

(Sheerness 26/8)

# SHEERNESS RANGES.

## PROPOSED BYE-LAWS

In respect of Artillery Practice from the Practice Batteries near Barton's Point and Barton's Point Battery to be made by His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the War Department, under the provisions of the Military Lands Acts, 1892 to 1903, with the consent of the Board of Trade.



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1. The War Department property appertaining to the Ranges, including the shore in front thereof (hereinafter described and called the land area), and the foreshore and sea (hereinafter described and called the sea area), shall be closed while firing is going on from the Practice Batteries near Barton's Point and Barton's Point Battery.

2. The land and sea areas which will be closed are bounded as follows, that is to say :—

### *Land area—*

The War Department property forming the site of Barton's Point Battery and works in connection therewith, which property lies between the H.W.M. of the sea and the moat in the rear of the Battery, and extends Eastward from the W.D. boundary stone No. 21, at the corner of the sea wall opposite the "Ship on Shore" P.H., to a point marked by the W.D. boundary stone No. 23 near the Eastern extremity of the said moat.

### *Sea area—*

Bounded as follows :—

#### *On the N. W.—*

By an imaginary line drawn from H.W.M. in front of the flagstaff erected to the W. of the Practice Battery W. of Barton's Point Battery, and passing thence in a direction N.  $65\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  E. true, through the East Cant Buoy till a point (distant about 600 yards therefrom) be reached, from which the Coast Guard Station at Shell Ness (the extreme Eastern point of Sheppey Island) bears S.  $13\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$  E. true; thence,

#### *On the East—*

By an imaginary line bearing S.  $13\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$  E. true, towards Shell Ness Coast Guard Station, till a point be reached from which Warden Point bears due W. true; thence,

*On the South—*

By an imaginary line bearing N.  $75\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  W. true, to the aforementioned flagstaff as far as H.W.M., and thence by the line of H.W.M. to the starting point.

### NOTICES.

3. Notice that firing will take place over the sea area will be given as follows:—

The Naval Commander-in-Chief and the Captain of the Sheerness Gunnery School, and the local Sea Fisheries Committee, will be informed and notices will be posted three days previously at the Pier, Sheerness, the Custom Houses, Queenboro' and Rochester, the offices of the Medway Conservancy Board, Rochester, and the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club.

### SIGNALS.

4. On the day of firing, the signals that the above-mentioned areas are closed will be a red flag hoisted on the flagstaff erected to the W. of the Practice Battery W. of Barton's Point Battery, and a red flag hoisted on the East End Lane Coastguard flagstaff.

*N.B.—A flag is hoisted at the E. of Barton's Point Battery in connection with musketry only.*

5. No vessel shall be employed in fishing on any part of the sea area during the time of firing.

In the event of the person in charge of any vessel infringing or not obeying this bye-law, and failing to desist immediately on request by the Officer in Command, or by any person acting under his orders, such vessel may be removed from the said sea area by or under the direction of such officer or person so acting.

6. No vessel shall anchor or remain anchored on any part of the sea area during the time of firing.

In the event of any person in charge of any vessel infringing or not obeying this bye-law, and failing to desist immediately on request by the Officer in Command or by any person acting under his orders, such vessel may be removed from the said sea area by or under the direction of such officer or person so acting.

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

In the event of the person in charge of any vessel infringing or not obeying this bye-law, and failing to leave immediately on request by the Officer in Command, or by any person acting under his orders, such vessel may be removed from the said sea area by or under the direction of such officer or person so acting.

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

Any person who, when trawling, dredging, or in any manner whatever, shall come into possession of any such shot, shell, or other projectile 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 provision of this bye-law shall not apply in case of persons who recover projectiles under written instructions from the local Naval or Military authorities.

9. Any person contravening any of the preceding bye-laws numbered 5, 6, 7 and 8, respectively, shall be deemed to commit an offence against the same, and is, under the said acts (Military Lands Acts, 1892 to 1903), liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding £5.

10. When any vessel is within danger in the sea area, all firing shall cease.

11. No offence shall be committed under these bye-laws by :—

- (a) Any vessel entering or passing through the sea area in the ordinary course of navigation.
- (b) Any vessel being compelled to enter the sea area by reason of the exigencies of navigation.
- (c) Any vessel when racing, provided due notice of the racing fixture has been given to the Officer Commanding the Royal Artillery, at the C.R.A.'s Office, Sheerness.
- (d) Any Government vessel employed in replacing any of the Channel mark buoys within the sea area.

12. "Vessel" in these bye-laws includes ship, yacht, lighter, and craft of every kind, and whether navigated by steam, sail, oars, or otherwise.