

RE BD/EOD & SEARCH - TIME LINE OF EVENTS (V6)

DATE	EVENT	REMARKS
1915	RE Tunnelling Companies formed – Booby trap/UXO clearance	Feb 1915 – The War Office approved the formation of 8 x Tunnelling Companies. 170 th , 171 st , 172 nd , 173 rd and 174 th were first 5 formed. Initially attached to RE Companies, they quickly became independent. At the end of the war over 32 Companies had been formed, each over 500 strong. They learned through experience, how to deal with booby traps and explosive hazards. Searching for German Time delay & Victim Operated devices using hook & Line methods. Formal training, wasn't available until nearly 3 years later.
1915	Formation of Demolition Sections (later called emergency sections).	On request from the LCC to support the Fire Brigade, 1st and Second London Demolition Sections were formed from the London Reserve Group of Field Companies to deal with damage from air raids and casualty and body recovery. Two sections were approved prior to July 1917 with another two formed later, supported by addition RE units on request. These sections, supported the Fire Brigade, in all aspects of Firefighting, Casualty recovery, site redemption and some aspects of UXO disposal.
1917	A delayed action improvised mine, incorporating an initiator using chemical delay(acid) explodes at Bapaume, following a German tactical withdrawal.	This was a start of a new continuous German tactic of laying booby traps when withdrawing from held positions.
1917	Response to the Booby trap war	31 st Mar 17 – 477 South Midlands Field Company RE, record in war diary, that they were required to search for “Mines, devilments, ruses, gins, traps, snares and other devices in the few houses left standing” prior to Allied troops occupying the area
1917	Search Unit formed	No 3 Australian Tunnelling Company form an investigation detachment of 3 Officers and 60 ORs. They are trained to search for and deal with booby traps and delayed action explosive devices. Soon, all Tunnelling companies have investigation capability, normally as a specialised section.
1918	British Mining Schools formed	Commencement of formal training for RE Tunnellers in booby trap detection and RSP
1918	WW1 UXO clearance within the UK mainland	By the end of WW1, 1400 people had been killed and 3400 injured within the UK, from bombs dropped from Gotha bombers and Zeppelins.

		5000 bombs were dealt with by the RAOC, not forgetting also, RE and RN contribution to the task of post air raid UXO disposal and clearance.
Pre-War	BD Interwar years	Prior to the outbreak of WW2, all UXO in the UK, dealt with by the Army, RAF or RN personnel. In 1936, the Home Office informed Police that RAOC Inspecting ordnance Officers would deal with the UXOs unless a suitably qualified experience member of the RAF or RN is available near at hand. But this was deemed, not ideal (more to add).
WW 2	At the start of the war, all Combat Engineers were trained to lay, locate and dispose of mines and EO devices at RSME	Britain was geared up towards mainly defensive operations until 1942, when Rommel's use of mine warfare, required the sappers to introduce a metal detector (Polish MK 1), which was used very successfully at El-Alamein with updated drills as taught, by the newly formed, mine clearance schools. No 8 TH Army Mine Clearance School, being one of them, formed in Sept 1942 by Brigadier F Kisch RE
17 th Sep 1939	German navy start dropping sea mines on the approaches to the Eastern Ports, within the Thames estuary.	On the 17 th Sept 1939, German aircraft start dropping magnetic mines.
1939	EOD Measures and Countermeasures	Initial fuses found on air dropped bombs were known as Type 15, Designed to function on impact, it was found that they could be immunise by simple depressing the plungers on top of the fuse to earth the compactor that they contained. Shortly after, the type 25 fuse was introduced. Very similar to the type 15 and again primary an impact fuse, but with the internal changed, so that by depressing the plungers the bomb initiated.
1939	Ministry of Home Security (MOHS) forms Civil Defence Research Committee.	Responsible for Research into Civil Defence structures as well as UXB Countermeasures, the first BD tool, was the Crabtree Discharger (named after the firm that produced it). Invented by Wing Commander John Lowe & Mr Arthur Merriman (ex WW1 RAOC Officer and Government Science Officer & later Lt Col RE. as part of their work within the Research & Experimental Branch (Directorate of Scientific Research) of the MOHS. 2500 produced by November 1939.
12 th Oct 1939	RE personnel are nominated to conduct BD Operations	Prior to 1939, it was assumed that the Home Office would accept responsibility for UXB within the UK during wartime. It was proposed that they would generate a designated BD force from retired soldiers from the British Legion and possibly ARPs. It quickly became clear, that would not work. So, on 12 th Oct 1939, the war office agreed to conduct demolition of UXB until a civilian organisation, until a civilian organisation can be formed. The first RE Demolition Parties consisted of 1 x JNCO & 2 x Sappers, 1 x vehicle, 75lbs explosives, 2 x Shovels and Picks, 500 sandbags & Field engineering equipment. They

