

ORFORDNESS BOMBING AREA.

BYE-LAWS

Made by the President of the Air Council under the provisions of the Military Lands Acts, 1892 and 1900, as applied by the Air Force (Application of Enactments) (No. 1) Order, 1918, and the Air Force (Application of Enactments) (No. 3) Order, 1923, with the consent of the Board of Trade for regulating the use of the above-named Area.



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DESCRIPTION OF THE RANGE.

1. The bombing area to which these Bye-laws apply is situate at Orfordness in the County of Suffolk and consists of an area of Air Ministry land (hereinafter called "the land area") together with an area of foreshore and sea abutting thereon (hereinafter called "the sea area").

The respective limits of the land area and the sea area are set out in the Schedule hereto.

Experimental bomb-dropping may take place within either the land area or within the sea area, or within both such areas, and the land area or the sea area or both such areas will be closed to all persons for the purpose of experimental bomb-dropping in accordance with the provisions of these Bye-laws.

GENERAL PROHIBITION.

2. During such time as notice is given by the hoisting or displaying of signals in manner hereinafter provided in Bye-law No. 4 that experimental bomb-dropping is taking place, either within the land area or within the sea area, or within both the land area and the sea area, and that the land area or the sea area or both the land area and the sea area as indicated by the signals are closed to the public, all intrusion on the land area or on the sea area, or on both the land area and the sea area so closed to the public as the case may be, and all obstruction of the use thereof is prohibited.

OFFENCES DURING PRACTICE.

3. During such time as notice is given by the hoisting or displaying of signals in manner hereinafter provided in Bye-law No. 4 that experimental bomb-dropping is taking place, and that the land area or the sea area, or both the land area and the sea area, are closed to the public, then :—

(i) No person shall enter or remain in the said area or areas so closed to the public or bring, take or suffer to remain therein any vehicle, animal, vessel, aircraft or thing.

(ii) No vessel shall be employed in fishing in any part of the sea area while closed.

(iii) No pleasure boat shall cruise in any part of the sea area while closed.

(iv) No vessel shall anchor or remain anchored or ground on any part of the sea area while closed.

(v) No aircraft shall alight or remain in or travel upon the land area or sea area while closed.

(vi) In the event of any aircraft being from any cause within the land area while closed, the pilot or other person in charge thereof shall use his utmost endeavours to remove such aircraft out of the land area without loss of time.

(vii) In the event of any vessel or aircraft being from any cause within the sea area while closed the master, or pilot or other person in charge thereof shall use his utmost endeavours to pass out of the sea area without loss of time.

SIGNALS.

4. Notice that experimental bomb-dropping is taking place within the land area or within the sea area or within both the land area and the sea area, and that the land area or the sea area or both the land area and the sea area is or are closed to the public as the case may be, is given by the hoisting or displaying of the following signals :—

(1) When the land area only is closed :—

(a) By day by a red flag hoisted (1) on the flagstaff situate near Orfordness Lighthouse and (2) on the flagstaff situate near the R.A.F. Quay on the River Ore opposite Orford Quay.

(b) By night by a red light displayed on the said flagstaffs respectively.

(2) When the sea area only is closed :—

(a) By day by a large red ball displayed on the said flagstaffs respectively.

(b) By night by two red lights displayed on the said flagstaffs respectively.

(3) When both the land area and the sea area are closed :—

(a) By day by a red flag hoisted and a large red ball displayed on the said flagstaffs respectively.

(b) By night by three red lights displayed on the said flagstaffs respectively.

DURATION OF SIGNALS.

The signals referred to in this Bye-law will be hoisted or displayed half-an-hour before bomb-dropping commences and will be lowered or extinguished as soon as practicable after bomb-dropping has ceased.

RECOVERY OF SHELLS, &c.

5. No person shall trawl, dredge or search for or otherwise interfere with any shot, shell, bomb or other projectile or portion thereof within the sea area or take or retain or be in possession of any such shot, shell, bomb or other projectile or portion thereof found within the sea area.

