

THE
LINCOLN LOG
ON THIS DAY,

DECEMBER 30, 1863

President Lincoln writes to Major General Benjamin Butler regarding Jacob Bowers, who serves a life sentence for desertion. Butler wrote to Lincoln and recommended that Lincoln pardon Bowers because "I now believe that he simply acted under a misapprehension of his duty, being a German not understanding his duty." Butler added, "This is the first time I have ever asked you to pardon any body." Lincoln pardons Bowers "upon condition that he returns to duty, and re-enlists for three years or during the war."



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