

# Birchington Rifle Range, in the County of Kent.

## 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 the Defence of the Realm (No. 2) Regulations, 1914, made under the Defence of the Realm (No. 2) Act, 1914.

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1. The land (hereinafter called "the land area") situate on the W. 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 5.

2. The land area consists of a strip of land extending Eastwards from Cold Harbour sluice for about  $1\frac{3}{4}$  miles, along H.W. Mark and inland for an average distance of about 250 yards. Each end of the strip will be marked by a pole (placed about 50 yards back from H.W. Mark) with a wooden triangle on the top, the apex of the triangle pointing *upwards*, and by a similar but higher pole (placed at the inland extremity of the boundary) with its triangle pointing *downwards*, and will, when the range is in use, be surmounted by a red flag. The triangles and the poles will be painted black and white to make them as conspicuous as possible. The strip of land is bounded on the South by a line drawn from the flagged pole at the Eastern end and running in a Westerly direction for about 2,300 yards, and then about West by North to the flagged pole at Cold Harbour sluice.

3. The sea area, which extends out to sea for about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles from high water mark, is triangular in shape.

The sea area is bounded *On the South* by the line of high water mark extending between the two unflagged poles; thence *On the West* by a line drawn through the two Western poles in a direction  $30^\circ$  (true) (N.  $48^\circ 45'$  E. Mag.), until a point is reached at which the two Eastern poles appear in line; *On the East* by a line drawn at  $138^\circ$  (true) (S.  $28^\circ 15'$  E. Mag.) through the two Eastern poles.

NOTE.—An observer at sea will be aware that he is within the sea area if both the flagged land poles are seen anywhere between the two unflagged poles and the upper edge of the triangle of the flagged pole appears from the point from which he is looking to be at a lower level than the top of the triangle on the unflagged poles. (This assumes that the point of observation will be not more than 15 ft. above sea level.) Unless both of these conditions appear he will know that he is not in danger.

## NOTICES.

4. Firing may take place on this range at any time and no special notices will be issued.

## SIGNAL.

5. The signal that the land and sea areas are closed will be given by the hoisting of the red flags on the poles marking the inland end of the land area, viz.: the higher poles referred to in Bye-law 2.

## OFFENCES.

6. During the time the land and sea areas are closed as aforesaid 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, horse, vessel or thing.

7. No vessel shall be employed in fishing on 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 or ground on any part of the sea area while closed.

10. In the event of any vessel being from any cause within the sea area while closed, the Master or other person in charge thereof shall use his utmost endeavours to pass out of the said area without loss of time.

11. The following persons, viz.:—

- (1) The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Force,
- (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 the 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, horse, vessel or thing found therein in contravention of any of these Bye-laws, and any such vehicle, horse, vessel or thing shall be liable to forfeiture as mentioned in the aforesaid Acts.

12. Any person doing anything prohibited by or otherwise contravening any of the preceding Bye-laws, numbered 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 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.

13. While any vessel 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 other person in charge of the vessel that he is within the danger area.

14. 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, or any vessel employed under Admiralty Authority.

15. "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.

16. Copies of these Bye-laws can be obtained and a map showing the limits of the danger area, &c., can be inspected at the following places:—

The Office of the Clerk to the Parochial Committee,  
Birchington.

The Office of the Isle of Thanet Rural District Council.  
The Royal Engineer Office, Canterbury.

17. These Bye-laws shall come into force forthwith.

*Dated this 14th day of December, one thousand nine hundred and fourteen.*

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