

Weybourne Norfolk 17 December 1973. Mr Glew Awarded BEM see our Awards Section on this web site.

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EXTRACT FROM EASTERN DAILY PRESS OF 17 DECEMBER 1973

FREAK TIDES EXPOSE 18 MINES ON BEACH

The unusually high tides which caused flooding along many parts of the North Norfolk coast on Friday night scoured the beach at Weybourne, exposing seven anti-tank mines near the former RAF camp there.

A Mundesley man, Mr Alfred Glew, who is employed by the Army's bomb disposal engineers to keep a watch on the Norfolk coastline for signs of these relics of the second world war, discovered them on a routine check on Saturday morning.

Yesterday morning Mr Glew found four more mines, part of the same pattern, lying near the low tide mark, roughly 80 yards apart.

EXPERTS

Two more bomb experts, from 49 EOD Squadron, based at Felixstowe, travelled to Norfolk yesterday and, guided by Mr Glew, who was using a mine detector, discovered seven more - a total of 18.

The record number of mines found on one beach in one day was 36, at Mundesley, during the clean-up operation of the Trimmingham-Mundesley beach a few years ago, with which Mr Glew was also involved.

The mines found yesterday were circular B-type sea mines, approximately 18 in in diameter, each loaded with 23 to 25 lb of high explosive. Their primary targets, when they were laid 33 years ago, were tanks and heavy vehicles, said W/O W Kibble, in charge of the disposal team.

"These mines are in remarkably good condition," he said. "The small bow-spring which used to trigger them has rusted away on most of them, so that the pressure of a man could be sufficient to detonate them now."

SHINGLE BANK

W/O Kibble thought it most probable that several more mines were lying underneath the shingle bank which acts as a form of sea defence all along that stretch of the coast.

He had contacted his commanding officer to suggest that a unit be detached from other disposal work to travel to Weybourne today and do a complete sweep of the beach there.

The 18 mines found this week-end were exploded by the team yesterday afternoon, the noise carrying several miles on the strong off-sea wind which grew stronger all afternoon.

For Mr Glew it was the second Sunday running he had spent on Weybourne beach. Last week-end he found two Mark II anti-personnel mines at the same spot, which were detonated in a nearby pill-box on the Monday. He had been working in the area for 18 years on this sort of job, he said, and had found scores during that time.

NOTE: Mr Alfred Glew is a civilian employee of 49 EOD Squadron, was awarded the BEM in June 1967 for his EOD work with the Squadron.