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### Record Summary

<b>Title</b>	Records of the Ordnance Office and its successors at the War Office
<b>Legal status</b>	Public Record(s)
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Creator names</b>	War Office, 1857-1964 Ministry of Supply, 1939-1959 Ordnance Office, 1683-1855 War Department, 1855-1857
<b>Covering dates</b>	1568-1983
<b>Physical description</b>	23 series
<b>Note</b>	

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<b>Restrictions on use</b>	
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### Content

<b>Scope and content</b>	<p>Records of the Ordnance Office and its successors at the War Office relating to the supply of weapons for the army.</p> <p>Comprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board of Ordnance minutes, <a href="#">WO 47</a></li> <li>• Correspondence of the office, <a href="#">WO 44</a> and <a href="#">WO 46</a>, with registers of in-letters, <a href="#">WO 45</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Various registers, <a href="#">WO 54</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Miscellanea, <a href="#">WO 55</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Accounts of the treasurer and other accounting records, <a href="#">WO 48-WO 53</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warrants of Royal Approval, <a href="#">WO 370</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ministry of Supply, <a href="#">WO 185</a> and <a href="#">WO 286</a></li> </ul>
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- Army Ordnance Corps, [WO 111](#)
- Royal Engineers, demolition of the fortifications at Dunkirk, [WO 124](#)
  - Royal Engineers, Sheerness, letter book, [WO 292](#)
    - Director of Artillery, [WO 196](#)
    - Chemical Inspection Department, [WO 278](#)
    - Personnel and Office Management, [WO 381](#)
- Royal Gunpowder Factory and successors, [WO 385](#) and [WO 397](#)

**Arrangement****Publication note****Unpublished finding aids****Related material**

For records of the Principal Supply Officers' Committee see: Correspondence and papers of John Pitt, second Earl of Chatham, as Master General of the Ordnance from 1801 to 1806, are in the John Rylands University Library, Manchester (English MS 1271).

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See also Records of the Ministry of Munitions and successors, including papers of David Lloyd George: [MUN](#)

**Separated material**

Plans of fortifications, etc are in: WORK 43

[WO 78](#)

and [Division within SUPP](#)

Further miscellaneous Ordnance Office records are in [PRO 30/37](#)

General Orders, 1805-1857, are in [WO 123](#)

Records of service of the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers are in [WO 69](#)

See also Ministry of Supply [Division within SUPP](#)

Vouchers for agent's disbursements are in [WO 18](#)

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**Admin History****Administrative / biographical background**

The offices of master and clerk of the Ordnance first appear early in the fifteenth century, and around them an Ordnance Office was gradually established at the Tower of London, where from 1429 there was also a separate Armoury Office. A reform of the Ordnance Office in 1543 added the offices of the lieutenant of the Ordnance, surveyor, storekeeper and clerk of deliveries. From the early seventeenth century the titles of master general and lieutenant general began to replace those of master and lieutenant. In 1671 the Armoury Office was abolished and its duties transferred to the Ordnance Office.

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weapons  
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[Division within WO](#) Records of the Ordnance Office and its successors at the War Office

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### Record Summary

<b>Title</b>	Ordnance Office and War Office: Entry Books and Registers
<b>Legal status</b>	Public Record(s)
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Former reference (Department)</b>	
<b>Former reference (PRO)</b>	
<b>Creator names</b>	War Office, 1857-1964 Ordnance Office, 1683-1855 War Department, 1855-1857
<b>Covering dates</b>	1594-1871
<b>Physical description</b>	948 volume(s)
<b>Dimensions</b>	
<b>Map scale number</b>	
<b>Physical condition</b>	
<b>Note</b>	

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### Access

<b>Access conditions</b>	
<b>Restrictions on use</b>	
<b>Immediate source of acquisition</b>	
<b>Custodial history</b>	
<b>Accumulation dates</b>	
<b>Appraisal/destruction information</b>	
<b>Accruals</b>	
<b>Location of originals</b>	
<b>Copies information</b>	

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## Content

### Scope and content

Entry books and registers of the Ordnance Office including:

Quarterly lists of salaries, pensions, etc of the civil and military establishment and artificers, 1594 to 1837.

