

CHARTER OF THE INSTITUTION OF ROYAL ENGINEERS

GEORGE THE FIFTH, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India:

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting!

WHEREAS it has been represented to Us that Field-Marshal His Royal Highness Prince George William Frederick Charles, Duke of Cambridge, KG, KP, GCB, GCMG, Commanding-in-Chief Our Forces; Lieutenant-General Sir Frederick Edward Chapman, KCB, Inspector-General of Fortifications at Our War Office, London; Colonel Thomas Lionel John Gallwey, Commandant of Our School of Military Engineering at Chatham; Colonel James Frankfort Manners Browne, CB, Deputy Adjutant-General, Royal Engineers, at Our War Office aforesaid; Brevet Colonel Charles Cornwallis Chesney, Commanding Royal Engineers, Home District, Horse Guards, London; Brevet Colonel Charles Brisbane Ewart, CB, Deputy Director of Works for Barracks, at Our War Office aforesaid; Brevet Colonel Charles Butler Peter Nugent Hodges Nugent, CB, Deputy Director of Works for Fortifications, at Our War Office aforesaid; Colonel Anthony Charles Cooke, CB, Commanding Royal Engineers, Aldershot; Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Hugh Stotherd, Royal Engineers, of Heathcote, Camberley, in the County of Surrey; Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Schaw, Royal Engineers, Professor at Our Staff College at Sandhurst; Major John Underwood Bateman-Champain, Royal Engineers, of the Indo-European Government Telegraph Department, Teheran, Persia; Major Robert Grant, Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General, Royal Engineers, at Our War Office aforesaid; Major Percy Guillemard Llewellyn Smith, Royal Engineers, Instructor at Our School of Military Engineering aforesaid; Major Charles William Wilson, Royal Engineers, Assistant Quartermaster-General at Our War Office aforesaid; Major Valentine Gardner Clayton, Royal Engineers, of Chatham; Major William Merriman, Royal Engineers, of Colchester; Captain George Edward Grover, Royal Engineers, of Camberley; Captain Ernest Marsh Lloyd, Royal Engineers, Professor at Our Royal Military Academy at Woolwich; Captain William de Wiveleslie Abney, Royal Engineers, Assistant Instructor at Our School of Military Engineering aforesaid; Lieutenant Alexander Burness McHardy, Royal Engineers, of London, and Lieutenant Richard Henry Jelf, Royal Engineers, Adjutant of Our Royal Engineers Train, Aldershot, all of them since deceased, and Captain William Salmond, Royal Engineers (now Major-General Sir William Salmond, KCB, Colonel-Commandant of Our Corps of Royal Engineers, of Whaddon House, Bruton, in the County of Somerset); Lieutenant Elliott Wood, Royal Engineers (now Major-General Sir Elliott Wood, KCB, DL, Colonel-Commandant of Our Corps of Royal Engineers, of Holmer Park, in the County of Hereford); Lieutenant Montagu Frederick Ommanney, Royal Engineers (now Captain Sir Montagu Frederick Ommanney, GCMG, KCB, ISO, of Knowles Lodge, Cuckfield, in the County of Sussex), and Lieutenant Herbert Jekyll, Royal Engineers (now Colonel Sir Herbert Jekyll, of Munstead House, Godalming, in the County of Surrey) and others Our Loving Subjects did in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five form themselves into a Society under the name of “The Royal Engineers Institute”, and now known as “The Institution of Royal Engineers”, having for its objects the general advancement of Military Science, and more particularly for promoting the acquisition of historical and scientific knowledge in relation to Engineering as applied to military purposes;

And whereas it has been further represented to Us that the Institution was not constituted for gain, and that neither its projectors nor its members derive, nor have derived any pecuniary profit from its prosperity:

That it has during its existence, for a period of forty-seven years, steadily devoted itself to the promotion of efficiency in Our Services dealing with problems in relation to the defence of Our Realm and of Our Dominions beyond the Seas, and has thus materially assisted the highest interests of the State:

And that the Members composing the Society have been, and are, practically engaged in work connected with the defence of Our Realm and of Our Dominions beyond the Seas, and that the Institution has, since its formation, diligently pursued the objects for which it was established by publishing Occasional, and other, Papers on subjects connected with the Science and Art of Engineering in its application to military purposes and has thus provided a most valuable source of information of a technical kind to all who are engaged in dealing with problems connected with the defence of Our Realm and of Our Dominions beyond the Seas:

