



# Army Act 1955

## CHAPTER 18

### ARMY ACT 1955

#### PART I

##### ENLISTMENT AND TERMS OF SERVICE

###### *Enlistment*

- 1 Recruiting officers.
- 2 Enlistment.

###### *Appointment to corps and transfer from one corps to another*

- 3 Enlistment for general or corps service and appointment to and transfer between corps.
- 4—7 .....

###### *Extension of service*

- 8 .....
- 9 Postponement in certain cases of discharge or transfer to the reserve.
- 10 (1) If it appears to Her Majesty that national danger...

###### *Discharge and transfer to reserve*

- 11 Discharge.
- 12 Transfer to the reserve.
- 13 Postponement of discharge or transfer pending proceedings for offences.
- 14 .....
- 15 Right of warrant officer to discharge on reduction to ranks.
- 16 .....

*Status: Point in time view as at 21/07/2008.*

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*Miscellaneous and supplementary provisions*

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- 18 Validity of attestation and enlistment.
- 19 False answers in attestation paper.
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- 21 Service of aliens in regular forces.
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- 23 Interpretation of Part I.

**PART II**

DISCIPLINE AND TRIAL AND PUNISHMENT OF MILITARY OFFENCES

*Misconduct in action and other offences arising out of military service*

- 24 Misconduct in action.
- 25 Assisting the enemy.
- 26 Obstructing operations, giving false air signals, etc.
- 27 Prize offences by commanding officers.
- 28 Other prize offences.
- 29 Offences by or in relation to sentries, persons on watch, etc.
- 29A Failure to attend for duty, neglect of duty, etc.
- 30 Looting.

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- 31 Mutiny.
- 32 Failure to suppress mutiny.
- 33 Insubordinate behaviour.
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- 36 Disobedience to standing orders.

*Desertion, absence without leave, etc.*

- 37 Desertion.
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- 39 Failure to report or apprehend deserters or absentees.
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*Malingering and drunkenness*

- 42 Malingering.
- 43 Drunkenness.

*Disorderly conduct*

- 43A Fighting, threatening words, etc.

*Offences relating to property*

- 44 Damage to, and loss of, public or service property, etc.
- 44A Damage to, and loss of, Her Majesty's aircraft or aircraft material.
- 44B Interference etc. with equipment, messages or signals.

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- 45 Misapplication and waste of public or service property.
- 46 Offences relating to issues and decorations.

*Offences relating to billeting and requisitioning of vehicles*

- 47 Billeting Offences.
- 48 Offences in relation to requisitioning of vehicles.

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- 49 Dangerous flying, etc.
- 50 Inaccurate certification.
- 51 Low flying.
- 52 Annoyance by flying.

*Offences relating to, and by, persons in custody*

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- 54 Permitting escape, and unlawful release of prisoners.
- 55 Resistance to arrest.
- 56 Escape from confinement.

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- 61 Making of false statements on enlistment.
- 62 Making of false documents.
- 63 Offences against civilian population.
- 63A Offences against morale.
- 64 Scandalous conduct by officers.
- 65 Ill-treatment of officers or men of inferior rank.
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- 70 Civil offences.

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- 146 Where a person sentenced or ordered by a civil court...
- 147 Compensation for loss occasioned by wrongful act or negligence.
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- 149 Remission of forfeitures and deductions.
- 150 Enforcement of maintenance and affiliation orders by deduction from pay.
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- 150AA Enforcement of maintenance assessment by deductions from pay.
- 151 Deductions from pay for maintenance of wife or child.
- 151A Deductions from pay in respect of judgment debts etc.
- 152 Limit of deductions under ss. 150 and 151 and effect on forfeiture.
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## **PART IV**

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- 157 Billeting schemes.
- 158 Accommodation to be provided and payment therefor.
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- 160 Compensation for damage.
- 161 Refusal to receive persons billeted, etc.
- 162 Application to civilians employed with the forces.
- 163 Local authority.
- 164 Suspension of laws against billeting.

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- 166 Provision of vehicles.
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- 169 Avoidance of hardship in requisitioning of vehicles.
- 170 Record and inspection of mechanically-propelled vehicles.
- 171 Enforcement of provisions as to requisitioning.
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## **PART V**

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- 179 Attachment of members of military forces to naval or air forces.

#### *Redress of complaints*

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*Exemptions for members of regular forces*

- 182 Officers on active list not to be sheriffs.
- 183 .....
- 184 Exemptions from tolls, etc.
- 185 Exemption from taking in execution of property used for military purposes.

*Provisions relating to deserters and absentees without leave*

- 186 Arrest of deserters and absentees without leave.
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- 188 Deserters and absentees without leave surrendering to police.
- 189 Certificates of arrest or surrender of deserters and absentees.
- 190 Duties of governors of prisons and others to receive deserters and absentees.

*Further powers of arrest of civil authorities*

- 190A Arrest under warrants of commanding officers.
- 190B Arrest of persons unlawfully at large.

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- 201 Restrictions on reduction in rank of warrant officers and non-commissioned officers.
- 202 Temporary reception in civil custody of persons under escort.
- 203 Avoidance of assignment of or charge on military pay, pensions, etc.
- 204 Power of certain officers to take affidavits and declarations.
- 204A Exclusion of enactments requiring fiat of Attorney General etc., in connection with proceedings.

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## APPLICATION OF ACT AND SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS

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- 205 Persons subject to military law: general provisions.
- 206 Persons subject to military law: Commonwealth forces.
- 207 Persons subject to military law: Colonial forces.
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- 209 Application of Act to civilians.

*Application of Act to particular corps and forces*

- 210 Provisions as to Royal Marines.
- 211 Application of Act to reserve and auxiliary forces.
- 212 Provisions as to Home Guard.
- 213 Modification of certain provisions in relation to women.

