



Army Act 1955 (repealed)

1955 CHAPTER 18 3 and 4 Eliz 2

PART II

DISCIPLINE AND TRIAL AND PUNISHMENT OF MILITARY OFFENCES

Execution of sentences of death, imprisonment and detention

Textual Amendments applied to the whole legislation

- F1** Act: the provisions of the 1955 Acts providing for findings of courts-martial to be subject to confirmation and to revision at the direction of the confirming officer cease to have effect (1.4.1997 subject to art. 3 of the commencing S.I.) by virtue of 1996 c. 46, s. 15; S.I. 1997/304, arts. 2, 3, **Sch. 2**

F1 121

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 121 repealed (11.5.2001) by 2001 c. 19, s. 38, **Sch. 7 Pt. 4**

122 Imprisonment and Detention Rules.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Secretary of State may make rules (in ^{F2} . . . this Act referred to as Imprisonment and Detention Rules) with respect to all or any of the following matters, that is to say—
- (a) the places in which and the establishments or forms of custody (whether military or not) in which persons may be required to serve the whole or any part of military sentences of imprisonment and detention passed on them;
 - (b) the committal of persons under military sentences of imprisonment or detention to the appropriate establishment or form of custody, their removal from one country or place to another and from one establishment or form of

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- custody to another and their release on the coming to an end of any term of imprisonment or detention;
- (c) the provision, classification, regulation and management of military establishments;
 - (d) the classification, treatment, employment, discipline and control of persons serving military sentences of imprisonment or detention in military establishments or otherwise in military custody;
 - (e) the temporary release on compassionate grounds of persons serving such sentences in such establishments or custody as aforesaid, the cases in which, periods for which and conditions subject to which they may be allowed out of any such establishment or custody and the remission of part of any such sentence^{F3} . . .;
 - (f) the appointment, powers and duties of inspectors, visitors and governors, and of officers and other members of the staff, of military establishments.
- (2) Imprisonment and Detention Rules shall not authorise the infliction of corporal punishment.
 - (3) Imprisonment and Detention Rules may apply with the necessary modifications all or any of the provisions of sections thirty-nine to forty-two of the^{M1} Prison Act 1952 (which relate to offences by persons other than prisoners).
 - (4) Imprisonment and Detention Rules may, to such extent as may be provided by the Rules, be made so as to apply to persons detained in military establishments while serving sentences of imprisonment or detention awarded under [^{F4}the^{M2} Naval Discipline Act 1957] or the^{M3} Air Force Act, 1955, notwithstanding that such persons are not for the time being subject to military law.
 - (5) The Secretary of State may as respects any area in which persons subject to military law are on active service delegate his power to make Imprisonment and Detention Rules to the officer commanding the command within which those persons are serving, subject to such restrictions, reservations, exceptions and conditions as the Secretary of State may think fit.

Textual Amendments

- F2** Words in s. 122(1) repealed (1.1.1992) by [Armed Forces Act 1991 \(c. 62, SIF 7:1\), s. 26\(2\), Sch. 3; S.I. 1991/2719, art. 2, Sch.](#)
- F3** Words in s. 122(1)(e) repealed (1.10.1996 subject to art. 3 of the commencing S.I.) by [1996 c. 46, s. 35\(1\)\(2\), Sch. 6 para. 5, Sch. 7 Pt. III; S.I. 1996/2474, art. 2, Sch.](#)
- F4** Words substituted by virtue of [Naval Discipline Act 1957 \(c. 53\), s. 137\(2\)](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 122 amended by [Courts-Martial \(Appeals\) Act 1968 \(c. 20\), s. 52](#)
- C2** S. 122(3) amended (E.W.) by [Criminal Justice Act 1961 \(c. 39\), s. 22\(3\)](#)

Marginal Citations

- M1** [1952 c. 52.](#)
- M2** [1957 c. 53.](#)
- M3** [1955 c. 19.](#)

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123 Supplementary provisions relating to regulations and rules under ss. 121 & 122.

