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FINGRINGHOE RANGES

IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX.

BYE-LAWS

MADE by His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the War Department under the provisions of the Military Lands Acts 1892 to 1903 as amended by Regulation 52 of the Defence Regulations 1939 and by virtue of that Regulation for regulating the use of the above-named Ranges.

LONDON

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FINGRINGHOE RANGES IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX.

BYE-LAWS

1. These Ranges may be used for Anti-Aircraft Weapons, Anti-Tank Guns, Anti-Tank Rifles, Mortars, Machine Guns, Light Machine Guns, Rifles, Revolvers, Rifle Grenades and Hand Grenades.

GENERAL PROHIBITION.

2. During such time as notice is given by the hoisting or display of signals in manner hereinafter provided in Bye-law No. 4 that firing is taking place on the ranges, all intrusion on the land or any part thereof affected by the said notice (hereinafter called "the land area") and the foreshore and tidal waters abutting thereon (hereinafter together called "the tidal waters area") within the limits set out in the Schedule hereto and all obstruction to the use thereof is prohibited and all footpaths including public rights of way are closed.

OFFENCES DURING FIRING.

3. While notice that firing is taking place on the ranges mentioned in Bye-law No. 2 is given by the hoisting or display of signals as provided in Bye-law No. 4, then in respect of the land area and tidal waters area included in and affected by the said notice :—

- (i) No person shall enter or remain within the land area or the tidal waters 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 or in dredging for oysters or shell fish in the tidal waters area.
- (iii) No pleasure boat shall cruise in the tidal waters area.
- (iv) No vessel shall anchor or remain anchored or ground in the tidal waters area.

- (v) No aircraft shall alight on, remain in, or travel upon the tidal waters area.
- (vi) In the event of any vessel or aircraft being from any cause within the tidal waters area, the Master or Pilot or other person in charge thereof shall use his utmost endeavours to pass out of the tidal waters area without loss of time.

SIGNALS.

4.—A. The signals that the land and tidal waters areas are closed will be given by hoisting and displaying red flags on poles by day or red lamps by night :—

- (i) At Langenhoe Lodge.
- (ii) At South House Farm.
- (iii) About South Green.
- (iv) About the North-East corner of Geedon Saltings.
- (v) On the South Bank of South Geedon Creek at the eastern edge of the land area.
- (vi) On the North Bank of Pyefleet Channel at the eastern edge of the land area.
- (vii) At the Western edge of the land area near Wick Farm, Langenhoe.

B. Notice to aircraft that firing is taking place on the Mortar Range will be given by exposing a suitably sited letter " F " (8 ft. by 5 ft.) in black on a white background which has a red border.

C. Notice to aircraft that firing with Anti-Aircraft Rifles and Light Machine Guns is taking place will be given by exposing a suitably sited letter " A " (8 ft. by 8 ft. 2½ in.) in black on a white background which has a red border.

DURATION OF SIGNALS.

D. The signals referred to in this Bye-law will be hoisted and displayed or exposed half-an-hour before firing is due to begin and will, subject to the provision of Bye-law No. 7, remain so hoisted and displayed or exposed until firing has ceased, when the signals will be hauled down or extinguished and the letters " F " and " A " covered up or blackened out.

RECOVERY OF SHELL, ETC.

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

Any person who, when trawling, dredging or in any manner whatsoever, shall come into possession of any such shot, shell, bomb, bullet or other projectile, or any portion thereof within the tidal waters 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 cases of persons who recover projectiles under written instructions from the local Naval, Military or Royal Air Force authorities.

OFFICERS AUTHORISED.

6. Any person doing anything prohibited by or otherwise contravening Bye-laws Nos. 2, 3 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 contravening Bye-laws Nos. 2, 3 and 5 or to remove any vehicle, animal, vessel, aircraft or thing found on the land area or in the tidal waters area in contravention of any of the said Bye-laws are :—

- (i) The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command.
- (ii) The Officer in Charge of the Ranges.
- (iii) Any Officer, Warrant Officer, Non-Commissioned Officer or Military Policeman for the time being under the command of the said Officer in Charge.
- (iv) Any person authorised in writing under the hand of the said Officer in Charge.
- (v) Any Constable.

WHEN VESSEL OR AIRCRAFT IN DANGER.

7.—(a) While any vessel or aircraft is within the tidal waters area all firing will cease in that danger area, and a second red flag by day or a second red light by night will be hoisted below the first red flag by day, or below the first red light by night, on

the flagpole on the South Bank of South Geedon Creek referred to in Bye-law No. 4, sub-paragraph A (v) and/or on the flag pole on the North Bank of Pyefleet Channel referred to in sub-paragraph A (vi) of the aforesaid Bye-law.

(b) When any aircraft is observed flying over the land area or tidal waters area at a height estimated to be less than 3,000 feet, when firing on the Mortar Range is in progress, such firing will cease immediately and will not be resumed until the aircraft is out of danger.

