Terms of Use

The following is a digital reproduction of an existing historical document. It has been scanned and converted into Portable Document Format (PDF) for the purpose of making it freely available to the public.

You are welcome to redistribute unaltered copies of this document via electronic means. You may not, however, alter the document without permission nor profit from its redistribution.

To download other works in the Collection, and for more information, please visit:

www.umass.edu/renaissance/lord
L A V V E S
and Ordinances militarie,
lett downe and established by the
right excellente Robert Earle of Leycester,
Baron of Denbigh, Justice of Sicre and ter-
mner of her Maiesties Foestes, Chaces and Par-
kies on this side Trente, Maister of the Horse to
the Queens moiste Excellente Maiestie One of
the Loydes of her moiste honorable privie Coun-
saile, Knight of bothe noble Oders, of the
Garter and S. Michael: her Highenes Lieute-
nant and Capitaine General of her Maiest.
Armie
and Forces in the lowe Countries: And Go-
vemnor General of all the Provin-
cies and Cities united in the saide
lowe Countries, and the
associates.

To be observed by all suche as shall serue in her Maiest.
Armievnder him in the saide Countries.

Imprinted at Leyden by Andries Berschouf/the
prv.of Januarie, 1586, de stilo nono.
Oasmuche as there is not any Estate, which in peace or warre can be accounted sure, or preserved from dishonour & ruine, unless it bee supported and borne up by Justice duly administered, and discipline orderly observed: And for that no man can be so ignorant as not to know, that honor, fame and prosperitie doe duly follow that common Wealth or Nation, wherein good laws are established, the Magistrate ministering Justice is duly regarded, and the people fearing to offend, are drawn under the rules of Justice and obedience: And seeing that martiall discipline above all things (proper to men of warre) is by vs at this time most to be followed, as well for the advancement of Gods glory, as honourable to gouern this Armie in good order: And lest that the evil inclined (pleading simplicity) should cover any wicked face by ignorance: Therefore these martiall Ordinances and Lawses followinge are established and published, whereby all good menes endeououring to attaine honour, may stand armed, and receive assistance.
encouragement to perseuer in well doing, & such as are inclined to lewdenesse, he warned from committing offences punishable, which being embraced with carefull respect, and followed with obedience, doe promise good order and agreement amongst our felwes, with victory and good rules against our enemies.

1. First, Forsoomuch as the holy Name of our most mightie and invincible God, with all reverence ought to be regarded, and that destruction is pronounced to such as blaspheme or abuse the same: it is therefore ordained and commanded, that no person whatsoever, either in common conference or communication, or for any cause whatsoever, shall blaspheme, or take his Name in vain, upon paine of losse of b.s. to the releafe of the poore for the first offence: for the seconde, fute daues imprisonment: for the third, losse of his place and wages.

2. And because the continuall and unspeakeable favours of our Almighty God, by our unthankfulness may be taken from vs, and that no good event of any action can be expected, wherein God is not first and principally honored and served: It is therefore especially ordained and commanded, that all persons whatsoever, shall upon general warning given either by sound of Trompet or Drum, repair to the place appointed, where the Divine ser-

3. Service is to be used, there to heare the same read and preached, unless for the present by sickness or other service he be impeached, upon paine to lose his daues wages for the first, two daues wages for the second, and so to be increased by the discretion of the Judge, and for every such default in the Souldier, as well the Captaine as his inferiour officers, to be punished with like penalties.

And seeing it well besemeth all Chri-

5. The Captaine and his inferior officers, to be punished with like penalties.

And it is well besemeth all Chri-

3. Unlawfull ga-

But seeing it well besemeth all Chri-

5. The Captaine and his inferior officers, to be punished with like penalties.

And seeing it well besemeth all Chri-

5. Unlawfull ga-

2. And because the continuall and unspeakeable favours of our Almighty God, by our unthankfulness may be taken from us, and that no good event of any action can be expected, wherein God is not first and principally honored and served: It is therefore especially ordained and commanded, that all persons whatsoever, shall upon general warning given either by sound of Trompet or Drum, repair to the place appointed, where the Divine service is to be used, there to heare the same read and preached, unless for the present by sickness or other service he be impeached, upon paine to lose his daues wages for the first, two daues wages for the second, and so to be increased by the discretion of the Judge, and for every such default in the Souldier, as well the Captaine as his inferior officers, to be punished with like penalties.
If any man whatsoever shall practice and conspire any things to the hurt or peril of her Majesty's person, and realm or of her General, or the estate of this Army, and be thereof lawfully convicted, he shall suffer death with comfits.