		had no specialist equipment and it was intended that they would build sandbag surrounds and blow in situ. They would be co-located with other units for administration purposes. 502 Field Company RE, was also tasked to support Bomb Disposal operations if requested, by the local Police.
17 th Oct 1939	First Air Dropped Bomb rendered safe in the UK	At RAF Sutton Voe, Shetland Islands. Arthur Merriman led a team of scientists and RAF Armourers to try and recover an intact fuse from a USB. Assisted by Sqn Leader Moxley RAFVR, they recovered a UXB intact – this enabled a significant breakthrough, in understanding the German fusing systems.
23 rd Nov 1939	Intact recovery of first German magnetic mine (Type GA)	Capt John Ouvry RN, one of the staff of the Mines Dept HMS Vernon, assisted by scientific staff, rendered safe and recovered safely, the first air dropped mine of this type at Shoeburyness on 23 rd Nov 39. He was recognised and awarded the DSO.
2 nd Feb 1940	War Office assumes responsibility for all BD in the UK.	The Army remains responsible for BD on areas excluding RN and RAF property, the RN responsible for UXB that falls below the high-water mark. However, arguments continued about areas of responsibility.
5 th April 1940	Ministry of Supply (MOS) takes over MOHS BD research	On the 5 th April 1940, Herbert Gough head of R & D at Woolwich agreed to conduct necessary further R & D arising in various methods for dealing with UXB. The UXB Committee (UXBC) is formed and holds its first meeting on the 1 st May 40, with Gough as Chairman. The DBD being accommodated at Romney House, Marsham St, London.
May 1940	RAF establish the first BD course for 200 students at the Empire Armament School, RAF Manby.	By sept 1940, 200 technicians had been trained and distributed around the UK. By the end of WW2, 400 RAF technicians were working in occupied Europe clearing captured airfields of UXO. RN & RE Officers, are accepted for training at RAF Manby by late May 1940. The BD Course which is one week long moves to RAF Melksham later that year, but RAF Armaments training continues to be delivered at RAF Manby.
May 1940	Formation order detailing the establishment, of Army Bomb Disposal.	Realising that the existing BD organisations are insufficient, the War Office directs the Army to form 25 sections from RSME Chatham and the 4 Training Battalions at Shorncliffe, Newark, Chester and Colchester. This is the initial tranche, of what would be a proposal of 109 BD sections.

		Each section consisted of, 1 x Lieut and 1 x Sgt and 14 ORs, with standard engineering stores, tools and explosives. Dividing into a sub sections, for removal and sterilisation roles, but both sub sections could work if required, independently. The first to be 'activated' was 9 BD Coy at Birmingham, formed on 1st July and commanded by Capt A J Biggs RE
11 th June 1940	RAOC/RE BD teams operate in Malta.	At the beginning of the war, there was no BD Teams in Malta. Two RAOC IOOs Capt RL Jephson-Jones & Lt W Eastman, formed BD teams with volunteers Sgt Brewer, L/Sgt Parker & Sappers Walter, McDonald, Scott and Meager. The teams, cleared 275 UXBs in 5 months, before a formed BD Section led by Lt Ellis AC Talbot arrived in Nov 1940. Both Jephson-Jones and Eastman were subsequently awarded GCs. Whilst the efforts of the Army BD teams had been greatly reported, both the RN & RAF provided support WO D Bishop RAF at Hal Far airfield and numerous RN BSOs from HMS St Angelo covering the heavily bombed harbour and Docks from the offset.
	Further increase in RE BD units	110 RE Sections were formed by June/July 1940. Proposals to double this to 220 sections was made to the War Office given the expected deluge that would result from the evacuation of our forces from Dunkirk and elsewhere. Volunteers were called for and some came forward, but in the end, the ORs were just posted in. Most of the young officers came straight from RE OTCUs, some having received an immediate Commission as a result of their technical qualifications or professional qualifications. All Ranks were informed that they could after 6 months service in BD, elect to transfer to another RE unit. This offer was made due to the hazardous and stressful nature of Bomb disposal. Very few, took up the option.
July 1940	No 1 Fuse extractor invented (Freddy)	In July 1940, Sqn Leader Moxley & Arthur Merriman, invents a fuse extractor within the Dept of Scientific Research. This allowed the German fuses to be removed from the bomb casing remotely.
12 th June 1940	RAF establish BD school at RAF Melksham	It becomes clear that RAF Manby, could not cope with the additional requirements of training BD personnel. RAF Melksham was chosen as the site of another BD School and trained Army, Civilian and RAF personnel. RAF Melksham opened on 12th June 1940 as the No12 school of technical training RAF. The first BD Course started by Aug/Sept 1940.
13 th Aug 1940	First intact, long delay timer recovered (Type 17 Fuse)	It has a long delay of between 2.5 – 80 hours, with nothing to counter it. BDs enforce a maximum waiting period of 96 hours, (where no threat to life existed) before commencing operations.