Any person who when trawling, dredging or in any manner whatsoever shall come into possession of any such shot, shell, bomb or other projectile or any portion thereof within the sea area shall not retain it but shall immediately return it in its then condition and without tampering with it into the water.

PROVIDED nevertheless that the provisions of this Bye-law shall not apply in the case of persons who recover projectiles under written instructions from the local Naval, Royal Air Force, or Military Authorities.

OFFICERS AUTHORISED TO REMOVE OFFENDERS.

6. Any person doing anything prohibited by or otherwise contravening any of the preceding Bye-laws Nos. 2, 3 or 5 shall be deemed to commit an offence against the Bye-law so contravened.

The persons hereby authorised to remove or take into custody without warrant any person committing an offence

against Bye-law No. 2, Bye-law No. 3 or Bye-law No. 5, or to remove any vehicle, animal, vessel, aircraft, or thing found in the land area or in the sea area in contravention of any of the said Bye-laws are :—

(1) The Officer Commanding the Aeroplane and Armament Experimental Establishment, Martlesham Heath.

(2) Any Officer, Warrant Officer, Non-commissioned Officer, or any Service Policeman for the time being under the Command of the said Officer Commanding.

(3) Any person authorised in writing under the hand of the said Officer Commanding ; or

(4) Any Constable.

WHEN VESSEL OR AIRCRAFT IN DANGER.

7. When any vessel is within the sea area or any aircraft is within the sea area or the land area all bomb-dropping shall cease.

8. If at any time during which any of the signals (described in Bye-law No. 4) indicating that the land area is closed to the public are hoisted or displayed the Orfordness Coastguard or the Orfordness Lighthouse Keeper requires to cross the land area, the Coastguard or the Lighthouse Keeper as the case may be shall communicate by telephone with the Officer Commanding the Aeroplane and Armament Experimental Establishment, Martlesham Heath, by whom the necessary directions will be given for the suspension of bomb-dropping within the land area. When it is safe for the Coastguard or the Lighthouse Keeper to cross the land area a white flag by day or a white light by night as the case may be will be hoisted on the flagstaff on the Aerodrome Tower as a signal to the Coastguard or Lighthouse Keeper to proceed and the Coastguard or Lighthouse Keeper shall not proceed until such white flag or white light as the case may be has been so hoisted. When the Coastguard or the Lighthouse Keeper has crossed the land area the white flag or the white light as the case may be will be lowered and bomb-dropping will be resumed.

In this Bye-law the expressions "Coastguard" and "Lighthouse Keeper" include any subordinate officers or assistants.

EXEMPTIONS.

9. These Bye-laws shall not apply to:—

(a) Any vessel entering or passing through the sea area in the ordinary course of navigation.

(b) Any vessel compelled to enter or unable to quit the sea area by reason of the exigencies of navigation.

(c) Any vessel employed in tending, placing or replacing any of the channel mark buoys or other aids to navigation within the sea area.

(d) His Majesty's ships of war, His Majesty's aircraft or any vessel or aircraft employed under Admiralty, War Department or Air Council authority or under the authority of Trinity House, London.

(e) Any aircraft compelled to alight on or unable to quit the sea area or the land area.

INTERPRETATION.

10. In these Bye-laws:—

(a) The expressions "experimental bomb-dropping" and "bomb-dropping" include the dropping of live or other bombs from aircraft.

(b) The expression "land area" includes all foot-paths within the land area.

(c) The expression "vessel" includes ship, yacht, lighter, boat and craft of every kind and whether navigated by steam, motor, sail, oars or otherwise.

(d) The expression "aircraft" includes all balloons, whether fixed or free, kites, airships, aeroplanes, seaplanes, flying-boats and other flying machines.

DATE OF OPERATION OF BYE-LAWS.

11. These Bye-laws shall come into force on the Eleventh day of February, One thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine.

SCHEDULE.

Limits of the land area and the sea area of the Orfordness Bombing Area.

DESCRIPTION OF THE LAND AREA.

