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## **ROYAL WARRANT: THE POLAR MEDAL**

CHARLES THE THIRD, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of His other Realms and Territories, King, 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-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 the twenty second day of January, one thousand nine hundred and fifty four as amended by Our Warrant dated the fifth day of February, one thousand nine hundred and seventy,

AND WHEREAS We deem it expedient that Our said Warrant shall be further amended;

NOW THEREFORE We do hereby declare that the rules and ordinances contained in Our Warrant dated the fifth day of August, one thousand nine hundred and ninety eight shall be abrogated, cancelled and annulled and We are pleased to make, ordain and establish the following rules and ordinances in substitution therefore which shall henceforth be inviolably observed and kept:

Firstly; (Style) 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 Uncrowned Effigy of The Sovereign with the inscription "*CHARLES III DEI GRATIA REX FID DEF*" and on the reverse a representation of the ship Discovery in winter quarters with, in the foreground, a sledging party on skis.

Thirdly: (Ribbon and Order of Wear) The Medal shall be worn on the left breast suspended from a white ribbon, to denote snow and ice, one inch and a quarter in width.

In the official list showing the order in which Orders, Decorations and Medals shall be worn the Polar Medal shall be placed immediately after War Medals.

Fourthly: (Clasps) Every Polar Medal awarded shall be accompanied by a Clasp to be worn on the ribbon of the Medal and bearing the name of the Polar region or, in appropriate cases, Polar regions together with the date or dates 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 may be granted in respect of each such additional service. A rose emblem in silver shall be worn on the ribbon, when the ribbon is worn, to denote the award of each additional Clasp.

Fifthly: (Eligibility) The Medal may be conferred on those citizens of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland who have personally made conspicuous contributions to the knowledge of Polar regions or who have rendered prolonged service of outstanding quality in support of acquisition of such knowledge and who, in either case, have undergone the hazards and rigours imposed by Polar environment. The Medal may also be awarded in recognition of individual service of outstanding quality in support of the objectives of Polar expeditions, due account being taken of the difficulties overcome. The Medal may exceptionally be conferred on citizens of other Commonwealth or foreign countries taking part in United Kingdom expeditions, or in the expeditions of those Commonwealth countries, other than the United Kingdom, of which We are King Our Government whereof may so desire.

Sixthly: (Service) The period of service living and working in the arduous conditions of a Polar environment required to be considered for this Medal shall normally be not less than twelve months, although shorter periods of service may be aggregated to meet this criterion. Service in the support of the acquisition of knowledge of Polar regions shall normally be at least ten years' such service in order to be considered for the Medal, although, in exceptional cases, a shorter period of outstanding service may be considered.

Seventhly: (Posthumous awards) Awards of the Medal with Clasp and additional Clasps, if appropriate, may be made posthumously.

Eighthly: (Recommendations) Awards to citizens of Our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland shall be made only on the recommendation to Us by Our Secretary of State for Defence, on the advice of the Polar Medal Assessment Committee as described in the Regulations governing the award of this Medal.

A recommendation for the award of the Medal to a citizen of a Commonwealth or foreign country shall be made to Us by the appropriate Minister of State of the said Commonwealth country or by Our Secretary of State for Defence as may be appropriate.

Ninthly: (Names of recipients) The name of the recipient shall be engraved or stamped on the rim of the Medal.

Tenthly: (Registration) The names of those citizens of Our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to whom We have awarded the Medal and Clasp, or additional Clasp or Clasps if appropriate, shall be published in The London Gazette and a register thereof kept in Our Ministry of Defence.

The publication and registration of awards to citizens of Commonwealth countries other than Our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland shall be the responsibility of the Government of the said Commonwealth country but Our Ministry of Defence shall be informed of all such awards and an appropriate entry shall be made in the register held in Our Ministry of Defence. The names of citizens of foreign countries awarded the Medal shall also be included in the register held in Our Ministry of Defence.

Eleventhly: (Miniatures) Reproductions of the Medal and Clasps in miniature, known as Miniature Medals, which may be worn on certain occasions by those to whom the Medal and Clasp have been awarded, shall be half the size of the Polar Medal and Clasp respectively, and a sealed pattern of said Miniature Medal shall be deposited and kept in the Central Chancery of Our Orders of Knighthood.

Twelfthly: (Regulations) The Medal and Clasp or Clasps shall be awarded under such regulations as to grant, forfeiture, restoration, and other matters, in amplification of this Our Warrant as may, with Our approval signified through our Secretary of State for Defence, be issued from time to time by Our Defence Council.

Thirteenthly: (Cancellation) It shall be competent for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, by an Order under Our Sign Manual on the recommendation of Our Secretary of State for Defence, or in the case of any Commonwealth country other than Our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the appropriate Minister of State of the said Commonwealth country, Our Government whereof may so desire, to cancel and annul the award to any person of the Medal and Clasp or Clasps, and that the name of that person shall be removed from the register; provided that it shall be competent for Us, Our Heirs and Successors to restore the Medal or Clasps so forfeited when such recommendations has been withdrawn.

Lastly: We reserve to Ourself, Our Heirs and Successors, full power of annulling, abrogating, augmenting, interpreting or dispensing with these rules and ordinances, or any part thereof, by a notification under Our Sign Manual.

Given at the Court of St. James's this Twenty-eighth day of December Two thousand and twenty-three in the Second Year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command

GRANT SHAPPS

THE POLAR MEDAL: Regulations

Made under the terms of the Royal Warrant by the Secretary of State for Defence and approved by the King.

Clause 5 (Eligibility)

1. Eligibility for this Medal shall be interpreted as: