



SHEERNESS AND GRAIN DEFENCES.

BYELAWS

Made by His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for
the War Department, under the provisions of the
Military Lands Acts, 1892-1903, with the consent of
the Board of Trade, for regulating firing from the
above-mentioned Defences.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY HARRISON AND SONS, LTD., 44-47, ST. MARTIN'S LANE,
PRINTERS IN ORDINARY TO HIS MAJESTY.

1932.

SHEERNESS AND GRAIN DEFENCES.

BYE-LAWS

Made by His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the War Department, under the provisions of the Military Lands Acts, 1892-1903, with the consent of the Board of Trade, for regulating firing from the above-mentioned Defences.

GENERAL PROHIBITION.

1. During such time as notice is given by the hoisting of signals in manner hereinafter provided that firing is taking place from Isle of Grain and Sheerness Batteries and/or from Fletcher Battery, all intrusion on the War Department property at the Isle of Grain and at Sheerness and/or in the vicinity of the Fletcher Battery at Swanley, Warden, Isle of Sheppey, hereinafter called the land areas, and the foreshore and sea abutting thereon within the limits set out in the Schedule hereto and all obstruction of the use thereof is prohibited.

ALTERNATIVE SEA AREAS.

The area of foreshore and sea affected when firing takes place will differ according to the Batteries or Battery from which firing is being carried out. The foreshore and sea affected and set out in the Schedule hereto is divided into two areas :—

- (1) ISLE OF GRAIN and SHEERNESS BATTERIES SEA AREA.
- (2) FLETCHER BATTERY SEA AREA.

OFFENCES DURING FIRING.

2. While notice that firing is taking place in either or both of the two areas mentioned in (1) is given by the hoisting of signals as provided in (4), then in respect of the sea and land area affected :—

- (i) No person shall enter or remain on the land area or sea area nor bring, take or suffer to remain therein any vehicle, animal, vessel, aircraft or thing except as provided in Bye-law No. 8.
- (ii) No vessel shall be employed in fishing in the sea area.
- (iii) No pleasure boat shall cruise in the sea area.
- (iv) No vessel shall anchor or remain anchored in or ground on the sea area.

(v) No aircraft shall alight on, or remain in, or travel upon the sea area.

(vi) In the event of any vessel or aircraft being from any cause within the sea area 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.

FIRING PROGRAMME.

3. Firing under these Bye-laws shall be limited in each year as follows :—

Isle of Grain and Sheerness Batteries Area—52 days and 20 nights.

Fletcher Battery Area—6 days.

Of the above total not more than 18 days and 6 nights firing shall take place during the three months July, August and September (combined) and during those three months firing shall not take place on more than three Saturdays and three Sundays.

The maximum number of occasions on which firing may take place on consecutive days, during any year, shall be :—

Six occasions of two consecutive days.

Four occasions of three consecutive days.

Two occasions of six consecutive days.

The total number of Sundays during any year on which firing may take place shall not exceed twelve.

No firing shall take place before 12.30 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

SIGNALS.

4. Notice that firing is taking place is given by the hoisting of the following signals :—

Isle of Grain and Sheerness Batteries Area (by day).

(a) In respect of the Isle of Grain and Sheerness Batteries Sea Area by day :—

(i) By a Red Flag under a Signal Ball 8 ft. or over in diameter at Grain and Garrison Point Forts.

(ii) By a Red Flag at the Battery or Batteries from which firing is taking place.

(iii) By a Signal Ball of 4 ft. in diameter to the Yard Arm on Nore Lightship.

(iv) By a Red Flag over a Black Ball on Southend Pier.

(v) By a Red Flag over Code Letter "X" at Girdler Lightship.

Isle of Grain and Sheerness Batteries Area (by night).

- (b) In respect of the Isle of Grain and Sheerness Batteries Sea Area, by night, by three lamps arranged vertically, 6 ft. apart, the upper lamp being white, the middle lamp red, and the lower lamp white, hoisted at the places mentioned at (i), (iii) and (iv) in (a) above.

Fletcher Battery Area (by day).

- (c) In respect of Fletcher Battery Sea Area by day :—

- (i) By a Red Flag over Code Letter " W " at :—

Grain and Garrison Point Forts,
East End, Warden, Isle of Sheppey.

- (ii) By a Red Flag over Code Letter " Y " at :—

Nore Lightship,
Girdler Light Vessel,
Southend Pier.

Combined Areas (by day).

- (d) In respect of the combined areas (a) and (c) above, by day :—

- (i) By a Red Flag over Code Letters " Y " and " W " at :—

Grain and Garrison Point Forts,
East End, Warden, Isle of Sheppey,
Southend Pier.

- (ii) By a Red Flag over Code Letter " Y " at :—

Girdler Light Vessel.

