

British Army Regimental Succession of Titles: Engineers



Alongside the Royal Regiment of Artillery, in 1716 the Board of Ordnance established the Corps of Engineers. The officers that made up this new Corps oversaw the work conducted by Artificer Companies, for which a formal organisation was established six years later. In 1782 both were granted the 'Royal' prefix and became the Royal Corps of Engineers and the Corps of Royal Military Artificers.

When the Board of Ordnance was abolished in 1855, the two Corps transferred to the main body of the British Army and were combined at Chatham in 1856 as the unified Corps of Royal Engineers. Royal Engineers deployed as field companies attached to larger infantry units or field squadrons attached to cavalry.

During the Great War, two field companies (later three) of Royal Engineers were attached to each Division. After the Second World War, the Royal Engineers' workshops and depots were formed into regiments and, as these resources focus on the succession of regimental titles, they are the focus of this chronology.

During the Twentieth Century, traditional Royal Engineer responsibilities have been assigned to newly formed corps: communications (Royal Corps of Signals and Royal Logistic Corps), equipment maintenance (Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers), ports and railways (Royal Corps of Transport then Royal Logistic Corps) and aviation (Royal Flying Corps then Army Air Corps).

1940s-1960s			1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s
2 (Officer) Training Regiment (1947/48)						
11 Headquarters Regiment (1947/48)	11 SME Regiment (1948-55)	11/12 SME Regiment (1955/56)	12 SME Regiment (1957-62) then 12 RSME Regiment (1962-94)		1 Royal School of Military Engineering Regiment (1994-present) 1 RSME Regt	
12 SME Regiment (1948-55)						
10 Headquarters Regiment (1947)	10 Trades Training Regiment (1948-59)		RE Depot (1948-59) then Depot Regiment RE (1959-94)			
12 Drafting Regiment (1947/48)						
13 Holding Regiment (1948)						
8 Training Regiment (1947/48) 8TRRE						
3 Training Regiment (1948-61) 3TRRE		4 Training Regiment (1961) 4TRRE	3 Training Regiment (1968-94) 3TRRE		3 Royal School of Military Engineering Regiment (1994-present) 3 RSME Regt	
4 Training Regiment (1947-61) 4TRRE			1 Training Regiment (1959-94) 1TRRE			
1 Training Regiment (1946-59) 1TRRE						
6 Training (Selection) Regiment (1952-59) 6TRRE						
9 Training Regiment (1948-59) 9TRRE			Transferred to Royal Corps of Transport (RCT)			
5 Railway Training Regiment (1947/48)	16 Railway Training Regiment (1948-65)					
17 Port Training Regiment (1948-65)						
Junior Leaders Regiment (1958-91)						

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1940s-1960s			1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s
21 Field Engineer Regiment (1949-58)			21 Engineer Regiment (1969-78) then 1st Armoured Division Engineer Regiment (1978-81)	21 Engineer Regiment (1981-present) 21 Engr Regt		
22 Field Engineer Regiment (1948-60)		Headquarters RE 3rd Division (1960-70) HQRE 3rd Div	22 Engineer Regiment (1970-present) 22 Engr Regt			
23 Field Engineer Regiment (1948-58)	Headquarters RE 2nd Division (1958-69) HQRE 2nd Div	23 Engineer Regiment (1969-76)	2nd Armoured Division Engineer Regiment (1976-81)	23 Engineer Regiment (1983-93) 23 Engr Regt	23 Engineer Regiment (Air Assault) (2003-15) then 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment (2015-present) 23 Para Engr Regt	
25 Field Engineer Regiment (1950-69)		25 Engineer Regiment (1969-76)		25 Engineer Regiment (1981-2007) 25 Eng Regt	25 Engineer Regiment (Air Support) (2007-12) 25 Engr Regt (Air Sp)	
24 Field Engineer Regiment (1948-58)					24 Commando Engineer Regiment (2008-present) 24 Cdo Engr Regt	
26 Field Engineer Regiment (1950-57)	Headquarters RE 4th Division (1957-69) HQRE 4th Div	26 Engineer Regiment (1969-78)	3rd Armoured Division Engineer Regiment (1978-81)	26 Engineer Regiment (1981-1994) 26 Engr Regt	26 (Close Support) Engineer Regiment (2000-present) 26 Engr Regt (CS)	
27 Engineer Regiment (1950-57)						
28 Field Engineer Regiment (1951-57)				28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment (1970-1992)	28 Engineer Regiment (1992-2014) 28 Engr Regt	28 Engineer Regiment (Counter- Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (C-CBRN)) (2019-present) 28 Engr Regt (C-CBRN)
40 Advanced Engineer Stores Regiment (1952-68)			40 Army Support Regiment (1968-77)	40 Army Support Group (1982-92)		
42nd Assault Engineer Regiment (1943-48)	32 Assault Engineer Regiment (1948-57)	32 Armoured Engineer Regiment (1964-69) then 32 Engineer Regiment (1969-77)		32 Armoured Engineer Regiment (1980-93)		32 Engineer Regiment (1993-present) 32 Engr Regt
33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Search (EOD&S)) (1973-present) 33 Engr Regt (EOD&S)						
34 Army Engineer Regiment (1947-49)						
35 Army Engineer Regiment (1948-56) then 35 Corps Engineer Regiment (Port) (1956)		35 Corps Engineer Regiment (1957-69) then 35 Engineer Regiment (1969-77)		4th Armoured Division Engineer Regiment (1977-81)	35 Engineer Regiment (1981-2013)	
36 Army Engineer Regiment (1949-54)		36 Corps Engineer Regiment (1954-64)		36 Engineer Regiment (1969-2011)		36 Engineer Regiment (Search) (2011-13) then 36 Engineer Regiment (Queen's Gurkha Engineers) (2013-present) 36 Engr Regt

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1940s-1960s			1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s
37 Army Engineer Regiment (1949-54) then 37 Corps Engineer Regiment (1954/55)		37 Field Engineer Regiment (1955-59)	37 Engineer Regiment (1967-74; 1982-85) 37 Engr Regt			
38 Corps Engineer Regiment (1951-64)		38 Engineer Regiment (1964-2013) 38 Engr Regt				
39 Army Engineer Regiment (1949) then 39 Corps Engineer Regiment (1950-55)		HQ RE (Airfields) (1966/67)	39 Engineer Regiment (Airfields) (1967-77)	39 Engineer Regiment (1977-1995)		39 Engineer Regiment (Air Support) (1995-present) 39 Engr Regt (Air Sp)
41 Engineer Park Regiment (1969/70)						
42 Survey Engineer Regiment (1948-63)			42 Survey Regiment (1963-85)		42 Engineer Regiment (1985-2000) 42 Engr Regt	
50 Engineer Regiment (1951-55)		50 (Gurkha) Field Engineer Regiment (1955-60)	Gurkha Engineers FARELF (1960-77)		Queens Gurkha Engineers (1977-94) QGE	
51 Engineer Regiment (1955-57)						
Gibraltar Fortress Engineers (1947-61)						
Singapore Base Regiment (1948-52)	Singapore Engineer Regiment (1952-60)	Engineer Base Group, Singapore (1960-71)				