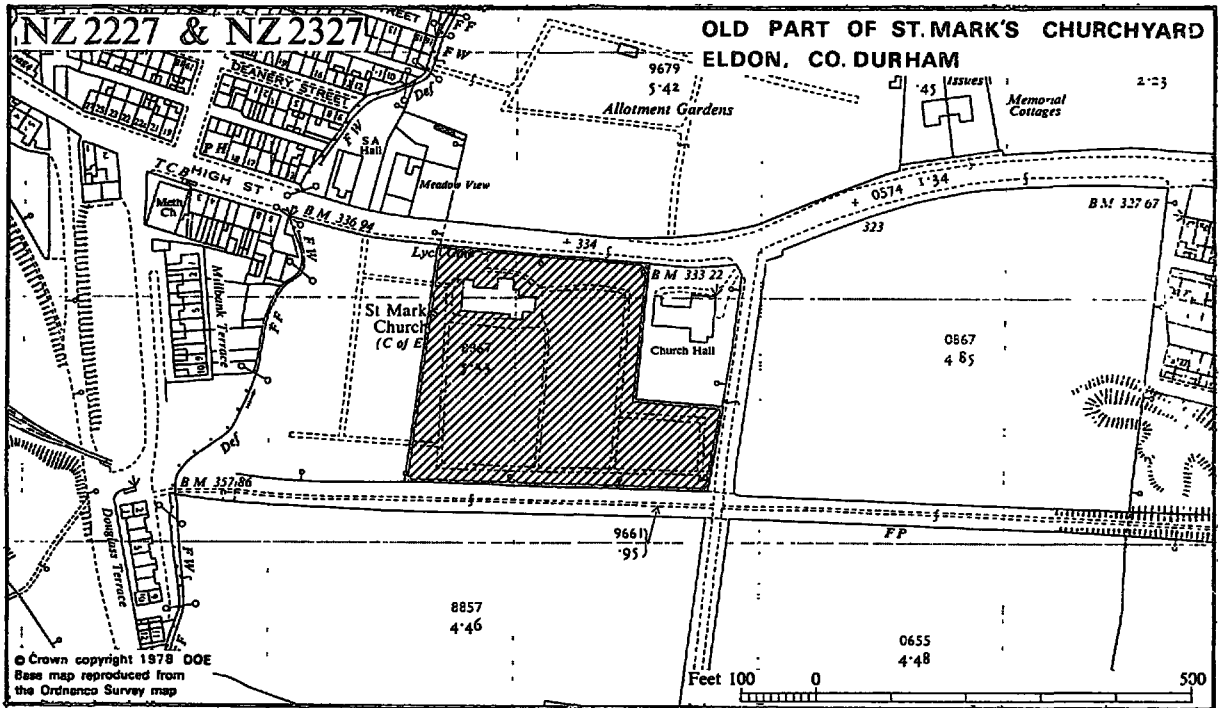


The Plan referred to in the foregoing Order in Council



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 1857 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 Whereas conditions for the award of the Polar Medal in silver only, were established by a Warrant under Our Sign Manual dated 22nd day of January 1954.

And Whereas We deem it expedient that Our said Warrant shall be amended;

Now Therefore We do hereby declare that the rules and ordinances contained in Our said Warrant dated 22nd day of January 1954 shall be abrogated cancelled and annulled and We are pleased to make, ordain and establish the following rules and ordinances in substitution for the same 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 have personally made notable contribution to the exploration and, or, knowledge of the Polar Regions and who, in so doing, have undergone the hazards and rigours imposed by the polar environment 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 have been recognised by one or more of such Governments shall be eligible. The award may be conferred in recognition of individual service of outstanding quality in the fields of exploration, scientific research or general service on Polar expeditions. Due account will be taken of the difficulties overcome in performing this service. The award may exceptionally be conferred on all members of a team when all have contributed to the achievement which it is desired to commend. The term "exploration" shall ordinarily be understood as including travel, but an outstanding acquisition of knowledge by means which do not depend upon travelling will merit consideration. Exceptionally, an award may be made for a Polar achievement which did not include exploration or result in the advancement of knowledge; eligibility then being restricted to those who took an active part in the achievement and who also fulfilled the other qualifying conditions set out in this Our Warrant.

Fifthly: Service required. The period of service living working in arduous conditions of a Polar climate requisite to qualify anyone to be considered for the Medal shall normally total not less than twelve months, exception being made to this rule in special circumstances.

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 date appropriate to the achievement for which the medal is awarded. 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 service.

Sevently: 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 Secretary of State for Defence or the appropriate Minister of State of a Commonwealth Country.