Lists of civil and military establishments at home and abroad, 1676 to 1855, including some lists of the Irish Ordnance establishment, returns of Ordnance medical officers, 1835 to 1850, and lists of Artillery and Engineer officers, 1851 and 1855.

Entry books of commissions of master gunners, 1740 to 1772, and of Artillery and Engineer officers, including foreign corps, 1794 to 1851.

Returns of Engineer officers, 1786 to 1850.

Description books for men of the Artillery and for sappers, miners, artificers, labourers, etc, 1755 to 1863.

Entry books of discharges, deaths, transfers, etc, 1740 to 1859, chiefly from the Artillery, but including some from the Engineers.

Registers of pensions, military and civil, 1802 to 1844, including widows' pensions and some registers of salaries and pensions of the Barrack Office.

Registers of letters of attorney of civil and military officers, 1699 to 1857.

Returns of persons employed, 1811 to 1847.

Miscellaneous registers, pay lists, etc, of the Artillery and Engineers, 1692 to 1871, including French Emigrant Engineers and Artillery, 1795 to 1802, Field Train, 1799 to 1849, barrack masters in England and Ireland, 1797 to 1852, and Royal Military Academy, 1839 to 1841.

Appointment papers, etc, 1670 to 1855, consisting of original letters of application, testimonials, certificates of baptism, appointments, etc.

List of barrack sergeants, 1771 to 1824.

### Arrangement

### Publication note

### Unpublished finding aids

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### Record Summary

<b>Title</b>	Board of Ordnance Office and successors: Royal Gunpowder Factory and successors, Waltham Abbey: Maps and Plans
<b>Legal status</b>	Public Record(s)
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Former reference (Department)</b>	WASC 900 series
<b>Former reference (PRO)</b>	
<b>Creator names</b>	Ministry of Supply, Chemical Research and Development Department, 1945-1948 Ministry of Supply, Explosives Research and Development Establishment, 1948-1958 Royal Gunpowder Factory, Waltham Abbey, 1783-1915 Royal Ordnance Factory, Waltham Abbey, 1915-1945 Ministry of Defence, Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment, 1962-1991
<b>Covering dates</b>	1783-1983
<b>Physical description</b>	86 flat sheet(s)
<b>Dimensions</b>	
<b>Map scale number</b>	
<b>Physical condition</b>	
<b>Note</b>	

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### Access

<b>Access conditions</b>	Many records unfit for production
<b>Restrictions on use</b>	
<b>Immediate source of acquisition</b>	Ministry of Defence, Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment , in 1999
<b>Custodial history</b>	
<b>Accumulation dates</b>	
<b>Appraisal/destruction information</b>	
<b>Accruals</b>	No future accruals expected
<b>Location of originals</b>	

<b>Copies information</b>	
<b>Held by</b>	The National Archives, Kew

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## Content

<b>Scope and content</b>	This series consists of maps and plans of the site and buildings of the Royal Gunpowder Factory and successors, Waltham Abbey, relating to the manufacture of gunpowder. It also contains maps and plans, accumulated at Waltham Abbey, of other gunpowder factory sites and small arms factory sites.
<b>Arrangement</b>	
<b>Publication note</b>	
<b>Unpublished finding aids</b>	
<b>Related material</b>	See also <a href="#">DEFE 15</a>
<b>Separated material</b>	Duplicates, unmarked plans and maps not selected for permanent preservation in the PRO have been offered to Epping Forest District Museum. For further records of the Chemical Research and Development Department see Ministry of Aviation <a href="#">Division within AVIA</a>

