

**56. False accusations.**— Any person subject to this Act who commits any of the following offences, that is to say—

(a) makes a false accusation against any person subject to this Act knowing or having reason to believe such accusation to be false; or

(b) in making a complaint under section 26 or section 27 makes any statement affecting the character of any person subject to this Act, knowing or having reason to believe such statement to be false or knowingly and wilfully suppresses any material facts; shall, on conviction by court-martial, be liable to suffer imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years or such less punishment as is in this Act mentioned.

#### NOTES

1. Offences under this section should not be dealt with summarily under [AA.ss.80, 83](#) or [84](#).

2. Clause (a).—A mere false statement not involving an accusation (e.g., a letter to a friend containing insinuations against a non-commissioned officer) is not within this clause. This clause implies an accusation being made to some superior authority which would lead to the superior exercising his authority by enquiry or otherwise or the accusation must mean some assertion made publicly or to another person, which, if true, would expose the person respecting whom it is made to punishment or to moral censure. An accusation may be either verbal or in writing.

3. Before an accused can be convicted of a charge under this clause, it must be proved that the accusation was made against the person named in the particulars of the charge, that it was false and that the accused knew or had reason to believe that it was false. For definition of 'reason to believe' see [IPC.s.26](#).

4. Clause (b). —(a) It is not necessary that the false statement affecting the character of an officer or other person should be directly related to the subject of the complaint. It is sufficient if the false statement is calculated to create prejudice against the officer etc., with reference to whom the complaint is addressed.

(b) To suppress knowingly and wilfully any material facts in connection with complaints for the redress of wrongs under [AA. ss.26](#) and [27](#) is an offence under this clause,