And that a Journal, of which sixty-eight complete Volumes had been issued up to the end of the year 1921, is published by the Institution in parts at regular periodical intervals for the purpose of an early dissemination of important information of a professional character with a view to assisting its Members in the solution of current problems relating to the defence of Our Realm and Our Dominions beyond the Seas:

And that a Museum has been formed at Chatham by the Institution containing objects of military importance and interest, and that many of the exhibits possess a high educational value:

And that Libraries have been established by the Institution in London and at other Military Centres with the object of rendering readily available to its Members, in all parts of Our Dominions, all published information of a scientific and technological character bearing upon problems of national defence:

And that Trust Funds have been founded, and are being administered by the Institution, in connection with the award to officers and other Ranks of Our Corps of Royal Engineers of Prizes with a view to promoting Proficiency in the Science and Art of Engineering in its application to military purposes:

And that the custody and maintenance by the Institution of Memorials belonging to Our Corps of Royal Engineers and erected in various parts of the World have to be provided for:

And that arrangements have to be made for the proper custody and administration by the Institution of Funds handed over to the Institution in the years 1920 and 1921, in connection with the award of for the education of the children of deceased officers and other ranks of the Corps of Royal Engineers who have fallen in the performance of their duties whilst on Active Service:

And whereas it has also been represented to Us that it would add greatly to the influence of the Institution and tend to the better accomplishment of its objects and purposes and assure a better fulfilment of the aims aforesaid and that the property of the said Institution would be better secured, its useful operations extended, and at the same time a more permanent establishment be given it among the Scientific Institutions of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland by the grant of a Royal Charter of Incorporation:

Now know ye that We, taking the premises into Our Royal consideration and being desirous of encouraging a design so laudable and salutary, of Our special grace, certain knowledge and mere motion have willed, granted and declared, and Do by these Presents for Us, Our Heirs, and Successors, will, grant and declare in manner following, that is to say:

INCORPORATION

I For the purpose of maintaining, carrying on and extending the work and objects, such of Our Loving Subjects as are now Members of the said Association or Institution known as The Institution of Royal Engineers and all such others as shall from time to time hereafter become Members thereof, according to such Bye-Laws as shall be made as hereinafter mentioned, and their successors shall for ever be by virtue of these Presents a Body Politic and Corporate, by the name and style of "The Institution of Royal Engineers" (hereinafter referred to as "The Institution") and shall by the name have perpetual succession and a Common Seal with full power and authority to vary, alter, break and render the same at their discretion, and by the same name to sue or be sued in every Court of Us, Our Heirs and Successors, be for ever able and capable in law, notwithstanding the statutes of mortmain, to acquire, have, take and hold all the real estates, chattels real and personal estate, belonging to or held in trust for the Institution, and the property and moneys of the said existing Association or Institution known as The Institution of Royal Engineers (including any property and moneys held by it as a trustee) shall from the date of these Presents become and be deemed to be the property and moneys of the Institution, and shall, as soon as may be, be formally transferred to the Institution or such person or persons on its behalf as the Bye-Laws may

prescribe; and shall also take, purchase and hold to them and their successors any goods, chattels and personal estate or property whatsoever, and all real estates and chattels real of whatsoever tenure which they or their successors shall think desirable for the use or purpose of the Institution, or to be held in connection therewith with a view to the future advantage thereof, provided that the yearly value of the real estate and chattels real so to be acquired and held shall not at any time exceed in the whole the sum of six thousand pounds sterling according to the annual value thereof at the time when the same shall be respectively acquired by the Institution. And they and their successors shall, subject to the provisions of these Presents, be able and capable in law to grant, sell, demise, alienate, exchange, mortgage, convey in mortmain or otherwise deal with or dispose of all or any of the property, real estate and chattels, real or personal property belonging to the Institution, in such manner as they may think fit, and by the name aforesaid do all other matters incidental or appertaining to a Body Corporate.