No man shall have speech or conference, send message, deliver or receive letters to or from the enemy, or any of his confederates, either secretly or openly, without manifesting the same presently unto the General or Marshall, or having former authority so to do, upon pain of death.

No man being in this service shall depart the Camp or place of Garrison for any cause whatsoever, without the Generals especial permission, or other head Officer authorized, upon pain of death.

No man shall break out, or leave the order of his rank, being once ordered in the field by the Marshall or Sergeant Major, without some great occasion first made known unto the said Officer, upon pain of loss either of life or limb, at the discretion of the General or of the Marshall.

No man appointed to watch or warde, shall shun or depart the place, neither shall sleepe, or neglect his duty therein, especially after the watch is set and the wood secure, unless be be orderly relieved, or for some great occasion enforced, with license of his Captn.
Captain or Officer, upon paine of death.

14 No man shall bewray the watchword to the enimie or to any other, or give any other word then is delivered by the Officer, upon paine of death with torment.

15 No man shall raise any mutiny, or procure unlawful assemblies upon private, secret, or hidden purpose, whereby to disturb the peace and quiet of the Army, upon paine of death.

16 No man shall lift up his weapon against the Magistrate, his Captain or Officer, upon paine of death.

17 No man shall quarrel, brawl, or make any fray within the Camp or Towne of garrison, upon olde malice, or neue occasion whatsoever, but shall complaine to the Officer, who is to decide the cause and punish the partie offending, upon paine of losse of life or limme, at the discretion of the Generall or Marshall.

18 And whereas sundrie nations are to serve with vs in these warres, as through diversitie of languages occasion of many controversyes may arise or happen to growe: It is therefore ordained, that if any person of English nation shall finde him selfe aggrieved with any wrong offered him by any forei ner, that then without profering further respuce he shall signifie the same unto his Captain or other officer, whereby order may be taken as no further quarrell growe thereof, but that quietness in all respects may be preserved, upon paine of such punishment as the head officers shall thinke meete, either by losse of life or limme.

19 No man appointed to the defense of any Breach, Trench, or Streight, either Captain or Souliour, shall willingly leave it, or upon any false or imagined cause or excuse shall absent himselfe from the place, without sufficient warrant, upon paine of death.

20 No man shall enrolle his name under two Captaines, nor mutter in severall companies at one time, or otherwise passe in another mans name, or lende armour, weapon, or other furniture upon the muster day, whereby to abuseth one another, and weaken the present service, upon paine of a moneths imprisonment, and banishment.

21 No man shall embezill or diminish any of his Armour, weapon and furniture, which is appointed him by his Captain, unless he can prove that he lost the same in service: And that no man shall take in pawn any Souliours weapon or furniture, upon paine to the Souliour of losse of his place, and to the other that shall take it in pawn, the losse of the double value.

22 No man shall play away, engage, or lende away his furniture, but shall alwayes keepe his Armour and weapon cleane and
serviceable upon paine of being discharged.

23. No man shall deceitfully take away his companions provision, victuals, or furniture, upon paine of imprisonement.

24. No person traversing, lodging, or abiding in any the Townes or Contrees of her Maiesties friends or Allies, shall in any wise exact or take by force from the people either victual or other their goods whatsoever, without present payment, or other sufficient order to the just satisfaction of the partie, upon paine of death.

25. No man shall forestall any victuals brought for the Campe or place of garrisons, but suffer the same peaceably to come into the market place, there to be rated and priced by the Marchall or his officer, before he buy the same, upon paine of death.

26. No man shall robb or spoyle any Shop or Tent, or any victualler or Marchat comming for relief of the Campe or garrisons, but in all good sorte shall entertaine and defend them, upon paine of death.

