

Historical notes on Bomb Disposal (EOD)

Royal Engineers

1969 to 1978.

The following information has come from a document held in the Royal Engineers Museum Archives.

This document gives a good overview of the changes over the period also the major change from Bomb Disposal to EOD.

Main points are:-

1. Locations changes.
2. Unit designation going from Bomb Disposal to EOD.
3. Formation and Disbandment of 71 EOD Squadron.
4. Commanding Officers and Units Structures.

Organisation.

1. By the Start of 1969, HQ BD Unit had been located at LODGE HILL, for about 2 ½ years and during that year it was redesignated as HQ EOD Unit RE To comply with the Standard NATO title for ordnance clearance operations. At the same time, the Commanding Officer was retitled CRE EOD and 49 BD Sqn became 49 EOD Sqn. Ultimately on 16 May 1973 HQ EOD UNIT was redesignated one more, this time to 33 Engr Regt EOD, a title which is still retained in 1978. The names of the Officers Commanding these formations between 1969 and 1978 are listed at ANNEX A.
2. In the main, the overall BD (EOD) organisation remained much as it was at the end of 1968 except that by 1973 two additional Troops had been formed to cater for an increasing Land Clearance work load and also to compensate for some very severe pruning which had taken place in earlier years. About the same time, on a once only basis it was necessary to form an entirely new Squadron to deal with the EOD clearance at FOULNESS, (MAPLIN SANDS) associated with the proposal to build a third London Airport in that area.
3. 71 EOD (BD) Sqn was formed at SHOEBURYNESSE on 1 July 1972 specifically for the clearance of MAPLIN SANDS and when the scheme was abandoned some two years later, it was disbanded. Full details of the Squadrons short history are outlined in ANNEX B.
4. 49 EOD (BD) Sqn remained at LODGE HILL CAMP where it had been since receiving the Squadron number in 1966. 1 Troop continued to be based at Felixstowe but because the landmine commitment decreased, the Mine Section detached to MUNDLESLEY was disbanded in May 1974 and the site was closed down. On 26 Sept 1976. 2 Troop moved from WEST DOWN CAMP, TILLSHEAD, WILTS, where they had been based

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ANNEX A.

Commanding Officers.

Bomb Disposal Unit RE.

1969 – 1978.

Lt Col F M B Carter RE	1969 - 1971
Lt Col R C Plummer RE	1971 - 1974
Lt Col G J Chave RE	1974 - 1976
Lt Col M Fraser-Allen RE	1976 - 1978

Note: (1) The BD Unit RE was subsequently redesignated in 1969 and ultimately became 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) in May 1973.

(2) With effect 1 Oct 1978 the Regiment came under Command of South East District, having previously come under Command of HQ Engineer in Chief, Ministry of Defence. Operational tasking remains with the later.

ANNEX B.

Outline Structure 71 EOD Squadron 1972.

Strength Military 20 Civilian 131.

Formed to clear Maplin Sands for 3rd London Airport.

Headquarters

OC Major Iain Radford, SSM WO2 Chadwick.

Admin & Safety.
Admin Officer.
Maj Len Fricke (Red)

Disposal Team.
SSgt Holliday.

Support Team.
Tp Command
Maj (QM) JJ Brown

Orderly Room.
Chief Clerk.
Mrs Deacon
Civil Admin.
?
Safety Control
P&GSV
Mr Gray

Stores.
SQMS SSgt Madden.
Motor Transport.
Foreman Mr Hammond.
Plant
Plant Foreman.
Sgt ?

Location Troop.
Tp Comd Capt Bob Veck.
5 Sections under Command.

Excavation Troop.
Tp Comd Lt Bill Murison. 5 Sections
under Command

ANNEX C.

Headquarters EOD Unit, 1969

Commander Royal Engineers (BD CO)

Lieutenant Colonel F W B Carter.

Second in Command.
Maj G R Fletcher MBE.

OC 49 EOD Sqn,
Maj M J V Hoskins GM.

Adjutant.
Capt R C Avery.

Quarter Master.
Capt J A Shuter.

Operations Office.
Interpreter.
Mr J Mayniuk.

Training Officer
Capt P W Bradbeer.

1 EOD Troop.
Capt P T Carroll.

2 Troop.
Capt F W R English

Officer Commanding DEODS Squadron Leader F J Durrant MBE RAF.

Training Officers.
Exercises Captain F R Jones RE. Admin Lieutenant J M Ludgate RN. Royal Navy Lieutenant E ?

ANNEX D.

33 Engineer Regiment (EOD), 1973.

Lieutenant Colonel G J Chave.

Second in Command Major M R Rich.

Adjutant Captain J R Wyatt.

OC 49 EOD Squadron.
Major A S Hogben.

OC 71 EOD Squadron.
Major R I Radford.

Second in Command.
Captain E A Boyd.

1 Troop Capt RE Veck 2 Troop Lieutenant J E
Craig

3 Troop Lieutenant J E Craig Support Troop
Captain D Mantle QM.

Operations Officer/Interpreter.
Mr J Maryniuk.

1 Troop Captain A R Warr 2 Troop Captain C D
Hann
3 Troop Lieutenant R F Wilsher 4 Troop Captain
RE Neal

Administrative Control DEODS.

Officer Commanding Lieutenant Commander B H L Braidwood RN.

Admin Flight Lieutenant T Holbrook RAF.

Instructors.

Lieutenant S Epperson United States Navy, Captain W Murison Royal Engineers Flight Officer P R Dunkley RAF.

Annex E.

33 Engineer Regiment (EOD), 1978.

Lieutenant Colonel M Fraser-Allen.

Second in Command
Major M S Wilson.

Adjutant Captain W R
Savage.

Quarter Master Major J T
Cheeseman.

Officer Commanding
590 EOD Squadron (V).
Major M H D Weeden (V)

Officer Commanding 49 EOD Squadron. Major B J Birch.

Second in Command. Captain D L Marshall.

Operations Officer Interpreter.

Mr J Maryniuk.

1 Troop Captain R B Christison. 2 Troop Captain P R Mitchell. 3 Troop Lieutenant C V K McNaught-Davis.
Support Troop Captain D L Marshall.

EODTIC.
Custodian

Wing Commander J A M MacDean MBE RAF (Retd)

DEODS
Squadron Leader E S T Tout MBE RAF.

Admin.
Lieutenant S J Gobey RN/

Instructors.
Captain E A Boyd RE
Lieutenant L A Sorrentio USN.
Captain A J Laceby RAOC.