ANNO TRICESIMO QUARTO

Georgii III. Regis.

CAP. XXXI.

An Act for encouraging and diſciplining ſuch Corps or Companies of Men, as ſhall voluntarily inroll themſelves for the Defence of their Counties, Towns, or Coaſts, or for the General Defence of the Kingdom, during the preſent War.

[17th *April* 1794.]

Preamble.

WHEREAS the utmoſt Exertions are now requiſite for encreaſing the Military Force in this Kingdom: Be it therefore enacted by the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty, by and with the Advice and Conſent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this preſent Parliament aſſembled, and by the Authority of the ſame, That any Corps or Companies of Volunteers who now are, or ſhall hereafter be formed, in any Counties or Towns in *Great Britain*, during the Continuance of the preſent War, under Officers having Commiſſion from His Majeſty, or from the Lieutenants of Counties, or others who may be ſpecially authorized by His Majeſty for that Purpoſe, and who ſhall at any Time, on being called upon, by ſpecial Direction of His Majeſty, in caſe of actual Invaſion, or Appearance of Invaſion, voluntarily march out of their reſpective Counties or Towns, or ſhall voluntarily aſſemble within the ſame to repel ſuch Invaſion, or who ſhall voluntarily march on being called upon, in purſuance of an Order from His Majeſty, or from the Lord Lieutenant or Sheriff of the County, to act within the County or the adjacent Counties, for the Suppreſſion of Riots or Tumults, ſhall in ſuch Caſes be entitled to receive Pay in ſuch Manner, and at ſuch Rates, as the Officers and Soldiers of His Majeſty's Regular Forces do now receive; and ſhall, during the Time of their being continued in ſuch Service, and ſo receiving Pay as above, be ſubject to Military Diſcipline as the Reſt of His Majeſty's Regular and Militia Troops: Provided always, That no Officer or Soldier of any Volunteer Corps ſhall be liable to be tried or puniſhed by any Court Martial at any Time, unleſs ſuch Court Martial be compoſed entirely of Officers ſerving in Volunteer Corps, formed as aforeſaid, ſuch Court Martial to be aſſembled by Warrant under His Majeſty's Sign Manual, or by Warrant from ſome General or other Officer duly authorized to hold Courts Martial.

Corps or Companies of Volunteers to be intitled to Pay and ſubject to Military Diſcipline on certain Occaſions;

but not to be tried but by Volunteer Officers.

Volunteer Non commission Officers and Drummers to be billetted.

II. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for all Mayors, Bailiffs, Constables, Tithingmen, Headboroughs, and other Chief Magistrates and Officers of Cities, Towns, Parishes, Tithings, and Places, and (in their Default or Absence) for any One Justice of the Peace inhabiting within or near any such City, Town, Parish, Tithing, or Place, (but for no others); and they or he are or is hereby required to quarter and billet the Serjeants, Corporals, and Drummers, of such Corps or Companies as aforesaid, and their Horses, in Inns, Livery Stables, Alehouses, Victualling Houses, and all Houses of Persons selling Brandy, Strong Waters, Cyder, Wine, or Metheglin, by Retail, upon Application made to any such Mayors, Bailiffs, Constables, Tithingmen, Headboroughs, or other Chief Magistrates or Officers, by His Majesty's Lieutenant, or by the Officer commanding the said Corps or Companies.

Penalty for not delivering up Arms, &c. when discharged.

III. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if the Officer commanding any such Corps or Company as aforesaid shall discharge from such Corps or Company any Person who shall have been inlisted or inrolled as aforesaid; and if such Person shall refuse or neglect, on being required by such Commanding Officer, to deliver up any Arms, Accoutrements, or Cloathing, which shall have been entrusted to his Custody, every Person so refusing or neglecting shall, on being convicted thereof before any Justice of the Peace of the County within which such Corps or Company shall have been formed, forfeit and pay the Sum of Ten Pounds, to be levied by Distress and Sale of the Offender's Goods and Chattels by Warrant under the Hand and Seal of such Justice, rendering the Overplus (if any) on Demand, after deducting the Charges of such Distress and Sale, to the Person whose Goods and Chattels shall have been so distrained and sold; and for Want of sufficient Distress, such Justice is hereby required to commit such Offender to the Common Gaol of the County, Riding, or Place, where the Offence shall have been committed, for any Time not exceeding One Month; and the Monies arising by such Penalty shall be paid to the Treasurer of the County, Riding, or Place, where such Offence shall have been committed, to be applied as Part of the Stock of such County, Riding, or Place.

Commissioned Officers disabled in Service, entitled to Half Pay, &c.

IV. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all Commissioned Officers of the said Corps, who shall be disabled in actual Service, shall be entitled to Half Pay; and all Non-commissioned Officers and Soldiers so disabled, to the Benefit of *Chelsea* Hospital; and the Widows of Commissioned Officers killed in the Service, to a Pension for Life.

Volunteers not liable to serve in the Militia.

V. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Person who shall be inlisted or inrolled in any Corps or Company of Volunteers as aforesaid shall, during the Time that he is serving in the said Corps or Company, be liable to serve personally, or provide a Substitute to serve in the Militia, provided he shall produce to the Deputy Lieutenants, assembled at the Subdivision Meetings, holden in the several Counties, for the Purpose of hearing Appeals against the Militia List returned from each Parish, an Affidavit of his having been inrolled as aforesaid, and a Certificate signed by the Commanding Officer of the said Corps or Company, that he has for the Space of Six Weeks, immediately preceding such Subdivision Meeting, punctually attended at all such Times and Places, as may have been agreed upon for the Exercise of such Corps or Company.

Continuance of this Act.

VI. Provided always, and be it enacted, That this Act shall have Continuance during the present War, and no longer.

5 FINIS.