And we do hereby also for Ourselves, Our Heirs and Successors, give and grant Our Licence to any person or persons and any Body Politic or Corporate to assure in perpetuity or otherwise, or to demise to or for the benefit of the Institution, any lands, tenements or hereditaments whatsoever within the limits of value aforesaid, nevertheless declaring that it shall not be incumbent upon any such person, or persons, or Body to inquire as to the annual value of the property which may have been previously acquired by the Institution.

GENERAL MEETING

II There shall be a General Meeting or meetings of the members of the Institution, to be held from time to time as hereinafter mentioned, and there shall be a Council to direct and manage the concerns of the said Body Politic and Corporate, and the General Meetings and the Council shall have the entire direction and management of the same in the manner and subject to the regulations hereinafter mentioned.

PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS

III Of the Members of the said Council of the Institution one shall be the President and two or more shall be the Vice-Presidents of the Institution. The said President and Vice-Presidents shall be elected in such manner, and shall hold office for such period, and on such terms as to re-election and otherwise, as the Bye- Laws for the time being of the Institution shall direct.

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

IV The remaining Members of the said Council of the Institution shall consist of such numbers of Members, with such qualifications, and shall be elected or constituted as such Members of Council in such manner, and hold office for such period, and on such terms as to re-election or otherwise, as the Bye-Laws for the time being of the Institution shall direct.

FIRST MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

- V **The first President of the Institution shall be:**
Major-General Sir William Andrew Liddell, KCMG, CB
and the first Vice-Presidents shall be
Major-General Sir George Kenneth Scott-Moncrieff, KCB, KCMG, CIE.
Major-General Henry Fleetwood Thuillier, CB, CMG.
The first secretary and Treasurer of the Institution shall be:
Colonel Frederic Edward Guthrie Skey, retired list, Royal Engineers.

The first Members of the Council shall be the said President, Vice-Presidents, and the Secretary and Treasurer, the following ex-officio Members of the Council, namely:

Colonel Reginald Harvey Henderson Boys, CB, DSO.

Colonel Alexander Gavin Stevenson, CB, CMG, DSO.

Colonel Harry Biddulph, CMG, DSO.

Colonel Evan Maclean Jack, CMG, DSO. Lieutenant-

Colonel Henry Lester Lewis, DSO.

Major Gerald Thorp, OBE.

and the following elected Members of Council, namely:

Major-General Sir Hugh Bruce-Williams, KCB, DSO.

Lieutenant-Colonel George Henry Addison, CMG, DSO, BA(Cantab).

Colonel-Commandant Sir Hugh Jamieson Elles, KCMG, CB, DSO.

Major Giffard Le Quesne Martel, DSO, MC.

Brigadier-General James Edward Edmonds, CB CMG.

Colonel Sir Charles Frederick Close, KBE, CB, CMG, FRS. Major-

General Robert Napier Harvey, CB, CMG, DSO, ADC. Major-General

Sir Francis George Bond, KBE, CB, CMG. Major-General Sir Reginald

Ulick Henry Buckland, KCMG, CB. Major John Arthur McQueen, DSO, MC.

Colonel Ernest Norman Stockley, DSO.

Lieutenant-Colonel Walter Alfred John O'Meara, CMG, of the Inner Temple, Barrister-at-Law.

Colonel William Pitt, CMG.

Major George Edward Herman Sim, DSO, MC.

Major George Master, DSO, RE.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

VI The first such General Meeting as aforesaid for the election of officers shall take place within twelve calendar months from the date of these Presents, and the present rules and regulations of the Institution, so far as they are not inconsistent with these Presents, shall continue in force until the same shall be altered by a General Meeting.

POWERS OF COUNCIL AND PROVISIONAL MANAGEMENT

VII The Council shall have the sole management of the income and funds of the said Body Politic and Corporate, and the appointment of such secretaries and officers, Attendants and Servants as shall in the discretion of the Council be deemed necessary or useful for the Institution, as also the entire management and superintendence of all the other affairs and concerns thereof, and shall and may, but not if inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Our Charter, or any existing Bye-Law or Laws, and Statutes of this Our Realm, do all such acts and deeds as shall appear to them necessary or essential to be done for the purpose of carrying into effect the objects and views of the said Body Politic and Corporate.

