

Announcement of Articles

of Volkmar von Alt Mendreth und derer von Schleyfenau/ From which the Kriegsknechte and Wehrmagden all together will be read to firstly / And whereof each and everyone of them will be put under oath / If before that / under old custom inspection has been done.

The oath is given / for the length of the campaign / The Landsknecht swear / to prevent harm from the Obrist / to be obedient in everything without any question to each and everyone of the officers that the Obrist commands in everything / which they with them do or order / which is entitled to men at war/ be they of nobility or not / of minor or of major growth / not to make mutiny / but to let themselves be used/ be it towards or by the enemy / in the field or at keeping watch/ on land and sea / by day or by night / However the urgency commands it and the Obrist wants or needs it / to be used or sent by the order of the officers, be it alone or in Rotten.

Ad primum they shall refrain from / blaspheming Gods and Saints /and also pledge themselves / to not excessively harm their temples and servants.

Ad secundum shall be without honour and brought before the Provost/ who, without having served his pay / leaves the Fähnlein without permission of the Obrist.

Ad tertium shall no Landsknecht on the field leave the formation without a serious reason / and whoever denies / to follow the orders given to keep up the formation / shall be brought before the Provost.

Ad quartum shall Sturmsold not be granted/ but other Landsknecht should be chosen to besiege castles and cities/ if one is not content enough with the chance on looting. Furthermore, they will not claim any additional payment / if they should be attacked and withstand said attack in the place occupied by them.

Ad quintum shall no one loot at a day where looting is not permitted or be punished. Thus, looting shall only be done if it is noted / but only in agreed measures and not more than that shall be claimed. In storming and in battle shall no one loot or make booty /before the field is taken / and furthermore, shall no one leave the camp to loot without permission.

Ad sextum shall/ whoever in battle or skirmish flees / be held andbrought before the Provost/ he shall be thanked /whoever catches such a coward.

Ad septimum shall everyone serve as his contract says and show said contract to get his payment/ and no one shall claim their payment from the Obrist /if their payment is not given to them immediately.

Ad octavum shall the Landsknechts without permission from one of the officers postpone the council till dusk/ and they shall not, be it on the field or in the camp / nor in occupied towns or camps have negotiations with the enemy / be it orally or written.

Ad nonum shall they swear / that whoever brings treason or other mischief to display / shall get a reward or more and be thanked for that / the traitor shall be brought before the Provost.

Ad decimum will three impeccable Knechte / at any time the pay is given / state to the Obrist or his officers / if the Fähnlein desires a council / or if everything is tranquil.

Ad undecimum Shall no Landsknecht stab or shoot the other / nor should they invoke old grudges or hatred/ not in words /nor in deeds. If it comes to brawling / The bystanders shall command peace thrice / whoever does not obey after said commands shall be held and brought before the Provost/ so he shall deal with this wrongdoer

wrongdoer.

Ad duodecimum Shall no Landsknecht start an argument with another Landsknecht in the army which he does not know/ additionally he shall, to prevent arguments, avoid gambling with them.

Ad tertium decimum Shall everyone let themselves be send by the officers however it pleases them if the gathering tune is played/ and they shall gather with them.

Ad quartum decimum Shall no one stop the Provost and his helpers in performing their duties / whoever frees one of said traitors / shall be punished / as if he himself was the fled wrongdoer.

Ad quintum decimum Shall no one enrol themselves under two captains or let themselves be inspected twice or lend his arms and armour to another one / so that he can be inspected with them/ whoever does so/ shall be scolded as a rogue and furthermore be brought before the Provost.

Ad sextum decimum be the pillaging/ burning or setting fire to camps without permission / to sound alarm without need / the destroying of mills / millstones or breweries / as well as every intervention in the rights and freedom of the press prohibited.

Ad septimum decimum shall the Landsknechts not deceive each other whilst gambling / not steal from one another/ not hit another Landsknecht or do him wrong. Furthermore, shall it be prohibited to gamble further than the partner in game can pay in coins. A debt through gambling is in every possible way invalid under the Obrist/Colonel and the Landsknechts. Whoever contravenes against this shall be scolded as a rogue and shall be known as crafty and be brought before the Provost.

Ad duodevicesimum shall they swear / where one whilst being inebriated is being hit by the friends or hits some in said state /or however else mistreats them / shall be as if he was sober/ brought before the Provost/ as if he was sober.

Ad undevicesimum Shall no one at dangerous places / especially by night shoot/ and no one leave the camp without weapons.

Ad vicesimum shall they swear / that the booty they find in the houses and huts of the citizens or any other loot taken from the enemy shall belong to the looter but looted cattle and looted provisions shall only be sold in the camp itself / how it was given to the Tönnen.

Ad vicesimum primum shall only the officers be allowed to carry loaded and unloaded guns in the camp / That Landsknecht who has done muster with a gun / shall carry it when the camp marches onto the field / or when the alarm is sounded.

Ad vicesimum secundum it is noted how the Landsknecht shall receive his payment from the Obrist/Colonel and only then shall one or more receive their payment / only how it is contracted and only if it was not yet paid to him.

Ad vicesimum tertium shall they swear / to only invite honest guest into the camp / and furthermore swear / to let every guest know / that they are now under the jurisdiction of the provost and the schultheiß / Also they shall remind the guest of the fees that he has to pay / and if he refuses to pay / present him unto the provost.

Ad postremum shall they furthermore swear / that they will obey and hold in honour/ other articles / shall they not be in detail noted here/ but always known by righteous Landsknechts/ be it that those Articles are not concluded in here..

Whoever does not obey these said articles / shall be punished as perjured by the Obrist / And furthermore shall those of the army be bound to these articles / who were not present when the oath was given. Whom ever one of the articles falls into oblivion / shall let himself be reminded
by the Schultheiß.