- (1) ^{F5}. . . Imprisonment and DetentionRules may contain such incidental and supplementary provisions as appear to the Secretary of State to berequisite for the purposes of the ^{F5}. . . rules.
- (2) Any such ^{F5}. . . rules as aforesaid made by the Secretary of State shall be made by statutoryinstrument which shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

Textual Amendments

F5 Words in s. 123(1)(2) repealed (11.5.2001) by 2001 c. 19, s. 38, **Sch. 7 Pt. 4**

124 Restrictions on serving of sentences of detention in prisons.

A person shall not be required to serve any part of a military sentence of detention in a military orcivil prison:

Provided that in such cases and subject to such conditions as may be specified by or underImprisonment and Detention Rules a person serving such a sentence may be temporarily detained in a militaryor civil prison for any period not exceeding seven days.

125 Special provisions as to civil prisons in the United Kingdom.

- (1) A person sentenced to ^{F6}. . . imprisonment and committed or transferred to a civil prison in pursuanceof^{F6}. . . Imprisonment and Detention Rulesshall while in that prison be confined and otherwise dealt with in the same manner as a person confinedtherein under a like sentence of a civil court.

^{F7}(2)

Textual Amendments

F6 Words in s. 125(1) repealed (11.5.2001) by 2001 c. 19, s. 38, **Sch. 7 Pt. 4**

F7 S. 125(2) repealed (11.5.2001) by 2001 c. 19, s. 38, **Sch. 7 Pt. 4**

126 Special provisions as to carrying out or serving of sentences outside the United Kingdom otherwise thanin military establishments.

- (1) A Secretary of State may from time to time make arrangements with the authorities of any country orterritory outside the United Kingdom whereby ^{F8}. . . military sentences of imprisonment or detention may in accordance withImprisonment and Detention Rules be served wholly or partly in [^{F9}establishments under the control of those authorities] .
- (2) The powers conferred on the Secretary of State by sections [^{F10}section one hundred and twenty-two of this Act.] shall extend to the making of such provision as appears to the Secretary of Stateneccessary or expedient for giving effect to any arrangements made under the last foregoing subsection.

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- (3) The said powers shall be so exercised as to secure that ^{F11} . . . no military sentence of imprisonment or detention shall be served, in an establishment in any country or territory outside the United Kingdom not being a military establishment, except in accordance with arrangements made as respects that country or territory.

Textual Amendments

F8 Words in s. 126(1) repealed (11.5.2001) by 2001 c. 19, ss. 34, 38, Sch. 6 Pt. 4 para. 18(2)(a), Sch. 7 Pt. 4

F9 Words in s. 126(1) substituted (11.5.2001) by 2001 c. 19, s. 34, Sch. 6 Pt. 4 para. 18(2)(b)

F10 Words in s. 126(2) substituted (11.5.2001) by 2001 c. 19, s. 34, Sch. 6 Pt. 4 para. 18(3)

F11 Words in s. 126(3) repealed (11.5.2001) by 2001 c. 19, ss. 34, 38, Sch. 6 Pt. 4 para. 18(2)(a), Sch. 7 Pt. 4

127 Country in which sentence of imprisonment or detention to be served.

- (1) A person who is serving a military sentence of imprisonment or detention in the United Kingdom may (in so far as may be specified by or under Imprisonment and Detention Rules) be removed out of the United Kingdom—
 - (a) to any colony in which he was enlisted; or
 - (b) to any place out of the United Kingdom where the corps or any part thereof to which for the time being he belongs is serving or is under orders to serve, but not to any other place.
- (2) Subject to the following provisions of this section, a person sentenced under this Act, by a court-martial held out of the United Kingdom, to imprisonment or detention for more than twelve months shall as soon as practicable ^{F12} . . . be removed to the United Kingdom.
- (3) The last foregoing subsection shall not apply in relation to any person belonging to a class of persons specified by or under Imprisonment and Detention Rules as persons whose removal to the United Kingdom would for reasons of climate, place of birth or place of enlistment or any other reason not be beneficial.
- (4) Where a person has been sentenced under this Act, by a court-martial held out of the United Kingdom, to imprisonment or detention for more than twelve months, the ^{F13} . . . reviewing authority may notwithstanding anything in subsection (2) of this section direct that he shall not be required to be removed to the United Kingdom until he has served such part of his sentence, not exceeding (in the case of a sentence of more than two years' imprisonment) two years, as may be specified in the direction; and in determining whether or not to exercise the powers conferred by this subsection a ^{F13} . . . reviewing authority shall have regard to any recommendation in that behalf made by the court-martial.
- ^{F14}(5)
- (6) Any direction given under this section, and the revocation of any such direction, shall be promulgated.
- (7) In ascertaining at any time for the purposes of this section the nature or length of a sentence regard shall be had to any commutation or remission of the sentence previously directed.

