

British Army Succession of Titles: REME



In order to support the considerable increases in the quantity and complexity of technical equipment due to the rapid mechanisation and technological advances that followed the outbreak of the Second World War, on 1st October 1942 the British Army established a new corps to bring together its mechanics, electricians and other specialised tradesmen.

The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) was formed in two phases in order to enable such a major and complex re-organisation. Phase I REME was formed on the existing framework of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps Engineering Branch (RAOC (E) Branch) and the transfer of certain technical units and tradesmen from the Royal Army Service Corps (RASC), the Royal Engineers as well as individuals from other Corps.

The new organisation was tried and tested almost immediately during the 2nd Battle of El Alamein, the first major operation after the Corps was formed. The re-organised repair and recovery system was tested thoroughly during the remainder of the war, during which REME grew to be the largest technical corps.

In 1949 Phase II formation was approved by the Army Council and REME took over full responsibility for unit repairs. In 1958 it took on aircraft support and repairs, and in 1966 assumed responsibility for the unit repair of telecommunications equipments for all arms except the Royal Signals.

It is beyond the scope of this resource to include the vast extent of REME structure, organisation and succession during the Second World War. This structure, which enabled support to operational units in the field (e.g. Light Aid Detachments - LADs - and mobile workshops), as well as the static and home workshop organisation, has undergone many changes over the years. This resource also cannot include the post-War to current REME structure in support of the army's regiments and corps. Instead, it focuses on today's REME battalions.

[Find out more at the REME Museum](#)

1950s	1960s	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
1 Training Battalion REME, Blandford (1948-61) 1 Trg Bn REME	Depot REME (1961-67)	Training Battalion and Depot REME, Arborfield (1967-92)					
2 Training Battalion REME, Honiton (1948-59) 2 Trg Bn REME							
4 Training Battalion (Armament) REME, Bordon (1950-61) 4 Trg Bn REME	School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, Bordon (1961-2014) SEME					Defence School of Electronic and Mechanical Engineering (2014-present) DSEME <i>Under Defence College of Technical Training (DCTT), was DSEME Bordon and DSEME Arborfield, and became DSEME Lyneham</i> incorporating	
6 Training Battalion (Vehicles) REME, Bordon (1950-61) 6 Trg Bn REME							
3 Training Battalion (Telemech) REME, Arborfield (1950-61) 3 Trg Bn REME	School of Electronic Engineering, Arborfield (1961-95) SEE			SEME Regiment (2003-09) then 10 Training Battalion REME (2009-15) 10 Trg Bn REME		8 Training Battalion REME <i>formed from 10 Trg Bn REME and 11 Trg Bn REME</i> (2015-present) 8 Trg Bn REME	
5 Training Battalion (Radar) REME, Arborfield (1950-61) 5 Trg Bn REME							
Aircraft Trades School Middle Wallop (1957/58)	Technical Training Branch, Middle Wallop (1958-65)	Aircraft Engineering Training Wing, Middle Wallop (1965-88) AETW	School of Aeronautical Engineering, Middle Wallop (1988-95) SAE	School of Electronic and Aeronautical Engineering (1995-2012) SEAE		School of Army Aeronautical Engineering (2012-present) SAAE <i>Arborfield (2012-2015) Lyneham (2015-present)</i>	
7 (Driver) Training Battalion REME, Barton Stacey (1951-59) 7 Trg Bn REME							

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1950s	1960s	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
8 (Basic Trade) Training Battalion REME, Taunton (1950-62)							
9 (Basic Trade) Training Battalion REME, Malvern (1950-55) 9 Trg Bn REME							
10 (Basic Trade) Training Battalion REME, Gosport (1950-61)							
11 (Basic Trade Training) Battalion REME, Ellesmere (1951-55)							
			12 Armoured Workshop HQ	1 Battalion REME (1993-2008) 1 Bn REME		1 Close Support Battalion REME (2008-present) 1 CS Bn REME	<i>Proposed to either amalgamate or group with 1 Regiment RLC</i>
			4 Close Support Company				
			12 General Support Company				
7 Armoured Workshop (1946-70)		7 Field Workshop (1970-77)	7 Armoured Workshop (1977-93)	2 Battalion REME (1993-2008) 2 Bn REME		2 Close Support Battalion REME (2008-present) 2 CS Bn REME	<i>Proposed to become 2 Force Support Battalion REME under Future Soldier reforms</i>
4 Armoured Workshop (1949-93)				3 Battalion REME (1993-2008) 3 Bn REME		3 Close Support Battalion REME (2008-15) 3 CS Bn REME	3 Armoured Close Support Battalion REME (2015-present) 3 ACS Bn REME
				9 Armoured Close Support Company	4 Battalion REME (1999-2008) 4 Bn REME	4 Close Support Battalion REME (2008-2013) 4 CS Bn REME	4 Armoured Close Support Battalion REME (2013-present) 4 ACS Bn REME
				10 Armoured Company			
				17 Field Support Company			
5 Battalion REME (1999-2013) 5 Bn REME						5 Force Support Battalion REME (2013-present) 5 FS Bn REME	
104 Force Support Battalion REME (2008-13) 104 FS Bn REME							
			3 Field Company	6 Battalion REME (1993-2008) 6 Bn REME		6 Close Support Battalion REME (2008-15) 6 CS Bn REME	6 Armoured Close Support Battalion REME (2015-present) 6 ACS Bn REME
			15 Field Company				
			8 Close Support Company	7 Battalion REME (1993-2000) 7 Bn REME	7 Air Assault Battalion REME (2000-15) 7 AA Bn REME		7 Aviation Support Battalion REME (2016-present) 7 Avn Sp Bn REME
			71 Close Support Company				
			72 (Depth) Company				
			73 Close Support Company				
	71 Aircraft Workshop (1966-71)	71 Field Workshop (Aircraft) (1971-94)					
	73 Aircraft Workshop (1968-71) then 73 Field Workshop (Aircraft) (1971-77)						

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1950s	1960s	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
							9 Theatre Support Battalion REME (2022-present) 9 TS Bn REME
						101 Force Support Battalion REME (2008-13) 101 FS Bn REME	<i>Transferred to Reserve</i>