29 th Aug 1940	Bomb Disposal & Research responsibilities clarified.	Following the London raids on the 25th Aug 40, Winston Churchill took a personnel interest “to provide sufficient squads to deal with this form of attacks on the large centres”. Following an emergency conference of all three services, the MOS and MOHS, the RAF and RN accepted full responsibility for bombs within their own patches and on the 29th August, the Army organisation was sufficiently overhauled. The Director of Bomb Disposal was formed to coordinate activity and the UXBC was restricted to matters of equipment and research. The Director of Bomb Disposal now became under the Inspectorate of Fortifications – Major General BGO Taylor late RE. The 110 sections were authorised to increase to 220 sections and reformed into Companies, each of 10 Sections and a HQ. At this point in time, 80 x RAF and 18 x RN sections, also existed in the UK.
Aug 1940	Turf wars within the Research Establishments	Infighting between the Department for scientific Research, Research Dept Woolwich, Ordnance Board and RAF scientists leads to incoherent prioritising of resources and more importantly, pressure on Sqn Leader Moxley to recover more examples of intact fuses. This led to his and others, deaths as they increasingly took risks to recover intact fuses for research purposes.
29 th Aug 1940	German fuses develop to include Anti-removal devices	Lt BST Archer RE discovers the first long delay type 17, with an Anti-removal mechanism (Zuzsatzunder 40) during clearance of the LLandarcy oil refinery. He successfully disarms it and is awarded the GC.
7 TH Sept 1940	London Blitz starts	The start of 57 nights of continuous bombing begins, with no respite during this period.
16 th Sep 40	Auxiliary (Civilian) BD Teams form	The War Office decides to form Auxiliary units, from ARP, Home Guard, Factories & Civil Defence organisations. The first course (No 26) was run at RAF Melksham in November 1940. Capacity was expanded further with courses at the Army Bomb Disposal school at Donnington Hall. 350 civilians were trained in the first year and over 2,000 were trained by these schools overall. By the end of 1940, Platoon Officer Cooke, a member of an Auxiliary BD Squad, based at Leebank works, Birmingham has been awarded a GM for Bomb disposal.
Oct 1940	RE BD numbers reach peak of 10,000.	With the London Blitz well under way, a further doubling RE capacity was advised and Companies put under control of Groups. By the 14 th Oct 1940, 25 Companies of 10 sections each, were organised under 4 x Area Groups across the UK.

Nov 1940	Non-Combatant Corps, offered as a labour force for Bomb Disposal	375 members of the non-Combatant Corps, volunteered to join Bomb Disposal and was successfully employed.
1941	Development of the Liquid fuse discharger	Developed from Edward Andrade's (a professor of physics and a former teacher at the Ordnance college, Woolwich) early experiments in 1940. This was a simple pump which introduced an immunisation fluid to discharge the type 50 anti-handling fuse compactor. It also worked on direct impact fuses. It entered service in June 1941.
July 1941	Army Bomb Disposal School formed	On Jan 1941, it was proposed to create 2 x Army Bomb Disposal schools. But after discussions, it was decided to form one large school at Donnington school, Lincolnshire. This was located with elements from the Woolwich Arsenal establishment, which had relocated to get away from the bombing. The first course started on the 22nd July 1941.
1941	Churchill's view on Bomb Disposal	Somehow or other, their faces seemed different from ordinary men, however brave and faithful. They were gaunt and haggard, their faces had a bluish look, with gleaming eyes with compression lips; with a perfect demeanour. In writing about our hard times, we are apt to over use the word "grim" it should have been reserved for the UXB squads.
1941	Army School of Bomb Disposal moves	The Army school of bomb disposal moves from Donnington Park to the School of Military Engineering by Winter 1941 and is recorded as being located at Harper Barracks, Ripon in Jan 1942.
1941	RE Bomb Disposal badge designed	Queen Mary (the Queen Mother) designed the BD badge, which was issued to BD teams from Dec 1941 onwards. Soldiers were issued 2 BD badges each.
1942	Development of the Stevens's stopper	Wing Commander Comeilius Stevens was the head of the RAF BD throughout the war and had assisted with the development of the Liquid Fuse Discharger in 1941. His success led to him examining, how to tackle the type 17 delay fuse, using a similar methodology. The Stevens stopper used a vacuum to suck an immunisation into the fuse which would discharge capacitors and jam mechanical components. This was proven to work in 1942 and entered service in 1944 as the S-Set.
1942	Bomb Disposal Overseas	At the beginning of 1942, RN, Army and RAF sections were active in Gibraltar, Malta, Malaya, West Africa and RAF overseas airfields. RE Companies were located in NI (27 Company RE) and the Middle East (18 & 28 Companies RE. In Nov/Dec 42, 8, 15 & 17 Companies RE landed in Algeria and subsequently took part in the invasion of Sicily and Italy.

