JOHN H. RANDLEMAN.

MARCH 16, 1892.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BOWERS, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 5781.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 5781) granting an honorable discharge to John H. Randleman, report as follows:

Mr. Randleman enlisted in Company H, Fourteenth Indiana Volunteers, June 7, 1861, to serve three years as a private in said company and regiment, and he is reported on rolls to April 30, 1862, as present; roll for May and June absent, "taken prisoner near Columbia Bridge, Virginia, June 10, 1862;" July and August, 1862, present, with remark "exchanged; returned to duty August 5, 1862;" September and October, 1862, "discharged October 9, 1862, by general orders from War Department, having enlisted in Battery C, Fourth United States Artillery;" enlisted October 20, 1862, in Battery C, Fourth United States Artillery, for unexpired term of enlistment, and was discharged February 15, 1864, by expiration of service; reënlisted same day for another term of three years in same battery, and served until July 20, 1865.

The above record from the War Department shows that John H. Randleman was a faithful soldier for a period of four years and one month, and only abandoned the service after the war was over and there was no further call for his services in asserting and defending the integrity of the Government.

In view of his long and faithful service the committee recommend the passage of the bill.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, March 5, 1892.

SIR: In reply to your letter of yesterday, received to-day, requesting to be furnished with the military record of John H. Randleman, late private, Company H, Fourteenth Indiana Volunteers, and of Company C, Fourth United States Artillery, I am directed by the Secretary of War to inform you that, as shown by the records, this man was enrolled June 7, 1861, to serve three years as a private in the company and regiment above named, and that he is reported on rolls to April 30, 1862, as present; roll for May and June, absent, "taken prisoner near Columbia Bridge, Virginia, June 10, 1862;" July and August, 1862, present, with remark: "Exchanged, returned to duty August 5, 1862;" September and October, 1862, "Discharged October 9, 1862, by general order from War Department, having enlisted in Battery C, Fourth United States Artillery."

AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

The soldier deserted from his service in the regular Army and your letter with its inclosure has, therefore, this day been transmitted to the Adjutant-General of the Army, in whose office the records of the permanent military establishment are filed.

Very respectfully,

F. C. AINSWORTH,
Major and Surgeon, U. S. Army.

Hon. J. A. T. HULL,
House of Representatives.

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, February 24, 1892.

SIR: I have the honor to return herewith bill granting an honorable discharge to J. H. Randleman, late Company C, Fourth United States Artillery (H. R. 5781), and in compliance with request of the Committee on Military Affairs, House of Representatives, to report as follows:

The records show that Private John H. Randleman, after having been discharged from Company H, Fourteenth Indiana Volunteers, enlisted October 20, 1862, in Battery C, Fourth United States Artillery, for the unexpired term of his enlistment in the volunteers; he was discharged February 15, 1864, by reason of reënlistment; reënlisted February 15, 1864, for three years. He was present for duty or otherwise properly accounted for until June 30, 1865, deserted July 20, 1865, and never returned to the service.

The man filed application for removal of charge of desertion in this office in 1890, and his attorney was informed that the Department had no power to remove the charge of desertion under act of March 2, 1889, the only law on the subject in force, and that the statement of the claimant that he had been sick for some time prior to his desertion and could not get relief from the army doctors was positively contradicted by the records, which show that he was present for duty at every muster from January 1, 1865, to June 30, 1865.

The attorney was further informed of the provisions of General Order 55, Adjutant General's Office, based on act of Congress of April 11, 1890 (copies inclosed), and under date of March 31, 1891, "a deserter's release" was issued to the man at his own request, thus closing his military record.

There is no apparent reason why the charge of desertion against this man should be removed. The record shows that he did desert and remained a deserter at large until 1891.

Very respectfully,

J. C. KELTON,
Adjutant-General.

The SECRETARY OF WAR.

O