



BIRCHINGTON RIFLE RANGE

In the County of Kent.

BYE-LAWS

Made by His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the War Department, with the consents of the Board of Trade and the Isle of Thanet Rural District Council, under the provisions of the Military Lands Acts, 1892 to 1903, for regulating the use of the above-named Range.

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1925.

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1. THE land (hereinafter called the "land area") situate on the West side of Birchington, Kent, in the Parishes of Birchington and St. Nicholas-at-Wade, and the foreshore and sea abutting thereon (hereinafter called the "sea area.") within the limits hereinafter mentioned and described, which together constitute the danger zone of the Range, shall be closed to all persons to allow of firing from the Range while the warning signals are hoisted in accordance with Bye-law No. 5.

2. THE land area consists of a strip of land, bordering on the sea, about $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles long and 250 yards wide. Each end of the strip is marked by a pair of poles. The inland pole of each pair is the higher and carries a wooden triangle on the top, with its apex pointing downwards. The seaward poles carry similar triangles, but with the apex pointing upwards.

The Western inland pole, marking the South-West corner of the land area, is situated on the Northern Sea Wall at a point about 100 yards South-East of Coldharbour Sluice. The Western seaward pole is placed about 50 yards from High Water Mark, at a distance of about 130 yards and in a direction 30° True, from the above described inland pole.

The Eastern inland pole, marking the South-East corner of the land area, is situated close to the Northern boundary of the Southern Railway (Kent Coast) Line, at a point thereon about 1,500 yards West of Birchington Railway Station. The Eastern seaward pole is placed about 35 yards from High Water Mark, at a distance of about 393 yards and in a direction $298\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ True, from the Eastern inland pole.

The Northern boundary of the land area follows the line of High Water Mark between the points at which the latter would be cut by lines joining the inland poles to their corresponding seaward poles, if produced.

The Southern boundary of the land area is a line drawn from the Eastern inland pole above described, running first in a Westerly

direction for about 2,300 yards, and then about West by North for about 1,360 yards, to the Western inland pole above described.

When the Range is in use, each of the two inland poles will be surmounted by a red flag. All the triangles and poles are painted black and white, to make them as conspicuous as possible.

3. THE sea area extends out to sea for a maximum distance of half a mile from High Water Mark, and is bounded as follows :—

ON THE WEST :—

By a line drawn through the two Western poles in a direction 30° True (N. $42^{\circ} 42'$ E. Mag.) for a distance of about 900 yards until a point is reached from which the Eastern seaward pole bears 110° True (S. $57^{\circ} 18'$ E. Mag.) thence :—

ON THE NORTH :—

By a line drawn in a direction 101° True (S. $66^{\circ} 18'$ E. Mag.) for a distance of about 1,500 yards until a point is reached from which the two Eastern poles are in line and bear $118\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ True (S. $48^{\circ} 48'$ E. Mag.), and the Western seaward pole is seen bearing 255° True (S. $87^{\circ} 42'$ W. Mag.) thence :—

ON THE NORTH-EAST :—

By a line drawn in a direction $118\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ True (S. $48^{\circ} 48'$ E. Mag.) in the line of the two Eastern poles for a distance of 1,333 yards on to a point at High Water Mark just below the Eastern seaward pole, thence :—

ON THE SOUTH :—

By the line of High Water extending between the West and North-East boundary lines.

NOTICES.

4. FIRING on this Range will be restricted to the months of April to July (inclusive) and September. Twenty-four hours' notice of firing will be issued to the following :—

Coastguard Station, Recuivers, Herne Bay.
Coastguard Station, Margate.
Police Station, Birchington.
The Grazing Tenant of the land.

SIGNALS.

5. THE signal that the land and sea areas are closed will be given by the hoisting of red flags on the poles marking the

inland end of the land area, viz., the higher poles referred to in Bye-law No. 2.

Such flags will be hoisted half an hour before firing commences and will remain hoisted until firing has ceased.

OFFENCES.

6. DURING the time the land and sea areas are closed as afore-said all footpaths within the land area will be stopped up, and no person shall enter or remain within either area, nor bring, take nor suffer to remain therein any vehicle, animal, vessel, aircraft or thing.

7. NO vessel shall be employed in fishing in any part of the sea area while closed.

8. NO pleasure boat shall cruise in any part of the sea area while closed.

9. NO vessel shall anchor, or remain anchored in, or ground on any part of the sea area while closed.

10. NO aircraft shall alight on, remain in or travel upon the sea area, while closed.

11. 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 said area without loss of time.

12. THE following persons, viz. :—

- (1) The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Eastern Command ;
- (2) The Officer in Charge of the Range ;
- (3) Any Officer, Warrant Officer, Non-Commissioned Officer, or any Military Policeman, for the time being under the command of the said Officer in Charge ;
- (4) Any person authorised in writing under the hand of the said Officer in Charge, or
- (5) Any Constable ;

shall have power and are hereby authorised :—

- (1) To remove from the land area or the sea area and take into custody without Warrant, and bring before a Court of Summary Jurisdiction, as provided by the

Military Lands Acts, 1892 to 1903, to be dealt with according to law, any person contravening any of these Bye-laws.

- (2) To remove from the land area or the sea area any vehicle, animal, vessel, aircraft or thing found therein in contravention of any of these Bye-laws, and any such vehicle, animal, vessel, aircraft or thing shall be liable to forfeiture as mentioned in the aforesaid Acts.

13. ANY person doing anything prohibited by or otherwise contravening any of the preceding Bye-laws, numbered 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 respectively, shall be deemed to commit an offence against the same, and is, under the said Acts liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding **Five Pounds**.

GENERAL.

14. WHILE any vessel or aircraft is within the sea area all firing will cease, and a second red flag will be hoisted below the first flag on the higher poles, to notify the Master or Pilot or other person in charge of the vessel or aircraft that he is within the danger area.

15. 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) H.M. Ships of War, H.M. Aircraft, or any vessel or aircraft employed under Admiralty or Air Council authority.
- (e) Any aircraft compelled to alight on or unable to quit the sea area.

16. "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.

17. "AIRCRAFT" in these Bye-laws includes all balloons, whether fixed or free, kites, airships, aeroplanes, seaplanes, flying boats and other flying machines.

18. THE Bye-laws dated 14th December, 1914, are hereby revoked.

Dated this fifteenth day of September, One thousand nine hundred and twenty-five.

(Signed) L. WORTHINGTON EVANS,

*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) P. CUNLIFFE-LISTER,

President of the Board of Trade.

20th November, 1925.

The Isle of Thanet Rural District Council hereby signify their consent to the foregoing Bye-laws.

(Signed) W. F. LONGRIGG,

Chairman.

(Signed) CHAS. TAYLOR,

Clerk.

NOTICES.

Copies of these Bye-laws can be obtained and a map showing the limits of the Danger area can be inspected at the following places :—

The Office of the Clerk to the Parochial Committee, Birchington ; The Office of the Island of Thanet Rural District Council ; The Royal Engineer Office, Canterbury.

The Local Military Authorities, when possible, will afford to fishermen every facility to pursue their occupation, provided that serious interference is not caused thereby to the carrying out of essential firing practice.