- (iii) By a Signal Ball of 4 ft. in diameter over Code Letters " Y " and " W " to the Yard Arm on Nore Lightship.

DURATION OF SIGNALS.

The Signals referred to in this Bye-law will be hoisted one hour before firing commences and will remain hoisted until firing has ceased.

RECOVERY OF SHELL, &c.

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

Any person who, when trawling, dredging, or in any manner whatever, shall come into possession of any such shot, shell or other projectile, or any portion thereof, within any of the sea

areas, shall not retain them, but shall immediately return them in their then condition, and without tampering with them, into the water.

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

OFFICERS AUTHORISED.

6. Any person doing anything prohibited by or otherwise contravening any of the preceding Bye-laws numbered 1, 2 or 5, shall be deemed to commit an offence against the Bye-laws so contravened.

The persons hereby authorised to remove or to take into custody, without warrant, any person committing an offence against Bye-law No. 1, 2 or 5, or to remove any vehicle, animal, vessel, aircraft or thing found on the land area or on either of the sea areas in contravention of any of the said Bye-laws, are :—

- (1) The Commandant, Coast Artillery School, Shoeburyness.
- (2) The Superintendent of Experiments, Experimental Establishment, Shoeburyness.
- (3) The Officer Commanding, Royal Artillery, Thames and Medway Defences.
- (4) Any Officer, Warrant Officer, Non-Commissioned Officer, or any Military Policeman for the time being under the Command of the said Commandant, the said Superintendent or of the said Officer Commanding.
- (5) Any person authorised in writing under the hand of the said Commandant, the said Superintendent or of the said Officer Commanding.
- (6) Any Constable.

WHEN ANY VESSEL OR AIRCRAFT IS IN DANGER.

7. While any vessel or aircraft is within danger in either of the sea areas, all firing within that area will cease, and a red flag or red lamp, as the case may be, additional to the signals referred to in Bye-law No. 4 will be hoisted as hereinafter provided to notify the Master or Pilot or other person in charge of the vessel or aircraft that he is within the danger area.

- (i) In the case of Isle of Grain and Sheerness Batteries Sea Area at Grain Fort and Garrison Point Fort.
- (ii) In the case of Fletcher Battery Sea Area at East End, Warden, Isle of Sheppey.

EXEMPTIONS.

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

- (a) Any vessel entering or passing through either of the sea areas in the ordinary course of navigation.
- (b) Any vessel compelled to enter or unable to quit either of the sea areas 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 either of the sea areas in respect of which due notice of the intention to enter the said sea area has been given to the Commandant, Coast Artillery School, or the Superintendent of Experiments, Shoeburyness, or the Officer Commanding, Royal Artillery, Thames and Medway Defences.
- (d) Any vessel belonging to the Port of London Authority or their contractors whilst employed on duty connected with the Port, provided due notice has been given to the Commandant, Coast Artillery School, or the Superintendent of Experiments, Shoeburyness, or the Officer Commanding, Royal Artillery, Thames and Medway Defences.
- (e) Any vessel belonging to the Corporation of Trinity House whilst employed on duty connected with the Corporation, provided due notice has been given to the Commandant, Coast Artillery School, or the Superintendent of Experiments, Shoeburyness, or the Officer Commanding, Royal Artillery, Thames and Medway Defences.
- (f) The Light Vessels belonging to the Corporation of Trinity House and stationed within the Sea Areas. Such vessels may remain within the Sea Areas at all times and special precautions will be taken by the local military authorities to control the zone of fire to ensure the safety thereof.
- (g) H.M. Ships of War, H.M. Aircraft or any vessel or aircraft employed under Admiralty or Air Council authority.
- (h) Any aircraft compelled to alight on or unable to quit either of the sea areas.
- (i) Any foreign vessel when outside territorial waters.

INTERPRETATION.

9.—(a) "Vessel" in these Bye-laws includes ship, yacht, lighter, boat and craft of every kind, and whether navigated by steam, motor, sail, oars or otherwise.

(b) "Aircraft" in these Bye-laws includes all balloons, whether fixed or free, kites, airships, aeroplanes, seaplanes, flying boats or other flying machines.

10. These Bye-laws shall come into force at the date hereof on and after which date the Bye-laws in respect of Sheerness and Grain Defences dated 9th September, 1910, shall be revoked.

SCHEDULE.

DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVE SEA AREAS.

