

The Memorial of Lieutenant R. Blake 55 Regiment To His Royal Highness the Duke of York Commandr in Chief of His Majesty's Forces

Yr.

Yr.

Yr.

Respectfully sheweth,

That your Memorialist having some time in last July obtained leave of absence from your Royal Highness, till the Twenty third of September and about the Middle of August having gone to Ireland for the purpose of attending to his private affairs, was much surprised to find upon his arrival in that Country, that there was an order to apprehend him as a Disserter.

That upon hearing an unofficial Report of such an order, he immediately returned to the head quarters of the Regiment at Windsor and voluntarily gave himself up, to answer any charge that might be exhibited against him.

That since that time, for a period of Forty Two Days, he has been kept in close confinement in one small Barrack Room, with a sentry constantly over him, not allowed to take any air or exercise, till within these few days, when some relaxation was obtained, upon the representation of the Surgeon, which however was restricted to a walk in the Barrack Yard, under the eye of a sentinal, with a drawn Bayonet, and except for the first week of his confinement, he has been deprived of the society of his Brother Officers, who have been prohibited from associating with him.

That your Memorialist having made a respectful representation of his situation to the Commanding Officer of the Regiment (Major R. Fildes) with a request to be furnished with a copy of the charge against him, his application was referred to the General of the District, who gave for answer to your Memorialist, "that he must wait for a copy of the charge, till they were prepared, and laid before the Commandr in Chief" That no formal statement of charge, has however, yet been delivered to him, nor any intimation given him, when a Court Martial will be assembled, and your Memorialist remains ignorant, except from surmise, and report, of what are the particular grounds of the accusation, for which he is confined, and to which he has to answer.



That the articles of war declare, "that no officer or soldier who shall be put in arrest, or imprisonment, shall continue in his confinement, more than eight days, or untill such time as a court Martial can be conveniently assembled..."

Your Memorialist respectfully submits, to the consideration of Your Royal Highness, whether within, so little a distance of Head Quarters a Court Martial might not sooner, have been conveniently assembled for the trial of Your Memorialist, according to the meaning of the above mentioned article of war. But if the restraint of Your Memorialist's person is to be continued, he trusts the degree and measure of that restraint may be relaxed, without injury to the service, or to the cause of justice. He requests to be allowed a larger space for the benifite of air and exercise, for the want of which, for so great a length of time, his health is likely to be seriously endangered.

Your Memorialist trusts it will be thought a sufficient pledge of his readiness to submit to trial, that he voluntarily delivered himself up, when it was in his power to have remained for a time, at least, actual apprehension, therefore he should hope, the imposition of a sentence over him, may be dispensed with, at all events Your Memorialist trusts, he may be restored to the society of his Brethren officers, in his unhappy situation.

That Your Memorialist conceiving himself aggrieved in the instances he has detailed, is instructed by the articles of war to look for redress to the Commande in Chief, and under the guidance of that Institution, and encouraged by the known regard of your Royal Highness to the rights and interests of officers, who applies to your Royal Highness for redress, Your Memorialist respectfully submits his case to your Royal Highness's consideration, in confidence that your Royal Highness will give such directions on the subject, as justice and humanity requires.

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And your Memorialist will for ever pray..

Windsor Barracks.

First of November 1813.

W. M. M.

Line 55 " 1/2"

Enclosure.

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