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- 214 Application to Scotland.
- 215 Application to Northern Ireland.
- 216 Application to Channel Islands and Isle of Man.
- 217 Application to certain overseas territories.
- 218 .....
- 219 .....

*Supplemental provisions*

- 220 Jurisdiction of courts.
- 221 .....
- 222 Provisions as to summary fines in Colonies.
- 223 Execution of orders, instruments, etc.
- 224 Provisions as to active service.
- 225 General provisions as to interpretation.
- 226 Short title, commencement and duration.

**SCHEDULES****FIRST SCHEDULE — Procedure for Attestation**

- 1 The recruiting officer shall warn the person to be enlisted...
- 2 He shall then read, or cause to be read, to...
- 3 He shall then ask that person to make and sign...
- 4 Upon signing the declaration and taking the oath the said...
- 5 The recruiting officer shall by signature attest, in the manner...
- 6 When in accordance with such regulations the recruit is finally...

**SECOND — . . .  
SCHEDULE**

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THIRD SCHEDULE — Alternative offences of which accused may be convicted by court-martial

FOURTH SCHEDULE — Supplementary Provisions as to Payment for Requisitioned Vehicles

- 1 (1) Subject to the provisions of this Schedule, any payment...
- 2 (1) As soon as may be after the furnishing of...
- 3 (1) A person to whom a receipt or notice under...
- 4 (1) Subject to the provisions of the last foregoing paragraph...
- 5 The instructions of the Defence Council referred to in paragraph...
- 6 In the foregoing provisions of this Schedule the expression “damage”...
- 7 Nothing in the foregoing provisions of this Schedule shall apply...
- 8 A county court shall have jurisdiction to deal with any...

FIFTH SCHEDULE — Civilians outside the United Kingdom subject to Part II when not on Active Service

- 1 Persons serving Her Majesty, or otherwise employed, in such capacities...
- 2 Persons who are employed by, or in the service of,...
- 3 Persons belonging to or employed by any other organisation so...
- 4 Persons who, for the purposes of their profession, business or...
- 5 Persons forming part of the family of members of any...
- 6 Persons forming part of the family of persons falling within...
- 7 Persons employed by members of any of Her Majesty’s naval,...
- 8 Persons employed by persons falling within paragraphs 1 to 6...
- 9 Persons forming part of the family of persons falling within...

SCHEDULE 5A — Powers of Court on Trial of Civilian

*General*

- 1 The powers conferred by this Schedule shall be exercisable on...
- 2 (1) In this Schedule— “community supervision order” has the meaning...

*Deferment of award of sentence*

- 2A (1) Subject to the provisions of this paragraph, where a...

*Absolute and conditional discharge*

- 3 (1) The court by which a civilian is found guilty...

*Community supervision orders*

- 4 (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (4) below, where a civilian ....

*Absolute and conditional discharge and community supervision orders—supplementary*

- 5 (1) If upon finding a person guilty of an offence...

*Reception orders and committal into care—general*

- 6 .....

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*Committal into care—England and Wales*

7 .....

*Committal into care—transfer to Scotland*

8 .....

*Committal into care—transfer to Northern Ireland*

9 .....

*Custodial orders*

10 (1) Where a civilian who has attained the minimum age...

*Compensation orders*

11 (1) The court, on finding a civilian guilty of an...  
12 (1) The operation of a compensation order made by a...

*Imposition of fines on and making of compensation orders against parents and guardians*

13 (1) Where— (a) a civilian under 17 years of age...

*Orders requiring parents or guardians to enter into recognisance*

14 (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2) below, where a civilian under...

*Scale of punishments and orders*

15 (1) In their application to civilians, references in this Act...

*Indemnity for persons carrying out orders under Schedule*

16 No action shall lie in respect of anything done by...

*Regulations*

17 (1) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision...

SIXTH SCHEDULE — Application of Military Law to attached Members of Naval and Air Forces

- 1 (1) As respects the punishment of a person subject to...
- 2 For the purposes of the provisions of this Act relating...
- 3, 4 .....
- 5 In proceedings under this Act against a person subject to...
- 6 In the application of this Act to a person subject...
- 7 In relation to a person subject to military law as...
- 8 In the application of sections one hundred and forty-four and...
- 9 Sections one hundred and fifty to one hundred and fifty-two...
- 10 In this Schedule— (a) references to a person’s own service...

SEVENTH — Provisions as to Royal Marines  
SCHEDULE

Part I — ENLISTMENT, SERVICE AND DISCHARGE

- 1 The provisions of the six following paragraphs shall have effect...
- 2, 3 .....

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- 4 (1) The provisions of this and the two next following...
- 4A (1) This paragraph applies to a marine serving in the...
- 4B (1) If it appears to Her Majesty that national danger...
- 5 (1) The following provisions shall have effect as to the...
- 5A . . . . .
- 6 Subsections (1) and (2) of section three, . . . . .
- 7 Section eighteen shall have effect, in relation to men of...
- 8 . . . . .
- 9 . . . . .
- 10 In this Part of this Schedule references to a marine...
- 10A Subsection (2) of section 22 applies to the powers to...
- Part II — MISCELLANEOUS ADAPTATIONS
- 11 . . . . .
- 12, 12A . . . . .
- 13—15 . . . . .
- 16 In the provisions of this Act relating to confessions of...
- 17 . . . . .
- 18 In the provisions of this Act relating to forfeitures of...
- 19 Except to the extent that they are applied by paragraph...
- 20, 21 . . . . .
- 22 In this Act the expression “the regular forces” does not...
- Part III — TRANSFERS
- 23 A warrant officer non-commissioned officer or marine of the Royal...
- 24 Where a person is in pursuance of the last foregoing...

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