1. ISLE OF GRAIN AND SHEERNESS BATTERIES SEA AREA.

The area of foreshore and sea affected when firing is being carried out from the Isle of Grain and Sheerness Batteries is bounded as follows :—

On the North West—

By a line commencing at a point on High Water Mark on the Isle of Grain, at the old Jetty North of Whitehall Battery and 600 yards N. by W. of Grain Fort, and drawn in a direction 62° True (N. $73^{\circ} 24'$ E. Mag.) across the foreshore and channel to the present charted position of the South Shoebury Buoy; thence in a direction 71° True (N. $82^{\circ} 24'$ E. Mag.) to the present charted position of the Blacktail Spit Buoy, and thence :—

On the East—

By a line drawn in a direction 183° True (S. $14^{\circ} 24'$ W. Mag.) to the present charted position of the West Oaze Buoy, and thence by a line drawn in a direction 209° True (S. $40^{\circ} 24'$ W. Mag.) to the present charted position of the Spile Buoy, and thence :—

On the South—

By a line drawn in a direction 272° True (N. $76^{\circ} 36'$ W. Mag.) to the Northern (seaward) end of the Sewer Pipe, 500 yards East of Garrison Point; thence southwards along the line of the Sewer Pipe to High-Water Mark; thence following the line of High Water round Garrison Point to Gun Wharf, South of Garrison Point Fort; and thence by a line drawn in a direction 293° True (N. $55^{\circ} 36'$ W. Mag.) across the River Medway to High-Water Mark on the Isle of Grain at a point thereon where the W.D. Hard from Grain Tower joins the sea wall about 300 yards S.S.E. of Wing Battery, and thence :—

On the West—

By the line of High Water to the starting point.

2. FLETCHER BATTERY SEA AREA.

The area of foreshore and sea affected when firing is being carried out from Fletcher Battery, in the vicinity of Swanley, Warden, Isle of Sheppey is bounded as follows :—

On the West—

By a line commencing at a point on High-Water Mark about 700 yards N.W. of Swanley, Eastchurch, and drawn in a direction 42° True (N. $53^{\circ} 24'$ E. Mag.) to the present charted position of Spile Buoy, thence in a direction 29° True (N. $40^{\circ} 24'$ E. Mag.) to the present charted position of the West Oaze Buoy, and thence in a direction 3° True (N. $14^{\circ} 24'$ E. Mag.) to the present charted position of the Blacktail Spit Buoy, and thence :—

On the North West—

By a line drawn in a direction 48° True (N. $59^{\circ} 24'$ E. Mag.) to a point about 860 yards West of the present charted position of the Maplin Buoy, and thence :—

On the North East—

By a line drawn in a direction 114° True (S. $54^{\circ} 36'$ E. Mag.) to the present charted position of the North Knob Buoy, and thence :—

On the East—

By a line drawn in a direction 180° True (S. $11^{\circ} 24'$ W. Mag.) to the present charted position of the Girdler Lightship, and thence :—

On the South East—

By a line drawn in a direction 240° True (S. $71^{\circ} 24'$ W. Mag.) to the present charted position of the West Spaniard Buoy and thence in a direction 250° True (S. $81^{\circ} 24'$ W. Mag.) to a point on High-Water Mark about 1,200 yards North West of Warden Court, and thence :—

On the South—

By the line of High Water to the starting point.

Dated this nineteenth day of January One thousand nine hundred and thirty-two.

(Signed) HAILSHAM,

*His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for the War Department.*

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

(Signed) WALTER RUNCIMAN,

President of the Board of Trade.

NOTICES.

PENALTY FOR OFFENCES.

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

That 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 AREAS.

(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.

FIRING PROGRAMME.

(3) With reference to Bye-law No. 3, a Schedule giving the provisional programme of firing from the Defences for the coming

season will be published at the commencement of each firing season, stating, subject to modifications as in (4) below :—

- (i) The months ;
- (ii) The days and nights in such months ;
- (iii) The hours on such days and nights, during which firing will take place.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION.

Public notification will be made as follows :—

- (a) Copies of the Schedule will be sent to :—

The Commander-in-Chief, The Nore.
 The Admiral Superintendent, Chatham.
 The Captain Superintendent, Sheerness.
 The Commodore, Royal Naval Barracks, Chatham.
 Lloyd's Signal Station, Southend-on-Sea.
 The Piermaster, Southend-on-Sea.
 The Officer Commanding, Royal Air Force, Eastchurch and Grain.
 The Nore Lightship.
 The Port of London Authority.
 The Harbour Masters : Gravesend, Rochester, Queenborough, Milton, Sittingbourne, Whitstable, Faversham, Margate and Ramsgate.
 The Custom House, London.
 The Post Offices : Isle of Sheppey, Grain and Southend-on-Sea.
 The Police : Isle of Sheppey, Grain and Southend-on-Sea.
 The Trinity House, London.
 The Clerk, Brightlingsea U.D.C., Brightlingsea.
 The Secretary, Kent & Essex Fisheries District Committee.
 The Head Fishery Officer, Leigh-on-Sea.
 The Secretaries of Passenger Steamship Companies (when necessary).

