



WATCHET ANTI - AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY RANGE IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

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 Watchet Anti-Aircraft Artillery Range.

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Range.*

GENERAL PROHIBITION.

1. During such time as notice is given by the hoisting of signals in manner hereinafter provided that firing is taking place in all or any of the three land and sea areas hereinafter referred to of the Watchet Anti-Aircraft Artillery Range, the limits of which are set out in the Schedule hereto, all intrusion on such land and sea area or areas and all obstruction of the use thereof is prohibited.

The area of land and foreshore and sea affected when firing takes place will differ according to the land area from which firing is being carried out, and is divided into three areas as set out in the Schedule hereto, *videlicet* :—

- Land and Sea Area, No. 1.
 - Land and Sea Area, No. 2.
 - Land and Sea Area, No. 3.

OFFENCES DURING FIRING.

2. While notice that firing is taking place in all or any of the three areas mentioned in Bye-law 1 is given by the hoisting of signals as provided in Bye-law 3, then in respect of each land and sea 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. 7.
 - (ii) No vessel shall be employed in fishing in the sea area.
 - (iii) No pleasure boat shall cruise in any part of the sea area.
 - (iv) No vessel shall anchor or remain anchored in or ground in the sea area.
 - (v) No aircraft shall alight on, 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.

SIGNALS.

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

(a) In respect of all or any of the land and sea areas.

By Day.—A Red Flag on the flagstaff on the headland immediately East of Watchet Harbour.

By Night.—Two Lights, one Red, and one Green, arranged vertically six feet apart on the flagstaff on the headland immediately East of Watchet Harbour.

(b) In respect of the particular land and sea area affected.

By Day.—(i) A Red Flag and a Black Ball six feet in diameter on a flagstaff on the Land Area or Areas affected.

(ii) A Red Flag hoisted on High Water Mark at the positions occupied by each of the two safety parties stationed on the Western and Eastern boundaries of the Land Area or Areas affected.

By Night.—(i) A Red Flashing Light, giving one red flash every five seconds, on the flagstaff on the Land Area or Areas affected.

(ii) Two Red Lights arranged vertically three feet apart, hoisted on High Water Mark at the positions of each of the two safety parties stationed on the Western and Eastern boundaries of the Land Area or Areas affected.

(Note.—See Notice No. 6 as to the positions of the safety parties referred to.)

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, ETC.

4. 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, Military or Air Force Authorities.

OFFICERS AUTHORISED.

5. Any person doing anything prohibited by or otherwise contravening any of the preceding Bye-laws Nos. 1, 2 or 4 shall be deemed to commit an offence against the Bye-law so contravened.

The persons hereby authorised to remove or take into custody without warrant any person committing an offence against Bye-laws Nos. 2 or 4, or to remove any vehicle, animal, vessel, aircraft or thing found in the land area or in the sea area in contravention of any of the said Bye-laws are :—

- (1) The Major-General in Charge of Administration, Southern 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.
- (5) Any Constable.

WHEN VESSEL OR AIRCRAFT IN DANGER.

6. While any vessel or aircraft is observed within the sea area a second red flag or an additional red light will be hoisted below the flags or lights referred to in Bye-law No. 3 to notify the master or pilot or other person in charge of the vessel or aircraft that he is within such sea area. Firing will then normally be continued outside the limit of twenty degrees on either side of such vessel or aircraft.

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

- (a) Any vessel entering or passing through the sea areas in the ordinary course of navigation.
- (b) Any vessel compelled to enter or unable to quit 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 the said areas.
- (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 areas.

INTERPRETATION.

8.—(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.

DATE OF OPERATION OF BYE-LAWS.

9. These Bye-laws shall come into force at the date hereof on and after which date the existing Bye-laws for Watchet Anti-Aircraft Artillery Range dated 30th June, 1932, shall cease to have effect.

SCHEDULE.

DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVE LAND AND SEA AREAS.

1. LAND AND SEA AREA, No. 1.

(a) *Land Area.*—This land area is situate in the Parish of Williton, and is bounded as follows :—

On the North—

Commencing at a point on High Water Mark at the boundary dividing Williton and Watchet Parishes and running in an Easterly direction along the line of High Water, to the West side of the lane (to the West of Doniford Farm) which leads to the Watchet-Doniford Road, thence

On the East—

By the West side of this lane past the old Limekiln as far as the Watchet-Doniford Road, thence

On the South—

In a Westerly direction along the North side of the above-mentioned road to the railway bridge where the said road crosses the Great Western Railway (West Somerset Line), thence

On the West—

Following the boundary between the Parishes of Williton and Watchet along the North-east side of the said railway line for about 133 yards and thence by the above Parish boundary to the starting point on High Water Mark.

(b) *Sea Area.*—This sea area consists of a Sector of a circle with radius of 14,000 yards (6·91 nautical miles), with its centre on Land Area No. 1, North of Doniford, marked by a flagstaff, from which day and night signals are exhibited, in Lat. $51^{\circ} 10' 44''$ N., Long. $3^{\circ} 18' 33''$ W. on Admiralty Chart No. 1152. The Southern (or landward) boundaries of the Sector are radii of the circle of which the directions are 48° TRUE and 300° TRUE from the centre point.

2. LAND AND SEA AREA, No. 2.

(a) *Land Area.*—This land area is also situate in the Parish of Williton to the East of the Land Area No. 1, and includes those fields numbered 105 and 106 and part of 110 on the O.S. Map (1904 Edition) and the beach land abutting thereon (being part of O.S. 104, 111 and 112), and is bounded as follows :—

On the North—

Commencing at a point on High Water Mark about 154 yards North-east of the Footbridge across the River Swill and running in a North-easterly and Easterly direction along the line of High Water to a point about 130 yards North-east of the old Limekiln in Field No. 110, and thence

On the South-East—

By a line running in a South-westerly direction for a distance of about 450 yards across the beach land (O.S. Nos. 111 and 112) and

Field No. 110 until it reaches the fence bounding the East side of Field No. 106, thence running Southwards along the said fence to the top of Sea Lane, and thence

On the South—

By the line of fence bounding the South side of Field No. 106 running in a Westerly direction as far as the South-west corner of Field No. 106, thence

On the West—

By the West side of Field No. 106, in a Northerly direction to the North-east corner of Field No. 103, thence across the beach land abutting thereon to the starting point on High Water Mark.

(b) *Sea Area.*—This sea area consists of a Sector of a circle with radius of 14,000 yards (6.91 nautical miles) with its centre on Land Area No. 2, North-eastward of Doniford, marked by a flagstaff, from which day and night signals are exhibited, in Lat. $51^{\circ} 10' 47''$ N., Long. $3^{\circ} 17' 45''$ W. on Admiralty Chart No. 1152. The Southern (or landward) boundaries of the Sector are radii of the circle of which the directions are 47° TRUE and 300° TRUE, from the centre point.

3. LAND AND SEA AREA, No. 3.

(a) *Land Area.*—This land area is situate in the Parish of East Quantoxhead, due North of Perry Farm, and includes those Fields numbered 18, 184 and part of 186 on the O.S. Map (1904 Edition), together with the cliffs and beach land abutting thereon (being part of O.S. No. 21), and is bounded as follows :—

On the North—

Commencing at a point on High Water Mark at the Parish Boundary dividing the Parishes of East and West Quantoxhead and running in a North-easterly direction along the line of High Water to a point about 430 yards North-east of the starting point, thence

On the East and South-east—

By a line crossing the beach land (O.S. Field No. 21) to the North-east corner of Field No. 18, thence following the boundary of Field No. 18 in a general Southerly direction, until it reaches the North-east corner of Field No. 184, and thence following the Eastern and South-eastern boundary of Field No. 184 to its South-West corner about 150 yards North-west of Perry Farm buildings, thence crossing Field No. 186 until it reaches the afore-mentioned Parish Boundary on Perry Gully, and thence

On the West—

By a line running in a Northerly direction along the line of the said Parish Boundary by the East side of Perry Gully to the starting point on High Water Mark.

(b) *Sea Area.*—This sea area consists of a Sector of a circle with radius of 14,000 yards (6.91 nautical miles) with its centre on Land Area No. 3, North of Perry, marked by Eastern flagstaff, from which day and night signals are exhibited, in Lat. $51^{\circ} 10' 59''$ N., Long. $3^{\circ} 15' 53''$ W. on Admiralty

Chart No. 1152. The Southern (or landward) boundaries of the Sector are radii of the circle, of which the directions are $28^{\circ} 30'$ TRUE and $286^{\circ} 45'$ TRUE from the centre point.

Dated this tenth day of October, 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, 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.

PROCEDURE FOR CLEARING SEA AREA.

(3)—(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 Bye-law No. 7 (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 Naval, Military or Royal Air Force Authorities.

TIMES OF FIRING.

(4) Firing will take place on the Range from 1st January to 31st December inclusive, annually.

Except when night firing occurs, no firing will take place between the hours of 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. the following morning.

In normal circumstances night firing will not last after 2 a.m.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF FIRING.

(5) Public notification that firing will take place will be given, 12 hours previously, to the following :—

The Harbour Masters of Watchet, Minehead and Bridgwater.

The Police Sergeant of Williton.

Mr. T. A. Down (or occupier), Doniford Farm, Watchet.

ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONS DURING FIRING.

(6) Safety Parties will be stationed on each boundary of the Land Area or Areas affected during firing, at the following points :—

LAND AREA No. 1.

Western Boundary.—On High Water Mark at the point dividing Williton and Watchet Parishes.

Eastern Boundary.—On High Water Mark on the West side of the lane (to the West of Doniford Farm) which leads to the Watchet-Doniford Road.

LAND AREA No. 2.

Western Boundary.—On High Water Mark about 154 yards North-east of the Footbridge across the River Swill.

Eastern Boundary.—On High Water Mark about 800 yards North-east of the position of the safety party on the Western Boundary.

LAND AREA No. 3.

Western Boundary.—On High Water Mark about 200 yards West of the Parish Boundary dividing the Parishes of East and West Quantoxhead.

Eastern Boundary.—On High Water Mark about 800 yards North-east of the position of the safety party on the Western Boundary.

WHERE BYE-LAWS CAN BE OBTAINED AND PLAN OF THE RANGE INSPECTED.

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

(a) Police Stations at Dunster and Williton.

(b) The Principal Post Offices at :—

(1) Minehead.

(2) Bridgwater.

(3) Watchet.

(4) Williton.

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.