27. No Souldier commanded at any time to take victuals for certaine bays, shall exceede the same bays, or lyt the same other wise then according to the proportions and time allowed him, upon paine of imprisonement, or other sufficiencie punishment as the lawfull officers shall appoint.

28. No man shall distress or spoyle any person standing on her Maisties partie, or beinge under the Generals protection, upon paine of death.

29. No man shall disobey or transgress any Proclamation made by Commandes or Trumpet, set forth by the Generall, upon such paine as he shall set forth.

30. No man shall resist the Command or his other officer in apprehending of any malefactor, but if neede require, shall ayde and assist him therein, or otherwise if by force the occasion any escape be made, it is ordained that every person by whose default the escape was committed, shall suffer like punishment that the parties so escaped should have endured.

31. No man shall molest or trouble any person being under his owne regiment, or the leading of any other; upon paine of the Marchall, forier, or any other in the Campe of Towne, but quietly to permit and suffer every one to enjoy his several roomes or lodging, unless ye be by mutuell consent and agreement, neither shall any man lodge out of his Captaines quarter without licence, upon paine of imprisonement.

32. No man shall overthrow or destroie any water Middles or water works without speciall commandement of the Generall, or other heade Officer, upon paine of death.

33. No ma contrarie to other shall set on fire
Sylva: A Treatise of the Forests.

02. Burn any house, mill, or cow, not at
    dislodging or removing shall set the Camp
    on fire, without special commandment
    from the General or other head Officer
    present, upon paine of death.

34. No man shall make any outcry or
    noise in any watch, ward, Ambuscade, or any
    other place where silence is requisite and
    necessary, upon paine of losse of life or
    lamentation, as the Generals discretion.

35. No man without great occasion shall
    make any Alarume, but if any chance to arise,
    then shall every man presently repair to all
    haste unto his appointed place, unless some
    true and certain cause doe hinder him, upon
    paine of death.

36. No man shall harbour or receive into
    his lodging any person being a stranger, or
    of our own nation not being enrolled in her
    Majesties pape, but shall presently acquaint
    the General or Marshal with his name,
    counterpart, the time of his coming, and
    business, upon paine of imprisonement, and
    losse of his place and wages.

37. No man shall talk or have conversation
    with any Trumpeter or Drummer
    of the enemies, or other in messuage, but
    such as be appointed by the General, upon
    paine of death.

38. No man shall attend upon the carriages
    riages, but such as are appointed to that
    charge, neither longer, nor longer beside with
    them to ride or eafe themselves, unless it be
    such as by sickness, hurt, or other infirmities
    knowne to the officers, to be permitted so,
    upon paine of imprisonement, and losse of wages.

39. No man shall attempt to goe for
    foraging, without the officer appointed for that
    purpose deliver them a sufficient guard for
    their defence, upon paine of death.

40. Every Souldier shall present such
    prisoners as are taken, to their Captaine
    immediately at their returne to the Camp, and
    none shall either kill them, or license them to
    depart, without commandment or leave from the
    Generall, or other head Officer thereto appointed, upon
    paine of being disarmed, and banished the Camp.

41. Every Souldier at all times in service
    shall be obedient and faithfull, as well to
    their Captaines as other inferior Officers,
    and not to refuse direction of any, under whom
    they are appointed to serve, upon paine of
    imprisonement, and losse of a months wages.

And whensoever any Captaine of any hand
    shall upon urgent cause appoint in his
    absence any other whom he shall thinke
    good to supply and execute his rooms of cap-
    tainship, every man ought to follow and
    obey the said deputie with noe lesse care and
    diligence, then they would the Captaine.
42. Every man shall support and defend his own ensign both night and day, and shall rest upon the same upon the first warning, and not depart until he be brought into custody, upon pain of death.

43. Every soldier shall diligently observe and learn the sound of drums, fifes, and trumpets, to the end he may know how to answer the same in his service.

44. No man shall slaughter or kill any beast of what nature soever within the camp or garrison, but in such places as are appointed for that purpose, nor shall suffer the garbage to remain unburied, neither shall any man trouble or defile the water's adjoinging, but in the lower part of the stream some good distance from the camp, upon pain of imprisonment.