- (b) Copies of the Schedule will be posted at the under mentioned places :—

The Piers, Southend-on-Sea, Sheerness and Margate.
 The Custom Houses, Queenborough, Rochester, Whitstable, Faversham and Ramsgate.
 The Offices of the Medway Conservancy Board, Rochester.
 The District Post Offices, Sheerness and Southend-on-Sea.
 The Branch Post Offices, Queenborough and Isle of Grain.
 The Police Stations, Sheerness and Southend-on-Sea.

ADDITIONAL NOTICES.

(4) The provisional programme referred to above will be subject to alteration from time to time, if necessitated by military requirements.

When firing is to take place on dates and times other than the dates and times given in the Schedule, special notice will be given, with the approximate times of firing, at least three days previous to such firing. Provided that if firing is to take place on a Saturday or Sunday such special notice will be given at least 14 days previously.

The special notices referred to will be sent to the persons mentioned in 3 (a) above, and will be posted at the places mentioned in 3 (b) above.

Copies of the Schedule will be obtainable at the office of the Officer Commanding, Royal Artillery, Thames and Medway Defences, Sheerness.

ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONS DURING FIRING.

(5) In addition to the signals referred to in Bye-law 4, precautions will be taken to safeguard shipping prior to and during the period that night firing is taking place over Isle of Grain and Sheerness Batteries Sea Area by the posting of four picquet boats, which will be stationed round the North Western and Eastern boundaries of the danger area, and which will remain in position until the completion of the night practice.

Also, one searchlight will co-operate with the said picquet boats to give notice of outgoing craft in the entrance of the River Medway.

PROCEDURE FOR CLEARING SEA AREA.

(6)—(a) Vessels entering or remaining within the sea area in contravention of any of the preceding Bye-laws may, under Section 17 (2) of the Military Lands Act, 1892 (see (1) above), be removed from the area. In such cases any vessel acting under the orders of the local Military Authorities will, when necessary, tow the offending vessel out of the area.

(b) Masters of Vessels entering or remaining within the sea area by reason of the exigencies of navigation and exempt from the operation of the Bye-laws under Clause No. 8 (b), are requested to assist the carrying out of artillery practice by consenting to be towed out of the area, if necessary, by any vessel acting under the orders of the local Military Authorities.

WHERE BYE-LAWS CAN BE INSPECTED.

(7) Copies of these Bye-laws can be obtained and a chart showing the danger area of the range can be inspected at:—

The Commanding Royal Engineers' Office, Chatham.

The Royal Engineers' Office, Shoeburyness.

The Royal Engineers' Office, Sheerness.

The Royal Engineers' Office, Yantlet, Isle of Grain.

The Harbour Master's Office, Gravesend.

Copies will also be deposited with:—

The Port of London Authority.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Trinity House.

AIRCRAFT WARNING.

(8) Aircraft are warned not to fly in the vicinity of this range while firing is in progress, and no liability for accidents to aircraft arising from the use of the range can be admitted.

FACILITIES TO FISHERMEN.

(9) The Commandant, Coast Artillery School, Shoeburyness, The Superintendent of Experiments, Experimental Establishment, or the Officer Commanding, Royal Artillery, Thames and Medway Defences, will accord to fishermen in pursuit of their occupation every facility consistent with the carrying out of Artillery Practices.

MARKING OF LAND AREA.

(10) Notice Boards with a copy of these Bye-laws thereon will be placed at various points leading on to the War Department property at Isle of Grain and Sheerness, and in the vicinity of Swanley, Warden, Isle of Sheppey, to warn persons from entering such land while the signals are hoisted in accordance with Bye-law No. 4.

5

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1952 No. 2069 *Revoked see*

MILITARY LANDS *file 119/62/1173*

Sheerness and Grain Defences Military Lands (Amendment)
Byelaws, 1952

Made 1st November, 1952

Coming into operation 1st November, 1952

Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the War Department, with the consent of the Minister of Transport, hereby makes the following amendment to the Byelaws dated the 19th day of January, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-two, made under the provisions of the Military Lands Acts, 1892 to 1903, for regulating firing from the Sheerness and Grain Defences.

Byelaw No. 3 Firing Programme

Delete " No firing shall take place before 12.30 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays " and *insert* the following in substitution :—

" No firing shall take place before 12.30 p.m. on Saturdays and before 9 a.m. on Sundays."

Dated this 1st day of November, One thousand nine hundred and fifty-two.

(Signed) W. H. CURTIS,

*By Order of Her Majesty's Principal Secretary
of State for the War Department.*

The Minister of Transport hereby consents to the making of these Byelaws.

(Signed) R. W. BULLMORE,

By Order of the Minister of Transport.

31st October, 1952.