

ANNO DUODECIMO & DECIMO TERTIO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

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CAP. LXXI.

An Act to dissolve Regimental Benefit Societies, and to provide for the Application of the Funds of such Societies, and of Regimental Charitable Funds. [28th *July* 1849.]

WHEREAS Benefit Societies have been formed by and among the Non-commissioned Officers, Trumpeters, Drummers, and Privates of several Regiments of Cavalry and Infantry of the Line, for the Purpose of raising Funds to be applied, under Rules and Regulations established in such Regiments respectively, for the Benefit of the several Parties subscribing thereto on their Discharge from the Army: And whereas the Majority of the Subscribers to such Societies are desirous that such Societies should be now dissolved, and that the Funds should be divided and distributed between the several Persons entitled as existing Subscribers to or Pensioners of such Societies to share in the Distribution of such Funds: And whereas it is expedient that the said Societies should no longer be continued, but that the Portion which may be now equitably due to each existing Subscriber should be placed in the Regimental Savings Bank to accumulate for his Benefit: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and

Regimental Benefit Societies to cease, Funds to be paid into the Bank of England.

Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That from and after the passing of this Act the said several Societies shall cease to exist, and that the Funds of such Societies shall, by the Order of the Secretary at War, be transferred by the several Trustees or Persons holding the same to the Account of the Paymaster General at the Bank of *England*.

Equitable Distribution of the Funds to be made.

II. And be it enacted, That the Secretary at War and One of the Secretaries to the Treasury to be appointed by the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury for this Purpose, and the Military Secretary to the Commander in Chief for the Time being, shall be Commissioners for the Purpose of making an equitable Distribution of the Funds of the said several Societies between the Persons entitled thereto, either as existing Subscribers to or as existing Pensioners upon such several Funds, and such Commissioners shall have Authority to apply such Part of the said Funds as may be necessary for such Purpose in the Purchase of Annuities for discharged Soldiers entitled to Pensions, or to purchase such Pensions, and to place the Sum to which each existing Subscriber may be declared entitled in the Savings Bank established under the Authority of an Act of the Sixth Year of Her Majesty, intituled *An Act to establish Military Savings Banks*, in the Regiment to which he belongs, to accumulate there for him until his Discharge: Provided always, that no Part of any such Fund shall be awarded by the said Commissioners to any Subscriber who may have been discharged from his Regiment without having been entitled to receive Benefit from the said Fund under the Rules and Regulations governing such Society, or to any Subscriber still serving who, under such Rules and Regulations, has forfeited his prospective Right to any Share of or Payment from such Fund.

5 & 6 Vict. c. 71.

Portion of any Soldier may be withdrawn from Savings Bank for his Benefit before his Discharge.

III. And be it enacted, That upon its being proved to the Satisfaction of the Secretary at War, upon the Recommendation of the Commanding Officer of the Regiment, that it will be of Advantage to a Soldier to withdraw his Portion of the said Fund, including any Accumulations thereon, from the Regimental Savings Bank before his Discharge, it shall be lawful for the Secretary at War to sanction such Withdrawal, and such Portion may be withdrawn accordingly.

Regimental charitable Funds to be paid into the Bank of England.

IV. And whereas other Funds have been from Time to Time created for charitable Regimental Purposes by Subscriptions of Officers, unexpended Balances of Canteen Funds, and otherwise, and now exist in several Regiments of Cavalry and Infantry, and are invested in the Names of Officers of such Regiments and others, or are in the Hands of the Agents or Officers of the Regiments: And whereas it is expedient that such Funds should be applied, with the Knowledge

Knowledge and Sanction of the Commander in Chief and Secretary at War, to the Purposes for which they were created, and that the present Trustees should be released from Responsibility: Be it enacted, That the several Funds last aforesaid shall, by the Order of the Secretary at War, be paid by the Trustees or other Persons in possession of the said Funds to the Account of the Paymaster General at the Bank of *England*.

Commanding Officers to furnish Accounts of Benefit Societies and charitable Funds of their Regiments.

V. And be it enacted, That the Commanding Officer of every Regiment shall furnish to the Secretary at War an Account of every Benefit Society in his Regiment, showing the Amount of the Capital of such Society, the Names of the existing Subscribers to the Society, and of Pensioners, if any, upon such Society, and the Names of the Trustees or other Persons in the Possession of the Funds of such Society, and also an Account of the Amount of any charitable or other Fund belonging to the Regiment, with the Names of the Trustees or other Persons in possession of such Fund; and the Trustees or Persons possessing the Funds of such Benefit Societies or charitable or other Funds are hereby required, upon the Order of the Secretary at War, to pay the Sums in their Possession into the Bank of *England* to the Account of the Paymaster General, and the Cashier of the Bank of *England* is hereby authorized to receive all such Monies as may be paid into the Bank of *England* under the Authority of this Act and the Order of the Secretary at War, and the Receipt of such Cashier shall be a full and sufficient Discharge to the several Trustees or Persons paying such Monies into the Bank of *England*.

Trustees to pay the Funds into the Bank of England.

Monies paid into the Bank to be transferred to the Fund for the Military Savings Banks.

VI. And be it enacted, That the Money so placed to the Account of the Paymaster General shall be forthwith transferred by the Warrant of the Secretary at War from the Account of the Paymaster General to the separate Account raised in the Names of the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt in the Books of the Governor and Company of the Bank of *England*, and denominated the Fund for Military Savings Banks, and the Money so transferred shall be held by the said Commissioners, subject to the Provisions of the Act passed in the Ninth Year of the Reign of Her present Majesty, intituled *An Act to amend the Act to establish Military Savings Banks*.

8 & 9 Vict. c. 27.

Separate Account to be kept by the Secretary at War of charitable Fund of each Regiment.

VII. And be it enacted, That the Secretary at War shall open in the Books of his Office an Account with each Regiment possessing charitable Funds, and shall credit the said Account with the Amount paid into the Bank of *England*, and with Interest thereon, not exceeding the Rate allowed by the said Act of the Sixth Year of Her Majesty

Majesty for other Monies deposited in the Fund for Military Savings Banks, and shall from Time to Time authorize such Issues as may be necessary to enable the Commanding Officer of the Regiment to make such customary Donations as may be deemed expedient to discharged Soldiers of long or good Service, or to the Widows, Wives, and Children of Soldiers.

Commanding Officer of Regiment to account to the Secretary at War as to Disposal of charitable Funds.

VIII. And be it enacted, That the Commanding Officer of every Regiment possessing or acquiring any such charitable Fund shall furnish to the Secretary at War, at such Times as he shall require the same, a detailed Statement of the Manner in which he has appropriated any Part of the Money placed at his Disposal for charitable Regimental Purposes.

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