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Private John Brown joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> (Warwickshire) Regiment from his hometown of Tamworth in Warwickshire. His Paybook gives a fascinating insight into the official advice given to soldiers relating to their Conditions of Service and punishment at that time. The following are extracts from this document, unabridged, by courtesy of Ian Knight.

#### DEFERRED PAY

Soldiers serving in the Army beyond six years. Portion of the above first 6 years subsequent to 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1876, and carrying Deferred Pay in accordance with the Royal Warrant of 1st April, 1876 (Clause 72, Army Circulars, 1876).

In British payment, at 2d a day.

In Indian payment, at 2d a day.

Simple interest at 2l. 10s per cent. Per annum will be allowed on the above sums until the date of the Soldier's discharge. (1l = £1 - Ed)

#### ARTICLES OF WAR

##### OBEDIENCE IS THE FIRST DUTY OF A SOLDIER

**For the following Offences the Articles of War inflict on the Soldier the penalty of *Death, Penal Servitude, or such other punishment as a Court-Martial may award;***

Mutiny, Desertion, Cowardice, Holding Correspondence with the Enemy, Quitting his post in search of Plunder, Personal violence to a Superior, or disobedience of his Lawful Commands. Forcing a Safe Guard. Betraying the Watchword, Giving false Alarms, Casting away Arms or Ammunition, Sleeping on or quitting his Post.

A Soldier, if convicted of desertion or felony, forfeits his claim to reckon his previous service towards Good Conduct Pay while serving and to Pension on Discharge.

**For the following Offences a Soldier is liable to be punished by Imprisonment, with or without Hard Labour, and by Solitary Confinement during a portion of such Imprisonment, and in addition to any other Punishment, by Forfeiture of Additional Pay whilst serving, and of all claim to Pension on Discharge.**

Using traitorous words against the Queen or Royal Family.  
Persuading to Desert, or harbouring a deserter.  
Being Drunk on Duty.  
Breaking Arrest.  
Giving a different Watchword.  
Spreading false reports in the Field.  
In Action, or previous to action, using words tending to create Alarm.  
Quitting Ranks without Leave.  
Being made Prisoner by neglect.  
Seizing Supplies.  
Disgraceful and vicious Conduct.  
Refusing Assistance to, or impeding, the Provost Marshal.  
Embezzling or misapplying Money or Stores.

**For the following Offences, a Soldier is to be punished according to the nature and degree of the offence.**

Speaking to the hurt or dishonour of the general or other Commander-in-Chief of the Forces.  
Neglect of Orders on Duty.  
Hiring another person to do his Duty without Authority.  
Absence from Parade.  
Giving false Alarms at home by discharging Firearms, &c.

Lying out of Quarters.  
Being found One Mile from Camp without leave.  
Permitting Baggage Waggons or Carriages to be overloaded.  
Selling, losing, or spoiling his Arms, Accoutrements, or necessaries.  
Selling, losing, or ill-treating his horse.  
Committing waste, or destroying property.  
Non-commissioned Officer striking or ill-treating a Soldier.  
Vexatious appeal from a Regimental Court-martial.

A Soldier absenting himself without leave, or placed in confinement for a period not exceeding seven days, though not brought by his Commanding Officer to a Court-martial for the Offence, nevertheless forfeits his Pay for the period of such absence or confinement.

Any Non-commissioned Officer, or Soldier, convicted of embezzling or mis-applying Money entrusted to him, is to be put on stoppages till the Money is made good.

A Soldier convicted of malingering, of feigning or producing disease, of injuring his health by vice or intemperance, of absenting himself from Hospital whilst under medical treatment, or of a gross violation of the rules of the Hospital, may be tried for Disgraceful conduct, and shall be subjected to the pains and penalties attached to that offence; and a soldier convicted of disgraceful Conduct, if sentenced to forfeit all Claim to Pension, will further be liable to be discharged with ignominy.

A Soldier who shall become maimed or mutilated by the firing off of his musket, or by any other means, is to be tried by Court-martial, and if it be found by the Court that the maiming or mutilation was the effect of design, he shall not be discharged, but shall be employed on military work. If a Soldier tamper with his eyes, or by vice, intemperance, or misconduct, shall cause the total or partial loss of his sight, he shall not be entitled to his discharge, or to a pension, but shall be detained in an Eye Infirmary.

All Crimes not Capital, and all Disorders and neglects, which soldiers may be guilty of to the prejudice of Military Discipline, though not specified in the Articles of War, are to be taken cognisance of by Courts-martial, and punished according to the nature and degree of the offence.

But Soldiers who by conviction of Desertion or of felony have forfeited their claim to reckon Service for Good Conduct Pay, Honorary Marks of Distinction, and Pensions, may, after a long course of subsequent good conduct, be recommended by their Commanding Officer for the restoration of such claim.

#### COMPLAINTS.

When a Soldier has a complaint to make, he should appeal to the Captain of his Company; his tone and manner should be temperate and respectful; and he should be accompanied by a Non-commissioned Officer, if possible, of his own Company. No Soldier, on any account, is to presume to make a complaint to his Officer for another Soldier, who conceives he is aggrieved; and not more than two Soldiers should approach the Officer to make a complaint at one and the same time.

#### MARRIAGE.

A Soldier must not marry without first obtaining his Commanding Officer's written sanction, otherwise he can never have any claim to be borne on the married establishment of his Corps.

A large proportion of Staff and regimental Serjeants is allowed on the married roll, also 4 per cent. Of the Trumpeters, Drummers, and Rank and File who have completed Seven Years' Service and are in possession of at least one good conduct badge. When a regiment goes to India, the proportion of married men permitted to embark is increased.