Jan 1943	Captain F Carlyle RE recovers a Y Fuse	A new type of anti-handling fuse, the Y Fuse was countered by the use of liquid oxygen to neutralised the batteries it contained.
July 1943	BD Organisation prepares for D Day	In July 1943, 5 x BD Companies RE (containing 33 x Sections) were transferred from Home Forces to 21 st Army Group. RE Officers were trained to shallow water diving and 3 x RAF BD Squadrons (containing 8 Flights) were earmarked for the invasion of France. At the same time, UK based RE BD personnel were given the task of clearing the UK minefields and the anti- invasion defences.
1943	1943 – 1946 HMS Volcano	HMS Volcano was a shore establishment (There were several establishments, all named HMS Volcano at the time), located at Holmrock Hall, Cumbria. It trained RN and BD personnel in BD and Demolition techniques. Its primary role was the training of Landing Craft Obstacle Clearance Units (LCOCU) prior to D Day, but it also trained Norwegian resistance fighters in sabotage techniques.
1944	The role of RAOC mobile ammunition laboratories	During WW2 the RAOC provided ammunition and Ordnance supplies through ordnance field parks and depots, just behind the front lines. In addition, Mobile Ammunition Laboratories (MALs) were allocated to all army groups and theatres. MALs contained AEs and a labour force and were commanded by Inspecting ordinance Officers. They were responsible for the repair and servicing of allied Ammunition and the demolition of unsafe allied land surface natures in addition to the recovery, conditioning or demolition of enemy stocks. In April - Nov 44, MALs were attached to 18 BD Coy RE and 352 (Indian) BD Coy RE in order to clear Allied and enemy ammunition dumps in North Africa 46,858 tonnes of ammunition was cleared during this period.
1944 - 45	RE Clearance diver teams established.	Following the initial training given to RE BDOs, RE Clearance Diver teams were established. Trained by the RN, these teams enabled the army to conduct UXO and demolition tasks inland, an essential capability to allow clearance of enemy bridge demolitions and associated tasks.
16/17 May 1944	Operation Tarbrush	RE specialist search & EOD teams deploy from submarine to recce the Normandy beaches. They examine and plot sea defences and mines in preparation of D Day.
5 th June 1944	D -Day – RN/RE obstacle clearance teams lead the way.	LCOCU were formed to clear obstacles between high and low water mark. 1 st Assault Bde was created to clear above high-water mark using specialist vehicles, such as

		AVRE and Churchill Flail tanks. 94 x RAF personnel BD personnel were attached to 5 x BD Coys within 21 st Army Group to clear Allied air dropped UXOs.
13 th June 1944	First V1 Rockets hits the UK.	The first one, hits Grove Road, Mile end, London at 4.25 am. Destroying a rail bridge and nearby homes, killing six people and injuring 42.
17 th June 1944	First V1 bomb, fails to explode.	The first V1 which failed to explode landed on the 17 th June 1944 at Fairlight, Sussex, but it wasn't until the 23 rd June 44 at Staplecross, Sussex that Major Hudson RE assisted by Robert Hurst (Ministry of Supply, Scientific Research Dept 8) were able to recover details of the V1 fusing arrangements, with the assistance of a BD Section.
8 th Sept 1944	First V2 bomb strikes the UK	8 th Sept 1944, Staveley Road, Chiswick. A sapper on leave, Sapper Browning was killed by the weapon, as were others.
23 rd Oct 1945	The UXBC closes	The 48 th and final meeting of the UXBC, took place at the SHELLMEX in London, the work of the group drawn from all three services, Government Depts and Scientific establishments were invaluable in developing BD procedures and equipment during WW2.
1945	Post War clean up Singapore begins.	RAF staff cleared former airfields in the Far East and RN BSOs cleared the ports. The Army dealt with Depots and former fighting positions. During a 12 th Month period, over 60,000 tonnes of ordnance was disposed of, mainly by sea dumping. 433 Base Ordnance Depot RAOC at Kranji acted as a focal point, for disposal Japanese WW2 Munitions. It also provided support to nearby territories such as Malaya during the post war period.
1945 - 48	The origin of the UK IEDD Capability - Palestine	On the 17 th Nov 1946, Capt JE Newton RE was killed by an IED at Petah Tiqua and Capt Adamson RE was killed by a IED at Ras El Ein on the 18 th Nov 1946. As these incidents were as crimes rather than warfare, FW Bird GM MBE a police officer, established systems to investigate bomb attacks including the recovery of explosive devices and components from bomb scenes. The demands of forensic collection and IED analysis, required individuals who had experience of munitions, chemistry and the science of explosives and the RAOC AEs and IOOs were called upon to assist.
22 nd July 1946	The increased use of the Improvised Explosive Device.	Following the end of WW2, a number of Nationalist groups, rose up and fought against what they felt, was British Imperialist control. Drawing on lessons provided to them as resistance or freedom fighters by the allies during WW2, the IED was a key weapon in

