



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

This is a repository copy of *Desertion from the British Army during the Napoleonic Wars*.

White Rose Research Online URL for this paper:

<http://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/93692/>

Version: Accepted Version

Article:

Linch, K orcid.org/0000-0002-7915-8489 (2016) *Desertion from the British Army during the Napoleonic Wars*. *Journal of Social History*, 49 (4). pp. 808-828. ISSN 0022-4529

<https://doi.org/10.1093/jsh/shw007>

Reuse

Unless indicated otherwise, fulltext items are protected by copyright with all rights reserved. The copyright exception in section 29 of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 allows the making of a single copy solely for the purpose of non-commercial research or private study within the limits of fair dealing. The publisher or other rights-holder may allow further reproduction and re-use of this version - refer to the White Rose Research Online record for this item. Where records identify the publisher as the copyright holder, users can verify any specific terms of use on the publisher's website.

Takedown

If you consider content in White Rose Research Online to be in breach of UK law, please notify us by emailing eprints@whiterose.ac.uk including the URL of the record and the reason for the withdrawal request.



eprints@whiterose.ac.uk
<https://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/>

Table 1: Desertions from the British Army, 1804-1815

Year	Total strength	Desertion rate	British corps			Foreign and Colonial corps		
			Strength	Desertions	Desertion rate	Strength	Desertions	Desertion rate
1804	141740	3.9%	124312	4852	3.9%	17428	616	3.5%
1805	162997	4.3%	140980	6497	4.6%	22017	584	2.7%
1806	175996	3.3%	145599	4466	3.1%	30397	1282	4.2%
1807	182876	3.1%	152558	5021	3.3%	30318	707	2.3%
1808	207216	3.2%	171602	5059	2.9%	35614	1552	4.4%
1809	215171	2.3%	180442	4186	2.3%	34729	715	2.1%
1810	215887	2.2%	178216	3994	2.2%	37671	735	2.0%
1811	216820	2.3%	176046	4060	2.3%	40774	966	2.4%
1812	229666	2.6%	182173	4353	2.4%	47493	1565	3.3%
1813	233316	2.5%	181598	4056	2.2%	51718	1766	3.4%
1814	234180	3.8%	183650	4799	2.6%	50530	4058	8.0%
1815	190573	3.9%	151532	5054	3.3%	39041	2349	6.0%

Sources: Harry Calvert, "Return of the Number of Casualties Which Have Occurred in the British Army, During the Last Ten Years, by Deaths, Discharges, and Desertions; Distinguishing British from Foreign and Colonial Corps" House of Commons Papers, 1813-14, XI, 261; "Return of the Number of Casualties Which Have Occurred in the British Regular Army, from the 25th December 1813, to the 25th December 1814, (as Far as the Same Can Be Made up) by Deaths, Discharges, and Desertions; Distinguishing British from Foreign and Colonial Corps" HCP, 1814-15, IX, 313; "Return of the Number of Casualties Which Have Occurred in the British Army, from the 25th December 1814, to 25th December 1815" HCP, 1816, XII, 427.

NB: figures for strength are for July 1 until 1808 and then June 25 thereafter each year; desertions are for the entire year. The strength and desertions from the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers are not included.

