall be awarded.

G. G. O. 19th  
June 1817.

XVII. Every Native Non-Commissioned Officer and Private, who may obtain a Furlough, and shall exceed the same, is to be nevertheless continued upon the strength of his Corps for a period of one month from the date of the expiration of the Furlough, and be returned accordingly, as "Absent without Leave," during which time, should he rejoin of his own accord, it shall be at the discretion of the Commanding Officer to bring him to trial for "Absenting himself without Leave," but the Native Soldier who may overstay his Furlough for a period not exceeding one month, shall not be considered liable to forfeiture of Pay, Clothing, and former Service, nor until he shall have been actually struck off the strength of his Corps; after which, should he rejoin, or be apprehended, he will of course be returned as "Received from Desertion," and liable to be tried and punished for the offence by the sentence of a Court Martial. But even after he has been made a Casualty, if he rejoin of his own accord, and give a sufficient reason for having exceeded his Leave of Absence, to the satisfaction of a Court Martial, he may in this case also have his Arrears of Pay, Clothing, and Service restored to him, without any loss or abridgement whatever, by application from his Commanding Officer through the regular channel to Government.

*Money paid for passage by Sea of Deserters, European and Native, is chargeable to the Company. Military Auditor General's Letter 14th December 1810.*