		their arsenal of violent struggle. On the 22 nd July 1946, a bomb destroyed the King David Hotel in Jerusalem. 91 were killed & 41 injured.
1946+	Drastic reduction in RE Bomb Disposal personnel	Immediately following WW2, it was decided to dramatically reduce the UK, RE BD Establishment. Nos 14 & 20 BD Companies disbanded by May 46 and by April 48 respectfully, leaving only 9 BD Companies remaining in the UK. The Directorate of Bomb Disposal moved from Romney House, Marshal St, London to Ashley Gardens, Victoria in April 1948 and renamed HQ Bomb Disposal Units (UK) RE. Commanding all RE BD units.
1949	RE Bomb Disposal School (Ripon) moves	To Gordon Barracks in Gillingham, Kent.
1948 - 53	Korea – UK support to the Commonwealth Brigade	A RE BD section, commanded by Capt. DJW Dalby RE was based at Kure in 1952/3 to provide BD support. The sect, dealt with a number of UXBs in Korea & Japan inc 3 x Influence Sea mines. From 1953, at the end of the war, 3 established posts were established within 28 Engineer Regiment RE.
1948	April – Oct, Joint RE/RAOC Bomb Disposal Troop formed	A combined Troop was formed short term, to conduct UXO clearance in Borneo.
1948 - 60	Malaya Emergency	RAOC AEs were responsible for handling returned ammunition, dealing with explosive degradation caused by the high humidity. They also dealt with the legacy issues with the post WW2 remnants of war. As with Palestine, the forensic requirements of IEDDs, meant they were dealt with by the RAOC IOOs and AEs with 3 x GMs being awarded for their work. Additional Bomb Disposal support was provided by 11 th Independent Squadron RE.
1950 - 67	RE BD Emergency Reserve formed & disbanded	Oct 1950 – Army Emergency Reserve formed. This was designed to provide technical or specialist units which could not be manned by like a TA EOD unit from local resources. Individual commitment was two weeks a year. The first BD Regt formed 137 BD Regt (AER) with Lt Col RO Marshall OBE as CO. Forming initially 346 Sqn, by 1952, it was three more Sqns formed, 347, 348 & 549. These Sqns were considered more successful than TA units and so some of TA units were disbanded. In 1953, No 142 BD Regt (AER) formed up (Lt Col W Parker GM RE) comprising of 290 BD Sqn RE (formally TA), 551 & 547 BD Sqns RE. Finally, in Jan 1955, 144 BD Regt (AER) formed up, initially under Lt Col W Parker GM, but handing over to Lt Col BST Archer GC RE.