The area of land affected by these Bye-laws is situate at Orfordness in the County of Suffolk. It lies between the River Ore and the seashore and is bounded as follows:—

ON THE NORTH: By a line commencing at a point on High Water Mark (marked by a post painted white with one red band) about three thousand and forty yards South from the centre of the Martello Tower, which is half-a-mile South of the Town of Aldeburgh and running in a Westerly direction for a distance of about nine hundred and twenty yards until it reaches a point on the sea wall (marked by a post painted white with two red bands) on the Eastern bank of the River Ore, and thence:—

ON THE NORTH-WEST AND WEST: By a line commencing at the last-mentioned point and running along the sea wall along the Eastern bank of the River Ore in a southerly direction until a point thereon is reached about one thousand six hundred and seventy yards North-North-West of Orfordness Lighthouse (marked by a post painted white with three red bands), and thence:—

ON THE SOUTH-WEST AND SOUTH: By a line commencing at the last-mentioned point and running in a South-Easterly direction for a distance of about one thousand eight hundred and forty yards to High Water Mark at a point thereon (marked by a post painted white with four red bands) about four hundred and fifty yards East of Orfordness Lighthouse, and thence:—

ON THE EAST: By the line of High Water to the starting point.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SEA AREA.

The area of foreshore and sea affected by these Bye-laws surrounds a point indicated by a red and yellow buoy moored about two thousand and twenty yards from Orfordness

Lighthouse in a direction 76° True and is bounded as follows, the Magnetic Variation used being $12^{\circ} 16' W.$:—

ON THE NORTH: By a line commencing at a point on High Water Mark marked by a post painted white with five red bands about one thousand seven hundred and twenty yards North-East of Orfordness Lighthouse, and drawn in a direction 90° True (S. $77^{\circ} 44' E.$ Mag.) for a distance of about two thousand and thirty yards until a point is reached from which Orfordness Lighthouse bears 243° True (S. $75^{\circ} 16' W.$ Mag.), thence :—

ON THE EAST: By a line commencing at the last-mentioned point and drawn in a direction 180° True (S. $12^{\circ} 16' W.$ Mag.) for a distance of about one thousand nine hundred and eighty yards until a point is reached from which Orfordness Lighthouse bears 279° True (N. $68^{\circ} 44' W.$ Mag.), thence :—

ON THE SOUTH: By a line commencing at the last-mentioned point and drawn in a direction 270° True (N. $77^{\circ} 44' W.$ Mag.) for a distance of about one thousand three hundred and twenty yards until a point is reached about one thousand seven hundred yards East-South-East of Orfordness Lighthouse and thence in a direction 294° True (N. $53^{\circ} 44' W.$ Mag.) until it reaches the point on High Water Mark described above about four hundred and fifty yards East of Orfordness Lighthouse and marked by a post painted white with four red bands, and thence :—

ON THE WEST: By the line of High Water in a Northerly direction to the starting point.

Dated this Fourteenth day of January, One thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine.

(Signed) SAMUEL HOARE,
President of the Air Council.

The Board of Trade hereby signify their consent to the foregoing Bye-laws.

(Signed) P. CUNLIFFE-LISTER,
President of the Board of Trade.

NOTICES.

PENALTY FOR OFFENCES.

1. By Section 17 (2) of the Military Lands Act, 1892, it is provided :—

If any person commits an offence against any Bye-law under this Act he shall be liable on conviction before a Court of Summary Jurisdiction to a fine not exceeding FIVE POUNDS and may be removed by any Constable or Officer authorised in manner provided by the Bye-law from the Area whether land or water to which the Bye-law applies and taken into custody without Warrant and brought before a Court of Summary Jurisdiction to be dealt with according to law and any vehicle, animal, vessel, or thing found in the area in contravention of any Bye-law may be removed by any Constable or such Officer as aforesaid and on due proof of such contravention be declared by a Court of Summary Jurisdiction to be forfeited to His Majesty.

APPLICATION TO SEA AREA.

2. By Section 2 (2) of the Military Lands Act, 1900, it is provided :—

Where any land, the use of which can be regulated by Bye-laws under the Military Lands Act, 1892, or this Act, abuts on any sea or tidal water or where rifle or artillery practice is or can be carried on over any sea, tidal water or shore from any such land Bye-laws may be made in relation to any such sea, tidal water or shore as if they were part of the land.