(c) When any aircraft is observed on a course likely to bring it flying over the danger area of the Anti-Aircraft Rifle and Light Machine Gun Range at a height estimated to be less than 10,000 feet, when firing on the range is in progress, such firing will cease immediately and will not be resumed until the aircraft is out of danger.

EXEMPTIONS.

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

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

(b) Any vessel unable to quit the tidal waters area by reason of the exigencies of navigation.

(c) H.M. Ships of War, H.M. Aircraft or any vessel or aircraft employed under Admiralty or Air Council authority.

(d) Any aircraft compelled to alight on or unable to quit the tidal waters area.

(e) Any vessel employed under Essex Rivers Catchment Board passing through the Pyefleet, loading or unloading on the Southern Bank of the Pyefleet.

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, gliders and other flying machines.

DATE OF OPERATION.

10. These Bye-laws shall come into force at the date hereof.

SCHEDULE.

DESCRIPTION OF LAND AND TIDAL WATERS AREAS.

The land and tidal waters areas affected by these Bye-laws and included within the Ranges area are as follows :—

(a) LAND AREA.

The land area comprises that area exclusive of foreshore and tidal waters encompassed by the following line (referred to hereinafter as “the boundary line”):—

From the North side of the most Northerly farm building of Langenhoe Lodge Farm the boundary line runs along the North side of Lodge Lane in a direction between North and West to a junction of a hedge with the aforesaid Lane at a point approximately four hundred and twenty yards direct from Langenhoe Lodge—thence Northwards along the aforesaid hedge unto its most Northern end thereafter on an imaginary line drawn approximately Northwards in prolongation of the aforesaid hedge until such imaginary line strikes the boundary between the Parishes of Langenhoe and Fingringhoe at a point on the brook approximately two hundred yards West of Grimps Grove—thence the boundary line follows the War Department boundary fence that runs approximately two hundred and fifty yards in a Northerly direction and then approximately six hundred yards in an Easterly direction until it strikes the public right of way (that runs in a Westerly and North-Westerly direction from South House Farm to Fingringhoe Village) at a point approximately four hundred yards from South House Farm—thence the boundary line follows the fence that runs on the North-East and North side of the aforesaid public right of way until the aforesaid public right of way meets the public highway at a point approximately fifty yards East of South House Farm; thence the boundary line runs in a North-Easterly direction along the Southern limit of the aforesaid public highway until it meets the boundary line of the “island” house and property situated approximately two hundred and fifty yards in a South-Westerly direction from South Green Farm; thence the boundary line follows the Western, Southern and Eastern boundaries of the aforesaid “island” house and property to a point approximately eighty yards south of the house that forms part of the aforesaid “island” house and property; thence the boundary line runs along the War Department fence in a direction approximately East by North to the right-angle bend in the fleet at a point approximately two hundred and thirty yards South-South-East of South Green Farm; thence the boundary line runs along the fleet in a direction

approximately East by North until such fleet meets the Northern end of the sea wall that forms the Western boundary of Fingringhoe Marsh; thence the boundary line runs in a Northerly direction along the aforesaid sea wall until it meets the chase that gives access to Fingringhoe Marsh from South Green at a point approximately three hundred yards from the public highway that runs in a North-Easterly direction from South Green Farm towards Fingringhoe Village; thence the boundary line crosses the aforesaid chase in a direction due East; thence the boundary line follows the War Department boundary that forms the Eastern boundary of the property situate on the East side of the Southern end of the aforesaid chase until such War Department boundary reaches the fence junction on the Eastern boundary of the aforesaid property at a point South-East of the house on the aforesaid property; thence the boundary line follows the fence that runs to a point on the High Water Mark of Ordinary Tides of the River Colne in a series of straight lines whose lengths and true bearings are as hereunder consecutively stated (such point being situate approximately five hundred yards from Beacon Hard):—

Four hundred and thirty yards—true bearing 61° ; fifty yards—true bearing 96° ; two hundred yards—true bearing 168° ; three hundred and fifty yards—true bearing 99° ; two hundred and ninety yards—true bearing 121° ; four hundred and ten yards—true bearing 71° ; two hundred and eighty yards—true bearing 121° ; from which point the boundary line runs along the High Water Mark of Ordinary Tides in a Southerly direction to the South-East corner of Geedon Saltings and thence in a Westerly direction along the North side of Geedon Creek to a point on the High Water Mark of Ordinary Tides situate six hundred yards from the aforesaid South-East corner of Geedon Creek; thence the boundary line follows a series of lines whose lengths and true bearings are as hereunder consecutively stated:—