		In spite of the this, two TA Sqns remained, 579 Sqn at Chatham and 593 BD Sqns RE at Dover. However, the decision was taken to disband all three Regiments on the 1 st March 67. At this point, HQ BD Units (UK) RE and a TA Sqn move to Lodge Hill.
1951	RE BD School moves to Gillingham then Broadbridge Heath.	The school moves from Gordon Barracks Gillingham to Broadbridge heath, Horsham.
1962	RN BD school joins the JSBDS at Broadbridge Heath	Command of the school, rotates between the three services.
2 nd Nov 62	RE assumes responsibility for Army Battlefield Clearance	In 1962, HQ BD Units (UK) took the responsibility of the Army Battlefield Clearance task from ABC based in Newhaven, Sussex. This was renamed 3 BAC Troop, with a structure of 1 x Capt., 1 x SSM, 3 x Cpls and 113 civilians. These were mainly Ukraine's, who had been employed since 1946. In 1965 a BD Sqn was formed to command operational Troops. In 1966, this Sqn was named 49 BD Sqn RE.
3 rd Dec – 30 th Mar 66	RE BD Units conduct UXO clearance of the Gilbert & Ellice Islands	Tasked to clear the Betio Island, 42 collapsed bunker positions cleared by hand. Over 100 tons of dangerous Japanese WW2 Munitions cleared. Major HP Qualtrough and Sgt H Cooke BEM RE are awarded for their work.
Jul 1966	Joint Service BD School moves to Lodge Hill, Kent	Renamed the Joint Services Bomb Disposal School – Chattenden.
1966	The term Explosive Ordnance Disposal is implemented	NATO introduces the term, to replace the outdated Bomb Disposal as a more accurate terminology to describe the work of EOD operations.
Feb 67 - Mar 1969	Penang EOD Task, Malaya	RE EOD team's complete clearance of Penang, which was started by 11 Independent Field Squadron RE in 1950. The Sqn sadly losing, 2 x RE personnel in 1957 whilst employed on a mine clearing task. Thousands of tonnes of Ordnance are dealt with by sea dumping or demolition. during this period and 1 x GM and 2 x BEMs were awarded for gallantry.
1967	RE (AER) EOD Regiments disbanded	On the 31 st March 1967, all three (AER) BD Regiments were disbanded. Also, two TA BD Sqns were also disbanded and a TAVR specialist unit were formed on the 1 st April at Fort Clarence Rochester. This unit was 590 Specialist team (STRE) RE (V).
1968- 70	UXO clearance of Malta	A RE EOD Troop, resident in Malta as part of 72 (Malta) Sp Sqn RE, continued to clear UXO from WW2 during the period until the withdrawal in 1970.

Nov 1969	No 49 BD Squadron RE was renamed 49 EOD Sqn RE	HQ BD units also retitled HQ EOD units, in line with NATO terminology
1 st Apr 1970	Joint Service EOD School renamed DEOD School	Defence EOD School.
1970	Search training formalised	The requirement for Search trained soldiers and Police was recognised. Courses being run by 74 Engineer Regiment RE (V) at Bangor NI. By 1971 it was decided that every major unit should have 4 x Search teams.
1971	ATO use RE Sapper section to conduct Search tasks	Following the Brougher mountain incident (where 5 x BBC technicians were killed as their vehicle triggered VOIED. IEDD teams use RE Sappers mine detection and booby trap skills to search areas approaches to suspect devices., For a while, these teams were known as Explosive Reconnaissance (EOR) teams – the forerunner to RE Search teams.
1973	Responsibilities for IEDDs laid down	The RAOC assumes responsibility for all UK IEDDs in peacetime in support of the police. However, RE, RAF and RN are trained in basic IEDD in order to provide a capability for times of General war. 2 x RAOC instructors join the staff of DEODS to teach IEDDs.
16 th May 1973	Formation of 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) RE	HQ EOD Units RE changed to 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) RE. The first CO was Lt Col RC Plummer RE. The Regiment has responsibility for BAC, Search, CMD and Air dropped weapons.
1973/4	Weapons Intelligence Unit created in Northern Ireland	Its role was to identify future intents and trends in IED making and use. Since then, the role of WIS, utilising AT/ATOs to collate and analyse technical intelligence gleamed from EOD and IEDD operations have grown. WIS has deployed on all operations from 1991.
1973	Development of search training at the Field Engineering School	By 1973, the requirement for search trained soldiers in NI had expanded. RSME reorganised its training load and responsibility for search training for Unit Search Advisors, Unit Search teams and RE Specialist search teams, fell to the Field Engineering wing. In BAOR a search Training wing was also established at Sennelager.
27 th July 1974	Cyprus EOD Tasks	RE BAC teams clear 8 acres of ranges in Cyprus – Turkey invades, one month later.
1975	The EOD Technical Information Centre is formed	EOD TIC formed to provide a single organisation which held technical information regarding EOD for signatory members of NATO to access. A NATO facility.