PROGRAMME OF PRACTICE AND PUBLIC NOTICES.

3. (i) Experimental bomb-dropping may take place upon the land area at any time within the following periods without previous notice being given :—

On Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. (or sunset, if earlier than 7 p.m.).

(ii) Experimental bomb-dropping may also take place upon the land area on such days or at such times other than the above as may be decided by the Officer Commanding, Aeroplane and Armament Experimental Establishment, Martlesham Heath, twenty-four hours' notice in writing being given in advance to the Orford Town Trust, the Orford Parish Council, the Plomesgate Rural District Council, the Police Station, Orfordness, the Lighthouse Keeper, Orfordness, and the Secretary, Trinity House, London.

(iii) Experimental bomb-dropping may take place upon the sea area at any time within the following periods without previous notice being given :—

In any month except August, November and December, and except during a maximum period of four weeks of the in-shore spring her- ring season in the months of April, May or June.	on	{ Mondays Tuesdays Wednesdays Thursdays Fridays }	From 9
			a.m. to
			7 p.m.
			(or sun- set, if earlier
			than 7 p.m.).

The period of four weeks of the in-shore spring herring season in the months of April, May or June above referred to will be notified to the Air Ministry in each year at as early a date as possible by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and notice thereof will be given to the Authorities and persons mentioned in (vi) below by the Officer Commanding, Aeroplane and Armament Experimental Establishment, Martlesham Heath, specifying the dates of the commencement and termination of such period.

(iv) Experimental bomb-dropping may also take place upon the sea area during any month except August, November and December, and except during the period of four weeks of the in-shore spring herring season referred to in (iii) above on such days or at such times other than the above as may be decided by the Officer Commanding, Aeroplane and Armament Experimental Establishment, Martlesham Heath, twenty-four hours' notice in writing specifying the dates and hours during which such bomb-dropping will take place being given in advance by the Officer Commanding, Aeroplane and Armament Experimental Establishment, Martlesham Heath.

(v) If necessary for urgent reasons experimental bomb-dropping may take place upon the sea area during the month of August, and during the period of four weeks of the in-shore herring season referred to in (iii) above, in which case forty-eight

hours' notice in writing specifying the date or dates and hours during which such bomb-dropping will take place will be given in advance by the Officer Commanding, Aeroplane and Armament Experimental Establishment, Martlesham Heath.

(vi) The notices referred to in paragraphs (iii), (iv) and (v) above will be given by notices being sent to the Commander-in-Chief, Nore, the Hydrographer of the Navy, Admiralty, the Coastguard, Orford, the Coastguard, Aldeburgh, the Orford Town Trust, the Orford Parish Council, the Plomesgate Rural District Council, the Police Station, Orfordness, the Lighthouse Keeper, Orfordness, the Lifeboat Coxswain, Aldeburgh, and the Secretary, Trinity House, London.

(vii) In every case in which experimental bomb-dropping takes place as aforesaid, the appropriate warning signals referred to in Bye-law No. 4 will be hoisted or displayed, and twelve hours' notice by telephone to the Lifeboat Coxswain, Aldeburgh will be given in advance by the Officer Commanding, Aeroplane and Armament Experimental Establishment, Martlesham Heath.

4. During the months of November and December the buoy referred to in the description of the Sea Area in the Schedule hereto will be removed from the sea area.

5. This bombing area is required for the purposes of experimenting in the design and production of bombs for the Royal Air Force. Provided that this national work is not interfered with, every facility will be given to fishermen to carry on their calling within the bombing area.

6. Copies of these Bye-laws can be seen and obtained and a plan of the area can be inspected at the following places :—

The Aeroplane and Armament Experimental Establishment, Martlesham Heath.

The Coastguard Station, at Orford.

The Coastguard Station, at Aldeburgh.

The Police Station, at Orford.

The Offices of the Orford Town Trust.

The Orford Parish Council ; and

The Plomesgate Rural District Council.