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Textual Amendments

- F12** Words in s. 127(2) repealed (1.1.1992) by [Armed Forces Act 1991 \(c. 62, SIF 7:1\)](#), s. 26(1)(2), [Sch. 2 para. 1](#), [Sch. 3](#); [S.I. 1991/2719](#), art. 2, [Sch.](#)
- F13** Words in s. 127(4) repealed (1.4.1997 subject to art. 3 of the commencing S.I.) by [1996 c. 46](#), s. 35(2), [Sch. 7 Pt. II](#); [S.I. 1997/304](#), [arts. 2, 3](#) (with transitional provisions in [Sch. 2](#))
- F14** S. 127(5) repealed (1.4.1997 subject to art. 3 of the commencing S.I.) by [1996 c. 46](#), s. 35(2), [Sch. 7 Pt. II](#); [S.I. 1997/304](#), [arts. 2, 3](#) (with transitional provisions in [Sch. 2](#))

128 Application of enactments relating to coroners.

^{F15}(1)

(2) [^{F16}The Coroners Act 1887 to 1926][^{F16}The Coroners Act 1988] shall apply in relation to any premises in the United Kingdom under the control of the Secretary of State and allocated for the accommodation of persons sentenced by court-martial to imprisonment or detention as those Acts apply in relation to a prison.

Textual Amendments

- F15** S. 128(1) repealed (11.5.2001) by [2001 c. 19](#), s. 38, [Sch. 7 Pt. 4](#)
- F16** Words “The Coroners Act 1988” substituted (E.W.) for “The Coroners Acts 1887 to 1926” by [Coroners Act 1988 \(c. 13, SIF 33\)](#), s. 36(1), [Sch. 3 para. 6](#)

129 Duties of governors of prisons and others to receive prisoners.

- (1) It shall be the duty of the governor of a civil prison, or, in so far as ^{F17}. . . Imprisonment and Detention Rules so provide, of the superintendent or other person in charge of a prison (not being a military prison) in a colony, to receive any person duly sent to that prison in pursuance of the ^{F17}. . . rules and to confine him until ^{F17}. . . the prisoner is discharged or delivered over in due course of law.
- (2) Where a person is in military custody in pursuance of a military sentence of imprisonment or detention, then on receipt of a written order in that behalf purporting to be signed by that person’s commanding officer it shall be the duty of any such governor, superintendent or other person as aforesaid, of the police officer in charge of a police station or of any person in charge of any other place in which prisoners may be lawfully confined (whether the station or place is in the United Kingdom or in a colony) to keep that person in custody for a period not exceeding seven days unless the said person is earlier discharged or delivered over in due course of law.

Textual Amendments

- F17** Words in S. 129(1) repealed (11.5.2001) by [2001 c. 19](#), s. 38 [Sch. 7 Pt. 4](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C3** S. 129 extended by [Guyana Independence Act 1966 \(c. 14\)](#), s. 5(2)

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130 Application to air-force establishments and custody.

- (1) In section one hundred and eighteen of this Act, the reference in subsection (2) to a military establishment shall include a reference to an air-force establishment (within the meaning of the ^{M4}Air Force Act 1955).
- (2) In section one hundred and nineteen of this Act references to a military establishment and to Imprisonment and Detention Rules shall include respectively references to such an air-force establishment as aforesaid and to Imprisonment and Detention Rules made under the ^{M5}Air Force Act 1955, and the reference in subsection (5) to military custody shall include a reference to air-force custody.
- (3) In section one hundred and twenty-four of this Act the reference to a military prison shall include a reference to an air-force prison (within the meaning of the ^{M6}Air Force Act 1955).
- (4) In subsection (3) of section one hundred and twenty-six of this Act the reference to a military establishment shall include a reference to an air-force establishment (within the meaning of the ^{M7}Air Force Act 1955).

Marginal Citations

- M4** 1955c. 19.
M5 1955 c. 19.
M6 1955 c. 19.
M7 1955c. 19.

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