

War Establishment for Royal Engineers Bomb Disposal.

Eventually there was 4 BD Groups 27 BD Companies and 260 BD Sections.

Tel. N2-Whiteball 9400

Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to:-
The Under-Secretary of State,
The War Office,
London, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted.



THE WAR OFFICE,

LONDON, S.W.1.

Ref. No. 79/W.E./1172 (S.D.1.c.)

25th May, 1940.

S E C U R I T Y

Sir,

Homo War Establishment - A Bomb Disposal Section, R.E.
(W.E. V/1931/90A/1)

I am directed to forward herewith advance copies of the war establishment for a Bomb Disposal Section, R.E.

As soon as printed copies of this establishment are received,
all duplicated copies will be destroyed by fire.

I am,

Sir, Your obedient Servant,

Major-General,
Director of Staff Duties.

The Commander-in-Chief,
Home Forces.

The General Officers Commanding-in-Chief,
Aldershot, Eastern, Northern, Scottish
Western and Southern Commands.

The General Officers Commanding,
London Area and Northern Ireland District

Copies to:

The Command Paymasters,
The Army Auditors,
Aldershot, Eastern, Northern, Scottish
Southern and Western Commands

The Officer i/c R.E. Records

Officers Commanding all Training Battalions.

Copies to:-

all Depot Companies at Chatham.
Officer Commanding, Tunnelling Engineers, Plymouth.
C.E., Air Component.
C.R.E., North Air Component, Plymouth.
C.R.E., South Air Component, Plymouth.



I have to inform you that it has been decided to form 109 Bomb Disposal Sections, R.E., for dealing with unexploded enemy bombs.

A provisional War Establishment for these Sections is attached as Appendix B to this letter.

In cases where two or three sections are grouped together this War Establishment will not be fully implemented as regards the number of officers and motorcyclists, i.e. only one officer and one motorcyclist will be posted.

I have to say that the first Contingent (25) of these sections will be organized forthwith in accordance with the detail given in Appendix A.

Personnel for these sections should be selected as far as possible from men of low Medical Category including those fit for Home Defence only.

Care should be taken, however, that at least 50% of the section consist of men who are capable of digging in a skilled manner.

As necessary, Non Commissioned Officers may be found by the promotion of suitable Corporals or Other Ranks, who would be capable of taking charge of the sub-sections on the duties they will have to perform.

These duties may be considered as being similar to those of a Fire Brigade.

Where Pioneers R.E. are not available to complete the establishment, Normal Rate Men may be detailed in lieu.

I have to add that these sections will be attached for training and employment to the Commanders, Royal Engineers, of the Works areas, in which they are located, when not required for their primary role.

They will be attached to the nearest convenient Military Unit for accommodation, rations and discipline.

Demands for their services will be made by the Civil Regional Commissioner through the Area Commanders.

Further instructions will be issued as to their scale of equipment and to their final dispatch to their place of duty.

WAR OFFICE,
Hobart House, S.W.1.

May 1940.

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Colonel.
Assistant Adjutant General.

NOTE

I passed the original of this document to the RE MUSEUM - now on show there!