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ROYAL WARRANT THE POLAR MEDAL

ELIZABETH THE SECOND, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and of Her other Realms and Territories, Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith, to all to whom these Presents shall come,

Greeting!

WHEREAS a Medal for Arctic Discoveries was instituted by Our Royal predecessor, Her Majesty Queen Victoria, in 1887, and granted for service in specified expeditions in the period 1818 to 1855; and whereas Her Majesty subsequently instituted in 1876 a further Medal for Arctic exploration in the years 1875 and 1876; and whereas Polar Medals in silver and bronze were instituted by Our Royal Great-Grandfather, His Majesty King Edward VII, in 1904, and have been granted on various occasions since.

And Whereas We deem it expedient that the conditions for the award of the Polar Medal should be regularised and amended, in the light of present day circumstances and incorporated in a Warrant;

Now Therefore We are pleased to make, ordain, and establish the following rules and ordinances, which shall henceforth be inviolably observed and kept:—

Firstly: Style.—It is ordained that the Medal shall be styled and designated "The Polar Medal."

Secondly: Description.—The Medal shall be in silver and octagonal in shape, bearing on the obverse the Effigy of The Sovereign and on the reverse a representation of the ship Discovery in winter quarters with, in the foreground, a sledging party on skis.

Thirdly: Riband.—The Medal shall be worn on the left breast suspended from a white riband one inch and a quarter in width.

Fourthly: Eligibility.—The Medal shall be conferred on those who take an active part in an expedition which makes notable advances in the exploration of the Polar Regions and who, in so doing, undergo the hazards and rigours set by the climatic conditions to life and movement, whether by land, sea, or air. Only those who have participated in an expedition which has been either the responsibility of one or more Governments of Member countries of the Commonwealth, or has been recognised by one or more of such Governments, shall be eligible. In the selection of those on whom it is proposed that the award shall be conferred due regard shall be had to the tradition that the Medal shall be granted as far as possible to all members of a team, not only in acknowledgment of individual service but also in recognition of the service of the team. The term "exploration" shall ordinarily be understood as including travel, but the notable acquisition of knowledge by means which do not depend upon travelling will also merit consideration. Exceptionally, an award may be made for a Polar achievement which did not require exploration or result in the advancement of knowledge; eligibility would then be restricted to those who took an active part in the furtherance of such an achievement and who also fulfilled the other qualifying conditions set out in this Our Warrant.

Fifthly: Service Required. The period of service, within the geographical limits shown below, requisite to qualify for the Medal shall be twelve months, exception being made to this rule in special circumstances only, when a shorter period, or periods of broken service, may be held to qualify.

Antarctic: South of Latitude 60 S.

Arctic: North of Latitude 67 N. (exclusive of land inhabited by Europeans) with, in addition, the East Coast of Greenland and the Baffin Island Area.

Sixthly: Clasps.—Every Polar Medal to be awarded shall be accompanied by a Clasp to be worn on the riband of the Medal and bearing the appropriate description of the expedition and the date. When further service has been rendered by a holder of the Polar Medal, which under the terms of this Our Warrant would otherwise merit recognition by the award of the Medal, a second Clasp shall be awarded, and a further Clasp shall be granted in respect of each such additional period of service.

Seventhly: Posthumous Awards.—Awards of the Medal with Clasp or, as appropriate, of the Clasp alone, may be made posthumously.

Eighthly: Withholding of Award.—The Medal or Clasp shall not be awarded when service which would otherwise be qualifying service has been marred by misconduct or neglect of duty.

Ninthly: Recommendations.—Awards shall be made only on a recommendation to Us by Our First Lord of the Admiralty or, in the case of any oversea Member country of the Commonwealth the Government whereof shall so desire, on a recommendation by the appropriate Minister of State for the said country, in respect of nationals of such country.

Tenthly: Foreign Nationals.—Awards of the Medal with Clasp or, as appropriate, of the Clasp alone, may be made irrespective of nationality to members of a Commonwealth expedition, or to members of the Commonwealth part of a larger expedition organised jointly by two or more nations. A recommendation of a foreign person under this provision shall be made to Us, by Our First Lord of the Admiralty, or in the case of any oversea Member country of the Commonwealth the Government whereof shall desire to recommend a foreign person, on a recommendation by the appropriate Minister of State for the said country.

Eleventhly: Registration.—The names of those upon whom We may be pleased to confer the Medal and Clasp, or the Clasp, on the recommendation of Our First Lord of the Admiralty, not being foreign subjects, shall be published in the London Gazette and a register thereof kept in Our Admiralty. The publication and registration of awards to citizens of other Member countries of the Commonwealth shall be carried out by the Government concerned but the Admiralty shall be informed.

Twelfthly: Names of Recipients. The name of a recipient shall be engraved or stamped on the rim of the Medal.

Thirteenthly: Order of Wear.—In the official list showing the order in which Orders, Decorations, and Medals shall be worn, the Polar Medal shall be placed after War Medals and before the Royal Victorian Medal.