1975	Falkland Islands clearance tasks	RE conduct BAC legacy clearance of munitions and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) from WW2.
1976	Search teams now employed in Northern Ireland	Each Infantry Battalion now had 1 x Unit Search Advisor and 2 Unit Search Teams per company. Each RE Field Squadron in support of Brigades had 1 x Search Coordinator, 3 x RESA and up to 8 Specialist Search teams.
1977	Op Hemicarp	A Joint Services team (11 x RN, 1 x RAF & 1 x RE) conduct Op Hemicarp. RN CDs and USN CDs cooperate to clear ex USN and Japanese WW2 ordnance from the waters of Tawara and Tulvula Islands in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands. The RAF & RE Operators clear 250 – 300 projectiles from Nanumea Island.
1980	Felix Centre opens	At the Royal School of Ammunition by GOC NI. It provides, pre-deployment training for EOD (IEDD) Operators.
?	JSEODOC is formed	Based at Tidworth
?	EOD, Search responsibilities between RE, RAOC, RAF & RN laid down.	The MOD clarifies responsibilities for EOD between RE & RAOC as well as the other services. Whilst the RAF and RN remains relatively unchanged, Army responsibilities were set out as follows: RE – responsible for the following: • Clearance of Bombs & mines • Excavation and approach clearance to UXO up to the point when it is located • EOD search less ECM • BAC RAOC – responsible for: • Clearance of LSA • Clearance of terrorist and home-made bombs or devices of an unusual nature • Explosive devices where the risk of detonation is unacceptable
1982	RE EOD involvement on Op Corporate	49 (EOD) Sqn RE initially sent 1 x EOD team with the Task Force as an advance party. During the campaign SSgt Prescott RE was killed & WO2 Philips severely injured, whilst defusing a bomb on HMS Antelope. SSgt Philips was awarded a posthumous CGM and SSgt Philips a DCM. During this campaign RE Search teams continued to assist the EOD efforts, particularly during the clear up at Goose Green. A full EOD team from 49 (EOD) Sqn flew out on

		the 15 th June 82, the day after the surrender, they immediately got to work, clearing over 10,000 items of UXO following the conflict.
1983	58 (EOD) Sqn formed	Officially, forming up to meet increasing operational demands on 33 Engineer Regiment RE. Including Operation Crabstick (Clearance of Pipe mines) and EOD requirements.
17 th Oct 1984	The Brighton Bombing	On the 17 th Sept 84, IRA bomber Patrick McGee hid a long delay timer IED containing 11 Kgs of explosive behind the wall of room 629, in the Grand Hotel Brighton. The device was programmed to explode one month later, when the conservative party annual conference was due to be held. On the day of functioning, 5 people were killed and 30 seriously injured. 58 (EOD) Sqn RE, tasked to take over the Search role.
1988	Field Engineering School renamed	Becoming the Military and Search Branch RSME
1988	101 (City of London) Engineer Regiment (EOD) RE(V)	The four TA Squadrons come under the Command of 101 (C of L) Engr Regt (EOD) RE(V)
1989	RE Bomb Disposal trade badge introduced	Khaki backing, gold with blue rings.
1990	Counter terrorist Search Wing Established	Search wing formed and sublimed the role of the Military Search wing
1993	33 EOD Regiment RE moves to Wimbish	Carver Barracks, Wimbish. RHQ – 22 & 49 EOD Sqns RE
1995	National Search Training Centre established	Lodge Hill, Kent
1999	National Search Training Centre renamed	National Search Centre
2000	Search operations conducted in Kosovo	Search operations concluded in 2003. First Brigade RESA introduced.
2003	Op Telic	2003 – 2009. Inc the formation of the Joint Force EOD Group. RN CD teams clear the Shatt al Arab and Khawt Abe Allah waterways into the Port of Basra during Op Telic. They remain in Iraq after the war to complete the clearance of the ports, conduct Joint service EOD and search for weapons of mass destruction.
2003 - 09	Op Telic	The EOD clearance of Iraq. During Op Telic, large stocks of enemy ammunition was denied to the enemy by assaulting coalition forces.

		In many cases, this simply caused a large EOD hazard. In addition, enemy ammunition depots were left unguarded as coalition forces were diverted to fight a growing insurgency and irregular forces. As a result, these depots were broken into and materials robbed out by local populations. With a increased EOD danger poised, a concerted effort was made by the coalition forces and NGOs to deal with the threat. Within the British led MND(SE) AOR. The JFEOD Gp comprising EOD personnel from all three services, focuses on IEDD and RLC ATs from the ammunition inspectorate with the clearance of former depots.
1 st Apr 2004	Army School of Ammunition, National Search Centre and DEODs form DEMSS	The three existing training establishments come under central command and are renamed Defence EOD Munitions and Search School (Kineton) and Defence EOD Munitions and Search School (South). Commanded by HQ DEMSS they now come under the Royal School of Engineering (RSME).
7 TH July 2005	7/7 Bombings	The 7 th July 2005 London bombings, was a series of co-ordinated suicide bomber attacks in London which targeted civilians using the public transport system during the morning rush hour. The explosions were caused by homemade organic peroxide-based devices packed into rucksacks. The bombings were followed exactly two weeks later by a series of attempted attacks.
2009	23 Pioneer Regiment RLC deploys elements on Op Herrick in a Search role	Over successive roulements, additional search teams are required in support of Op Herrick. With RE assets fully committed, 23 Pioneer Regiment RLC is selected to provide additional Op Herrick Search teams.
April 2010	33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) RE & 101 (City of London) Engineer Regiment RE become hybrid Regular/Reserve Regiments.	Structured with a replicated balance of two Regular & 2 Reserve Squadrons
April 2010	Defence EOD Operator programme	Operations in Iraq and Afghanistan have been dominated by IEDs and this threat is likely to remain a strategic, operational and tactical threat to operations for the foreseeable future. The requirement to sustain the C-IED capability both now and for years to come has led to the creation of the Defence EOD Operator programme. The programme is intended to generate EOD Operators in support of current operations, contingency tasks and UK MACP commitments and now trains all RN, Army and RAF Operators.

