



Air Force Act 1955

1955 CHAPTER 19 3 4 Eliz2

PART II

DISCIPLINE AND TRIAL AND PUNISHMENT OF AIR-FORCE OFFENCES

Miscellaneous provisions

138 Restitution or compensation for theft, etc.

- (1) The following provisions shall have effect where a person has been convicted by court-martial of unlawfully obtaining any property, whether by stealing it, receiving it knowing it to have been stolen, fraudulently misapplying it or otherwise.
- (2) If any of the property unlawfully obtained has been found in the possession of the offender, it may be ordered to be delivered or paid to the person appearing to be the owner thereof.
- (3) If there has been found in the possession of the offender any property (other than money) appearing to have been obtained by him by the conversion or exchange of any of the property unlawfully obtained, the property may be ordered to be delivered to the person appearing to be the owner of the property unlawfully obtained.
- (4) Where money is found in the possession of the offender, then whether or not it appears to have been obtained as aforesaid an order may be made that there shall be paid out of that money to the person appearing to be the owner of the property unlawfully obtained such sum as may be specified in the order as or towards compensation for the loss caused to the said person by the offence, in so far as not otherwise made good under this Act or by the recovery of the property unlawfully obtained.
- (5) Where any of the property unlawfully obtained has been sold or given in pawn to some other person who did not then know it to have been unlawfully obtained, an order may be made that, subject to the restitution to the owner thereof of the property sold or given as aforesaid, there shall be paid to the said other person, out of any money found in the possession of the offender (whether or not the money appears to be proceeds of

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

the sale or giving in pawn), such sum as may be specified in the order as or towards compensation for the loss caused to him in consequence of the sale or giving in pawn.

- (6) Where any of the property unlawfully obtained has been given in exchange to some other person who did not then know it to have been unlawfully obtained, an order may be made that, subject to the restitution to the owner thereof of the property given as aforesaid, there shall be restored to the said other person the property taken in exchange for the property unlawfully obtained.
- (7) An order under this section may be made by the court-martial by whom the offender is convicted, by the confirming officer or by any reviewing authority; and in this section the expression " appearing " means appearing to the court, officer or authority making the order.
- (8) An order under this section made by a court-martial shall not have effect until confirmed by the confirming officer; and the provisions of this Part of this Act as to the confirmation and review of the proceedings of courts-martial shall apply to an order under this section as they apply to a sentence.
- (9) The operation of any order under this section shall be suspended—
- (a) in any case, until the expiration of the period prescribed under Part I of the Courts-Martial (Appeals) Act, 1951, as the period within which an application for leave to appeal to the Courts-Martial Appeal Court against the conviction must be lodged ; and
 - (b) if such an application is duly lodged, until either the application is finally refused or is withdrawn or the appeal is determined or abandoned ;
- and where the operation of such an order as aforesaid is suspended under this section—
- (c) it shall not take effect if the conviction is quashed on appeal;
 - (d) the Courts-Martial Appeal Court may by order annul or vary the order although the conviction is not quashed;
 - (e) such steps shall be taken for the safe custody, during the period during which the operation of the order is suspended, of the property ordered to be restored or handed over or the money to which the order relates as may be provided by rules of court made under the said Act of 1951.
- (10) Notwithstanding anything in the last foregoing subsection, an order under this section shall not, so far as it relates to the delivery of property to the person appearing to be the owner thereof, be suspended if the court, officer or authority making the order directs to the contrary in any case in which, in the opinion of the court, officer or authority, the title to the property is not in dispute.
- (11) An order under this section shall not bar the right of any person, other than the offender or a person claiming through him, to recover any property delivered or paid in pursuance of such an order from the person to whom it is delivered or paid.

139 Appointment of judge advocates

Without prejudice to the powers conferred by Her Majesty on the Judge Advocate General, the appointment of a judge advocate to act at any court-martial may, failing the making thereof by or on behalf of the Judge Advocate General, be made by the convening officer.

140 Promulgation

Any finding, sentence, determination or other thing required by this Act to be promulgated shall be promulgated either by being communicated to the accused or in such other manner as may be specified by Queen's Regulations or as the confirming officer or reviewing authority, as the case may be, may direct.

141 Custody of proceedings of courts-martial and right of accused to a copy thereof

- (1) The record of the proceedings of a court-martial shall be kept in the custody of the Judge Advocate General for not less than the prescribed period, being a period sufficient to ensure that the rights conferred by the two next following subsections shall be capable of being exercised.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of this section, any person tried by a court-martial shall be entitled to obtain from the Judge Advocate General on demand at any time within the relevant period and on payment therefor at such rate as may be prescribed a copy of the record of the proceedings of the court.
- (3) Where a person tried by court-martial dies within the relevant period, his personal representatives or any person who in the opinion of the Judge Advocate General ought to be treated for the purposes of this subsection as his personal representative shall subject to the provisions of this section be entitled to obtain from the Judge Advocate General on demand at any time within the period of twelve months from the death and on payment therefor at the prescribed rate a copy of the record of the proceedings of the court.
- (4) If, on an application in pursuance of either of the two last foregoing subsections for a copy of the record of any proceedings, the Secretary of State certifies that it is requisite for reasons of security that the proceedings or any part thereof should not be disclosed, the applicant shall not be entitled to a copy of the proceedings or part to which the certificate relates.
- (5) In this section the expression " the relevant period ", in relation to any person tried by court-martial, means the period of five years beginning with the date of his acquittal or, where he was convicted, of the promulgation of the findings and sentence or, where a finding of guilty was not confirmed, of the promulgation of the withholding of confirmation:

Provided that where the proceedings relate to two or more charges and the person tried was acquitted on one or more of the charges and convicted on another or others, the relevant period shall be the period of five years beginning with the date of the promulgation of the finding or findings of guilty and the sentence thereon or of the withholding of confirmation of that finding or those findings.

- (6) Any reference in this section to the record of the proceedings of a court-martial includes a reference to the record of the proceedings with respect to the confirmation or revision of the findings and sentence of the court-martial.

142 Indemnity for prison officers, etc.

No action shall lie in respect of anything done by any person in pursuance of an air-force sentence of imprisonment or detention if the doing thereof would have been lawful but for a defect in any warrant or other instrument made for the purposes of that sentence.