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## Admin History


<b>Administrative / biographical background</b>	<p>The Royal Gunpowder Factory lies north west of Waltham Abbey on the River Lee. The first formal evidence exists for the presence of a gunpowder mill on the abbey site or nearby in the 1640s. In 1689 the mill's owner was awarded a contract to supply the Ordnance Office and in 1783 the government purchased the mill; it was to become one of what were later known as the Royal Ordnance Factories.</p> <p>From around 1862 the output of the factory began to diversify as more potent chemically based explosives such as cordite were produced. Gunpowder production ceased at the factory in 1941 following enemy bombing and production ceased altogether in 1943.</p> <p>The factory was formally closed as a Royal Ordnance Factory on 28 July 1945 and re-opened two days later as the Chemical Research and Development Department where research into explosives was carried out. In 1948, the department became the Explosives Research and Development Establishment and later became part of the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment.</p>
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## Index terms

<b>Corporate names</b>	
<b>Personal names</b>	
<b>Places</b>	Waltham Abbey, Essex
<b>Subjects</b>	maps Royal Gunpowder Factories




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### Record Summary

<b>Title</b>	Board of Ordnance and successors: Royal Gunpowder Factory and successors, Waltham Abbey: Architectural and Engineering Plans and Drawings
<b>Legal status</b>	Public Record(s)
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Former reference (Department)</b>	
<b>Former reference (PRO)</b>	
<b>Creator names</b>	
<b>Covering dates</b>	
<b>Physical description</b>	
<b>Dimensions</b>	
<b>Map scale number</b>	
<b>Physical condition</b>	
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### Access

<b>Access conditions</b>	No records held at The National Archives for this series
<b>Restrictions on use</b>	
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### Record Summary

<b>Title</b>	Ministry of Defence and predecessors: Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment and predecessors: Technical Reports and Memoranda
<b>Legal status</b>	Public Record(s)
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Former reference (Department)</b>	
<b>Former reference (PRO)</b>	
<b>Creator names</b>	Ministry of Supply, Chemical Research and Development Department, 1945-1948 Ministry of Supply, Explosives Research and Development Establishment, 1948-1958 Royal Gunpowder Factory, Waltham Abbey, 1783-1915 Royal Ordnance Factory, Waltham Abbey, 1915-1945 Ministry of Defence, Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment, 1962-1991 Ministry of Defence, Propellants, Explosives and Rocket Motor Establishment, 1977-1984
<b>Covering dates</b>	1808-1991
<b>Physical description</b>	2717 files, rolls and volumes
<b>Dimensions</b>	
<b>Map scale number</b>	
<b>Physical condition</b>	
<b>Note</b>	

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### Access

<b>Access conditions</b>	Open unless otherwise stated
<b>Restrictions on use</b>	
<b>Immediate source of acquisition</b>	Ministry of Defence , from 1983
<b>Custodial history</b>	
<b>Accumulation dates</b>	
<b>Appraisal/destruction information</b>	
<b>Accruals</b>	Series is accruing

<b>Location of originals</b>	
<b>Copies information</b>	
<b>Held by</b>	The National Archives, Kew

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## Content

<b>Scope and content</b>	<p>The series contains technical reports and memoranda and some administrative records of the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment and its predecessors.</p> <p>Many pieces contain drawings, diagrams or photographs.</p>
<b>Arrangement</b>	
<b>Publication note</b>	
<b>Unpublished finding aids</b>	Research establishments index with series list
<b>Related material</b>	<p>Further records relating to armament research and development are in:</p> <p><a href="#">SUPP 28</a> <a href="#">WO 385</a></p> <p>Further records relating to the Research Department, Woolwich are in <a href="#">SUPP 5</a> Military Vehicles and Engineering Establishment <a href="#">WO 194</a></p>
<b>Separated material</b>	

