

# Letters to the Editor

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## D-Day and Ireland

Sir, - Lara Marlowe informs your readers, "In 2012, then-minister for defence Alan Shatter pardoned 4,983 soldiers who deserted from Irish Defence Force to fight the Axis Powers" ("A Bloody Dawn' - An Irishwoman's Diary on the Irish at D-Day", June 4th).

The introduction of the Defence Forces (Second World War Amnesty and Immunity) Act (No 12) 2013, initiated by then-minister for defence Alan Shatter on behalf of the Government, comprehensively and unambiguously obliterated the imputation of guilt imposed by the introduction of Emergency Powers Order 362 on August 8th, 1945.

It was an amnesty and not a pardon.

A pardon is the forgiveness of an offence, whereas the construct and effect of this amnesty and immunity legislation was to exculpate all concerned from allegations of desertion, thereby removing the stigma of dishonour associated with being black-listed. - Yours, etc,

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