POWER TO MAKE BYE-LAWS

VIII It shall be lawful for the Members of the said Body Politic and Corporate established to hold a General Meeting once in the year or oftener, for the purpose hereinafter mentioned, namely, that the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer and the other Members of Council shall be chosen at such General Meeting; and that the General Meeting shall from time to time make and establish such Bye-Laws as they shall deem to be useful and necessary for the regulations of the said Body Politic and Corporate for the admission of Honorary Members, Members and Associate Members, for the management of the estates, goods, and business of the said Body Politic and Corporate, for fixing and determining the number of Vice-Presidents and other Members of Council and Associate Members of Council and the number of secretaries as aforesaid, and the time and manner of electing the

President, Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer, and other Members of Council and Associate Members of Council, and the periods of their respective continuance in office; and such Bye-Laws from time to time they shall or may alter, vary, or revoke, and shall or may make such new and other Bye-Laws as they shall think most useful and expedient for the said Body Politic and Corporate, so that the same be not repugnant to these Presents or to the laws and statutes of this Our Realm:

Provided that no revocation, alteration, addition, abridgement or amendment shall be made at any time to the Bye-Laws so as to cause the Institution to cease to be a charity in law; and that no such Bye-Law, revocation, alteration, addition, abridgement or amendment shall take effect until the same has been submitted to a General Meeting of the Institution with respect to which notice has been given that such Bye-Law, revocation, alteration, addition, abridgement or amendment will be taken into consideration thereat and approved thereat by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the Members voting on the question, and until the same has been submitted to and approved by the Lords of Our Privy Council, of which approval the Certificate of the Clerk of the Council shall be sufficient evidence.

EXISTING BYE-LAWS TO REMAIN IN FORCE

IX The Bye-Laws set forth in the Schedule hereto shall be the Bye-Laws of the Institution until the same shall be revoked, altered, added to, abridged or amended in manner hereinbefore provided.

SUPPLEMENTAL CHARTER

X The said Council may at any time alter, amend or add to these Presents and their provisions by a special resolution in that behalf, and such alteration, amendment or addition shall, when allowed by Us, Our Heirs and Successors, by and with the advice of Our Privy Council, become effectual, so that these Presents shall thenceforward continue and operate as though they had been originally granted and made as so altered, amended or added to in manner aforesaid.

This Article of these Presents shall apply to this Charter as altered, amended or added to in manner aforesaid.

SURRENDER OF CHARTER

XI It shall be lawful for the Institution by such special resolution of the said Council to surrender this Our Charter and any such Supplemental Charter and to wind up the affairs of the Institution, but, if on the windingup or dissolution of the Institution, there shall remain after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid or distributed among the Members of the Institution or any of them, but shall (subject to any special trusts affecting the same) be given and transferred to some other Association or Associations having objects similar to the objects of the Institution, to be determined by the said Council at or before the time of dissolution or in default thereof by a Judge of the Chancery Division of Our High Court of Justice.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION

XII For the purpose of the two last preceding Articles the expression "Special Resolution" shall mean a resolution the terms whereof, together with a notification of the time and place for holding the meeting at which the same is to be proposed, shall, not less than one month or more than two months before the day of such meeting, have been published by such notices or advertisements or other methods as the said Council shall think desirable for giving due publicity to the said proposal and, which shall have been carried by a majority of not less than three-fourths of the Members present and voting at a meeting of the said Council specially called for the purpose, and shall have been confirmed by a majority of the Members present and voting at a subsequent meeting of that Council of which notice has been duly given, and held after an interval of not less than fourteen days nor more than one month after the former meeting.

INTERPRETATION OF PROVISIONS OF CHARTER BY THE COURTS

Lastly We do hereby, for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, grant and declare that these Our Letters Patent, or the enrolment or exemplification thereof, shall be in all things good, firm, valid and effectual, according to the true intent and meaning of the same, and shall be taken, construed and adjudged in all Our Courts or elsewhere in the most favourable and beneficial sense and for the best advantage of the said Institution, any mis-recital, non-recital, omission, defect, imperfection, matter or thing whatsoever notwithstanding.

In Witness whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent.

Witness Ourselves at Westminster, the twenty-seventh day of February, in the Year of Our Lord One thousand nine hundred and twenty-three and in the Thirteenth year of Our Reign.

By Warrant under the King's Sign Manual.

Schuster.