ANNO QUADRAGESIMO TERTIO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

C A P. LXI.

An Act for the Relief of Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines, and of the Wives of Soldiers, in the Cases therein mentioned, so far as relates to *England*.

[24th *June* 1803.]

WHEREAS Soldiers and Marines, and Sailors, or Persons discharged from being such, having Occasion to return to their respective Homes or Places of legal Settlement in *England*, which are frequently at a considerable Distance, are under the Necessity of soliciting Alms for their Relief: And whereas by such soliciting they have been, by and under an Act of the Thirty-second Year of His present Majesty, intituled, *An Act to explain and amend an Act, made in the Seventeenth Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King* George *the Second, intituled,* '*An Act to amend and make more effectual the Laws relating to Rogues,* '*Vagabonds, and other idle and disorderly Persons, and to Houses of Correction,*' deemed Rogues and Vagabonds, within the Meaning of the said Act of the Seventeenth Year of His late Majesty King *George* the Second, and liable to be punished accordingly: For Remedy thereof, may it please Your Majesty that it may be enacted; and be it 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 every Soldier or Marine duly discharged out of any Regiment, and every Sailor duly discharged out of any Ship or Vessel belonging to His Majesty's Navy, carrying his Discharge by the Third Day at the latest from the

32 Geo. 3. c. 45.

Every Soldier, Marine, or Sailor, on carrying his Discharge within 3 Days

to the neareſt Chief Magiſtrate, ſhall receive a Certificate of his Place of Settlement, on producing of which, being in his Route, he ſhall not, for aſking Relief, be deemed a Vagabond.

Date thereof, to the Mayor or Chief Magiſtrate of the City, Town, Port, or Corporate Place, neareſt to or within Fifteen Miles from the Place where he ſhall have received his Diſcharge, ſhall receive from ſuch Mayor or Chief Magiſtrate a Certificate under his Hand, ſtating the Place to which the Perſon ſo diſcharged is deſirous of going, being his Home or Place of legal Settlement, together with the Time to be fixed, not exceeding Ten Days for every One hundred Miles, and ſo in Proportion, except for a reaſonable Cauſe to be expreſſed in ſuch Certificate; and ſuch Perſon having and producing to ſuch Perſons as ſhall lawfully demand to ſee the ſame ſuch Diſcharge, and ſuch Certificate as aforeſaid, and being in his Route accordingly, both as to Time and Road, ſhall not by reaſon of aſking Relief be deemed to be a Rogue or Vagabond within the Meaning of the ſaid Acts, or either of them: Provided always, that every ſuch Diſcharge ſhall bear the true Date, both as to the Time when and the Place where it was given, and ſhall expreſs the Sum or Sums, if any, which were paid to ſuch Soldier or Sailor at ſuch Time and Place.

Wives of Non-commiſſioned Officers or Soldiers, on making Proof of not being permitted to embark with their Huſbands, ſhall receive from the neareſt Chief Magiſtrate a like Certificate of their Place of Settlement, which will entitle them to aſk Relief while in their Route, &c.

II. And whereas it frequently happens that where Regiments are ordered upon Foreign Service, the Wives of Non-commiſſioned Officers and Soldiers being with their Huſbands, are not permitted to embark, and having thereupon the like Occaſion to return to their Homes or Places of legal Settlement, are under the like Neceſſity of ſoliciting Alms, and it is expedient that they alſo ſhould be declared free and exempt from the Fines and Penalties of the ſaid Acts; be it further enacted, That the Wife of any Non-commiſſioned Officer or Soldier ordered for Foreign Service, making due Proof of her not being permitted to embark with her Huſband, before the Mayor or Chief Magiſtrate of the City, Town, Port, or Corporate Place, neareſt to or within Fifteen Miles from the Place at which the Regiment to which the ſaid Non-commiſſioned Officer or Soldier belongs is ordered to embark, or of any other City, Town, Port, or Corporate Place, at which the ſaid Regiment ſhall happen to be on its March under Orders for Embarkation, ſhall receive from ſuch Mayor or Chief Magiſtrate a Certificate under his Hand, and the Corporate Seal of ſuch City, Town, Port, or Place, ſtating the Place to which ſhe is deſirous of going, being her Home, or Place of legal Settlement, together with the Time to be fixed, not exceeding Ten Days for every One hundred Miles, and ſo in Proportion, except for a reaſonable Cauſe to be expreſſed in ſuch Certificate; and ſuch Perſon having and producing to ſuch Perſon as ſhall lawfully demand the ſame, ſuch Certificate, and being in her Route accordingly both as to Time and Road, ſhall not, by reaſon of aſking Relief, be deemed to be a Rogue or Vagabond within the Meaning of the ſaid Acts or either of them.

New Certificate to be affixed to the former in caſe of Delay from Accident or Sickneſs.

III. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That in caſe of Accident or Sickneſs duly proved, which ſhall prevent the Perſon having ſuch Certificate from proceeding on his or her Journey, according to the Terms preſcribed therein, it ſhall and may be lawful to and for the Chief Magiſtrate of any other City, Town, Port, or Corporate Place where ſuch Perſon ſhall be, or ſhall arrive, to grant a new Certificate, ſtating therein the true Reaſons for granting the ſame, and containing the like Proviſions as are herein-before deſcribed, and annex the ſame to the former Certificate.

IV. And

IV. And be it further enacted, That Certificates or Paſſes granted as heretofore from the Office of Admiralty or War Office to diſcharged Sailors, Soldiers, or Marines, or to the Families of Sailors, Soldiers, or Marines ſerving abroad, or lately deceaſed, to carry them to their reſpective Homes, ſhall have the ſame Effect and Force to all Intents and Purpoſes whatever as the Certificates herein permitted to be given by the Magiſtrate as aforeſaid; and that the Terms of the ſame may be extended in each Inſtance which ſhall appear to require it by a new Certificate from another Magiſtrate in Manner herein-before mentioned.

Certificate from the Admiralty or War Office to diſcharged Men, *etc.* ſhall have the ſame Effect as heretofore.

LONDON: Printed by GEORGE EYRE and ANDREW STRAHAN, Printers to the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty. 1803.