1 st Apr 2010	MATT 9 – CIED training introduced across defence	Mandatory Annual Training Test 9 for CIED is introduced across defence. MATT 9 CIED Instructors are taught at DEMSS(S) and Reserve Brigade training teams. Prior to 2010 all arms C-IED training was delivered primary as a component of Mission Specific Training (MST). The intent was to provide a baseline of common C-IED knowledge, skills and generic drills during initial and foundation training alongside tactics, techniques and procedures. This was now, an annual training requirement.
23 rd June 2010	British Army unveils Talisman	Each Talisman consists of the following components: 1 x Mastiff 2 (Protected patrol vehicle) 1 x Buffalo Mine protection vehicle (with rummage arm). 1 x JCB high mobility engineer excavator 1 x T-Hawk micro air vehicle 1 x Talon tracked RCV The concept was designed as a flexible manoeuvre support capability that can be quickly re-tasked and re-arranged to meet mission different tasks, operating independently or alongside other Bomb disposal assets, dependent on threat. The first deployed unit was 15 Field Support Sqn RE (Trained initially, intermediate Search & basic demolitions techniques. The capability, was passed to 36 Engineer Regt RE – then capability withdrawn in 2017.
2010	First All Arms EOD Operator course commences	The requirements of Op Herrick require a significant uplift of EOD Operator manpower. Volunteers from across defence are selected to commence EOD Operator training.
2010	Origins of IEDD Destroy capability	In order to support the 8 IEDD teams on Herrick 11, 3 x CMD teams are locally trained whilst on operations to conduct IEDD duties in theatre. These teams were categorised as CMD+ and had a capability based around blowing up IEDDs in situ to enable manoeuvre support.
2010/11 ?	IEDD destroy is formalised	IEDD manning on Herrick 14 stands at 10 x IEDD (neutralise} teams and 10 x IEDD (Destroy) teams. All IEDD (D) teams are fully qualified DEOC operators and have completed a bespoke destroy course, MRX package and a validation in theatre. .
2010/11 ?	First RE High Threat (Advance) EOD operator qualifies	At DEMSS (Kineton)
22 June 2011	Cpl James Bedford MC RE	First Searcher awarded the MC, for actions in Afghanistan whilst serving as a Search team commander.

2011	Search badge introduced	Awarded for Advanced Search team qualified personnel.
July 2012	DEMSS (South) moves to Bicester from Lodge Hill	The new site, is a purpose-built facility (£100 million) for Search & CMD training.
12 th Nov 2012	First All Arms DEOC operator course begins	With operations in Afghanistan now on a sustainable footing, the decision is taken to end the all arms access to the DEOC course. From this point onwards, EOD operators are drawn from RN, RE, RLC and RAF personnel as part of the overall Defence EOD Operator programme.
7 th Dec 2012	DEMS Training Regiment formed	DEMSS (South) and DEMSS (Kineton) formally merge under a single RHQ to form a new Tri- service Regiment. The Defence Explosive Munitions and Search Training Regiment. The first Commanding Officer – Lt Col CJ Henson QGM RLC The first RSM – WO1(RSM) M Teesdale RE.
2013	UK MACA Searchers moved to Didcot	As part of 421 EOD & S Sqn RLC, 58 EOD Sqn retains search sub unit at Carver Bks.
2014	101 (C of L) Engineer Regiment – Adopts Search	101 (C of L) Engineer Regiment RE – Trains in Search. First as intermediate then Advance search in 2014. Deploying search trained personnel on Herrick.
2014	EOD & REST teams deploy on Op SHADER	To train Iraqi security forces
2018	Search becomes a trade with EOD career stream	Combined with EOD under RESTORe
1 st Aug 2018	Restructure of EOD & Search Regiments	Decoupling of 33 and 101 (EOD & S) Regiments – Regular & Reserve Sqns, re-join their respective regular and reserve Regiments. 35 Engineer Regiment – Re-rolls to an EOD & Search role.