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## PROCLAMATION

FOR PARDONING DESERTERS FROM HIS MAJESTY'S  
REGULAR LAND FORCES.

*War-Office, June 18, 1817.*

**W**HEREAS it has been represented to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, that there are at this time several deserters from the different regular corps in His Majesty's land service, who might be induced to return to their duty by an offer of His Royal Highness's gracious pardon, and that such an instance of His Royal Highness's clemency might have a due influence upon their future behaviour, His Royal Highness has been graciously pleased, in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty, to grant His free pardon to all deserters from His Majesty's regular land forces, who, not having been previously apprehended, shall surrender themselves on or before the 18th day of August next, to the Commanding Officer of any regiment, or to any of the Inspecting Field Officers of the Recruiting Service, whose stations are mentioned in the margin hereof, or to the Commandant of Albany barracks, in the Isle of Wight, or to the Commandant of the cavalry barracks at Maidstone, or to any of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace in Great Britain.

*Leeds.*  
*Coventry.*  
*Liverpool.*  
*Bristol.*  
*London.*  
*Glasgow.*

Such deserters, if able-bodied men, and fit for service, shall be sent to the regiments from which they respectively deserted, or be appointed to such regiments in the United Kingdom as His Royal Highness may be pleased to command; and when so placed shall not be liable to be claimed by any other corps to which they may formerly have belonged.

And whereas many of the said deserters may have enlisted into other regular corps, and may now be serving therein, His Royal Highness is graciously pleased to extend to such deserters the benefit of this pardon, and to direct, that they shall continue to serve in the corps wherein they now are, upon declaring themselves to their respective Commanding Officers, on or before the said 18th day of August next, to be deserters; and, after having so

declared themselves, they shall not be liable, at any future time, to be claimed by the regiments from which they had formerly deserted.

The Magistrate to whom any deserter from His Majesty's regular forces shall surrender himself, is authorised and required to certify the day on which such deserter surrendered; which certificate is to be delivered to the deserter, to continue in force until the arrival of the deserter at the head-quarters of the nearest military post, provided he proceed at the rate of ten miles a day, unless prevented by sickness; such sickness to be certified by some medical practitioner, on the back of the Magistrate's certificate; or to be otherwise proved, to the satisfaction of the Officer commanding at such military post.

And His Royal Highness having further commanded, that the greatest exertions shall be used, for the future apprehension of all deserters, every soldier now serving ought to be deeply impressed with a sense of the danger to which he will expose himself if he should be guilty of the crime of desertion; and all those who have already committed that offence, ought to feel that they will render themselves liable to the severest punishment if they do not immediately avail themselves of the pardon held out in this His Royal Highness's most gracious Proclamation.

Any soldier who may desert after these His Royal Highness's gracious intentions are made public, shall not be included in the above pardon, but be proceeded against with the utmost severity.

By command of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty.  
PALMERSTON.

*Commissions signed by the Vice Lieutenant of the County of Berks.*

Sir Charles Saxton, Bart. to be Deputy Lieutenant. Dated August 13, 1816.  
Thomas Bowles, Esq. to be ditto. Dated as above.  
Thomas Duffield, Esq. to be ditto. Dated as above.