45. No man shall cause himself or any to defile the camp or town of garrison, save in such places as is appointed for that purpose, upon pain of imprisonment, and such further punishment, as shall be thought meete by the chief officers.

46. If any man be taken a prisoner or bootee, he shall immediately after he is returned into the camp or town of garrison, make his captain or governor acquainted therewith, and the captain shall declare the same unto the marshall, upon pain every eight dayes shall make certificare thereof unto the general, upon paine of imprisonment, and further punishment as the general shall let done.

47. In marching by the fields, no man at the putting up of any hare, or any other beast shall make any shout or crie, whereby to disquiet or stay the rest of the bands, but to use all quietness and silence in their march, upon pain of imprisonment.

48. No man shall give up or deliver unto the enemies any place left to his charge or keeping, upon paine of death.

49. If any man lie to the enemies, or be taken upon his departure towards them, he shall suffer death.

50. That no person whatsoever shall passe by any other way either in town or camp, but at the ordinary gates and passages, upon paine of death.

51. That all heralds of armes shall doe there messages, and make proclamation at such times and places and in such order without addition, by mouning or alteration, according to there direction and collation from the general, upon paine to be inflicted at the generals discretion, according to the qualitie of there faulte.
Captaynes,

52. No Captaine, Officer, or other person, shall receive or entertain any other mans Souldiour, servant, without consent of his former Captaine or Master, neither shall any other man Souldiour from him, upon paine of losse of a Monethes wages, and to restore the partie to his former Captaine or Master.

53. No Captaine shall send forth any men to doe any enterprise, without knowledge of the Generall, or chiefest officer appointed therunto, upon paine of losse of his place.

54. All private Captaines, being no head Officers, shal watch and waryse with their Ensignes, unlesse it be by speciall leave, upon paine of the losse of a monethes pape, and for the second time, losse of his place.

55. No Captaine shall sell or raunfome his prisoner without license of the Generall, and shall not suffer them to depart without making the high Marshall prior to the same, upon paine of losse of his prisoner, and imprisonment.

56. Any Captaine finding any Souldier of what band or company so ever, which hath transgressed any of these Lawes and Ordinances, may take him and bring him unto the Marshall to be punished,

57. That no Captaine shall receive or enroll any person into his pape under him, but that he cause the said Souldier to receive the same, upon paine to the Captaine for not obtaining the same, of losse of a moneths pape.

58. Noe inferior Captaine shall doe corruption, or any other cause licence any of his souldiers to departe the Campe, or Garrison without speciall license of the Generall, or other chief Officer, upon paine of losse of his monethes pape, and expulson out of his office.

59. If any Captaine hereafter receaving his souldiers pape, doe not pay the same unto them within 3 dasyes after, and bring demanded. Then upon complaint made and the Captaine therof convicted, he shall lose his monethes pape, and be depayed in his office, banished the Campe, and disabled from thenceforth to serve in this Army.

60. Captaines and Officers shall frequent and referre into the Souldiers lodgings to see in what state there Armour and Munitions be in. And to geue great charge that there furniture be alwaies in a readines, there coxstles with all pieces belonginge to the same, and there Calibers to be made cleane and oyled, to have march and powder dye, and Stringes for there Bowes, there bulls and Halbers to be kepte cleane and sharpe, etc.
The forme of the Othe
Whiche all Officers, Captaines, Souldiers, and all other seruants in this
Armine shall take and
performe.

J.A.B. doe sweare and promise to doe all Othe,
loppall, true and faithfull service into the
Queene of England her moste excellente Maiestie,
and unto the Provinces and Cities unied in
these Countries, and there associats under the
charge and obedience of the right excellente
the Earle of Leycester, Governor gene-
rall of the saide Provinces and Cities, & there
associats, and of her Maiesties armie and fortes
within the same. And all lawfull and due obe-
dience unto the saide Governor, and to any
other superiour, that shall haue charge under
him for governement in this Armine. And further
I doe promise to endeavoure my self to fullfill and
keepe all suche lawfull Oordinances as his Ex-
cellecte haueth or shall sette forth and establishe
for the better ordering of this Armie, as muche
as concerneth me, so longe as I shall serue
in the same under him, so helpe
me God, by Jesus
Christ.