Five hundred and thirty yards—true bearing 175° (to the Southern boundary of South Geedon Creek); thence three hundred and fifty yards—true bearing 205° (to the North boundary of Pyefleet Channel); thence two hundred and fifty yards—true bearing 285° along the North side of Pyefleet Channel; thence five hundred and twenty yards—true bearing 205° to a point on the High Water Mark of Ordinary Tides on the Southern boundary of the Pyefleet Channel (such point being situated three hundred yards in a direction true bearing 205° from the most Westerly point of Pewit Island); thence one thousand three hundred and

fifty yards—true bearing approximately 260° along the High Water Mark of Ordinary Tides on the Southern side of Pyefleet Channel; thence five hundred and forty yards—true bearing 300° to the North Bank of Pyefleet Channel; thence the boundary line follows a series of hedges, fences or fleets whose lengths and true bearings are as hereunder consecutively stated:—

One hundred yards—true bearing 338° ; thence forty yards—true bearing 65° ; thence two hundred yards—true bearing 20° ; thence one hundred and seventy yards—true bearing 270° ; thence five hundred and ten yards—true bearing 2° ; thence seventy yards—true bearing 270° (which point being the junction of three fences is situate approximately one hundred and fifty yards East of Wick Farm, Langenhoe; thence three hundred and eighty yards—true bearing 350° ; thence two hundred and forty yards—true bearing 320° ; thence the boundary line runs in a Westerly direction along the fleet (joining Risings Grove and the sea wall at the South-West end of South Geedon Creek) to the junction of a fence with the aforesaid fleet, such junction being situate approximately one hundred and ninety yards East-South-East of the most Southerly point of Risings Grove, thence the boundary line follows a series of fences whose lengths and true bearings are as hereunder consecutively stated:—three hundred and seventy yards—true bearing 355° ; thence two hundred and ninety yards—true bearing 87° ; thence eighty yards—true bearing 359° ; thence one hundred yards—true bearing 310° which point is situate on the East side of the most Northerly farm buildings of Langenhoe Lodge Farm; thence the boundary line follows the North-Eastern boundary of the aforesaid farm buildings until it meets the point from which it started as described at the beginning of this Schedule.

(b) The tidal waters area comprises that portion of Geedon Creek to the West of a line drawn in a direction of 175° across the Creek through the Western extremity of Rat Island also.

That portion of Pyefleet Channel bounded on the *East* by a line drawn in a direction of 205° across the channel through the Western extremity of Pewit Island, and on the *West* by a line drawn across the channel in a direction of 120° between points in Latitude $51^{\circ} 48' 32''$ N., Longitude $0^{\circ} 56' 46''$ E., and Latitude $51^{\circ} 48' 24''$ N., Longitude $0^{\circ} 57' 09''$ E.

Dated this Seventeenth day of January One thousand nine hundred and forty.

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

(Signed) G. W. LAMBERT.

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 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 or thing found in the area in contravention of any Bye-law may be removed by any constable or officer as aforesaid and on due proof of such contravention, be declared by a Court of Summary Jurisdiction to be forfeited to His Majesty.

PROCEDURE FOR CLEARING TIDAL WATERS AREA.

2.—(a) Vessels entering or remaining within the tidal waters 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 Bye-law No. 8 (b) are requested to assist the carrying out of firing practice by consenting to be towed out of the area, if necessary, by any vessel acting under the orders of the local Naval, Military, or Royal Air Force Authorities.

TIMES OF FIRING.

3.—(a) *Firing by Day*.—No notice will be given of the fact that firing by day is to take place on the Fingringhoe Ranges other than that already provided for under Bye-law No. 4.

(b) *Firing by Night*.—In addition to the Notices provided for under Bye-law No. 4, notice that firing by night is to take place on the Fingringhoe Ranges will be given by the insertion of a suitable advertisement in the Local Press.

ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONS.

4. The limits of the danger area described in the Schedule hereto are marked by War Department Notice Boards and War Department Danger Posts.

WHERE PLAN OF RANGES AND A COPY OF THE BYE-LAWS CAN BE OBTAINED.

5. A plan showing the limits of the danger areas and the position of the signal flags and signals to aircraft referred to in Bye-law No. 4 and the roads and footpaths and tidal waters affected can be inspected at the following places:—The Office of the Clerk to the Council of the Borough of Colchester and the office of the Clerk to the Council of the Administrative County of Essex and the office of the Commander, Royal Engineers, Colchester, and 4th Division, Colchester, and Custom Houses at Colchester and Brightlingsea.

WHERE COPIES OF BYE-LAWS CAN BE OBTAINED.

6. Copies of the Bye-laws can be obtained at the Office of the Commander, Royal Engineers, Colchester, and 4th Division, Colchester.

AIRCRAFT WARNING.

7.—(a) When firing is taking place on the Mortar Range, aircraft are warned not to fly over the land area or tidal waters area of the ranges at a height of less than 3,000 feet.

(b) When firing is taking place on the Anti-Aircraft Range, aircraft are warned not to fly over the land area or tidal waters area of the ranges at a height of less than 10,000 feet.

No liability for accidents to aircraft arising from the use of the ranges can be admitted.