



Deserters

On Saturday afternoon last, P.C. Ford, Whilst on duty in the town, noticed three Artillerymen going about from one public-house to another, apparently "on the spree." Rightly conjecturing that they came from Trowbridge Barracks, he demanded their passes, and finding they had none, took them into custody. The men made no resistance, but just as they were leaving the police station on their way to the Railway to meet the 7 o'clock down train, one of them bolted off in the direction of Long Street, and was followed by the police, and an excited and admiring crowd of juveniles. After a smart chase he was recaptured, and the three duly marched off to the Railway, and on their arrival delivered over to the military authorities for trial by court martial. From what we have been enabled to learn, one of them had only left the barracks that morning, but the other two had been loafing about in the surrounding villages since Wednesday, on which day they had made their escape from the barracks, where they were undergoing punishment for some slight military offence.

Wiltshire Independent, 28 May 1874