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## Admin History


<b>Administrative / biographical background</b>	<p>The Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment (RARDE) had its origins in the Research Department Woolwich, and its Design Department which was established in 1922 and was concerned with the engineering design and development of weapons.</p> <p>At the end of 1942 the Design Department moved to Fort Halstead, Kent, followed later by the Research Department. They were designated the Armament Design Department and the Armament Research Department (ARD) respectively. In 1948 the ARD's name was changed to Armament Research Establishment (ARE).</p> <p>The two departments were amalgamated in 1955 to form the Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), to integrate all stages of research, design and development. On 8 February 1962 the title of Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment was granted.</p> <p>RARDE moved from MOD (Army) to become part of the new MOD/CER (Controllerate of Research and Development Establishments and Research) in 1971, its primary concern continuing in the research, design and development of conventional armaments for the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force, whilst also providing help for the Home Office on the hazards of explosives, dangerous chemicals and the forensic aspects of explosives.</p> <p>During the 1980s RARDE amalgamated with the Military Vehicle Engineering Establishment (MVEE), whose main sites were located at Chertsey and Christchurch, and the Propellants, Explosives and Rocket Motor Establishment which was based at Waltham Abbey and Westcott.</p> <p>On 1 April 1991 the Defence Research Agency (DRA) was set up incorporating in one organisation the Royal Aerospace Establishment, The Admiralty Research Establishment, RARDE and the Royal Signals and Radar Establishment.</p>
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### Record Summary

<b>Title</b>	Records of the Directorate of Materials and Explosive Research and Development and its experimental establishments
<b>Legal status</b>	Public Record(s)
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Creator names</b>	Ministry of Supply, Directorate of Materials and Explosive Research and Development, 1939-1959 Ministry of Aviation, Directorate of Materials and Explosive Research and Development, 1959-1967 Ministry of Supply, Chemical Research and Development Department, 1945-1948 Ministry of Supply, Explosives Research and Development Establishment, 1948-1958
<b>Covering dates</b>	1940-1978
<b>Physical description</b>	4 series
<b>Note</b>	

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### Content

<b>Scope and content</b>	Records of the Directorate of Materials and Explosive Research and Development and its experimental establishments relating to research into explosives and other military supplies.  Comprises reports and memoranda, <a href="#">AVIA 37</a> and <a href="#">AVIA 45</a> , registered files, <a href="#">AVIA 67</a> and reports and technical notes, <a href="#">AVIA 72</a>
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<b>Publication note</b>	
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## Admin History

### Administrative / biographical background

The Ministry of Supply's (and later Ministry of Aviation's) Directorate of Materials and Explosives Research and Development was the headquarters directorate responsible for the funding and direction of work at the Explosives Research and Development Establishment, as well as a Materials Advisory Service in London, a Materials Laboratory at Waltham Abbey and the Tropical Testing Establishment in Nigeria.

The Chemical Research and Development Department, was created in 1945 at the former Royal Gunpowder Factory, Waltham Abbey. In 1948 it became the Explosives Research and Development Establishment. It passed successively to the Ministry of Aviation in 1959 and the Ministry of Technology in 1967.

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### Record Summary

<b>Title</b>	Ministry of Supply and Ministry of Aviation: Chemical Research and Development Department and Successors: Reports and Memoranda (CRDD and ERDE Series)
<b>Legal status</b>	Public Record(s)
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Former reference (Department)</b>	CRDD and ERDE Series
<b>Former reference (PRO)</b>	
<b>Creator names</b>	Ministry of Supply, Chemical Research and Development Department, 1945-1948 Ministry of Supply, Explosives Research and Development Establishment, 1948-1958 Ministry of Aviation, Explosives Research and Development Establishment, 1959-1966 Ministry of Technology, Explosives Research and Development Establishment, 1967-1969 Ministry of Aviation Supply, Explosives Research and Development Establishment, 1970-1971 Ministry of Defence, Explosives Research and Development Establishment, 1971-1977
<b>Covering dates</b>	1940-1976
<b>Physical description</b>	1431 files and volumes
<b>Dimensions</b>	
<b>Map scale number</b>	
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<b>Access conditions</b>	Subject to 30 year closure unless otherwise stated
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<b>Appraisal/destruction information</b>	

<b>Accruals</b>	Series is accruing
<b>Location of originals</b>	
<b>Copies information</b>	
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## Content

<b>Scope and content</b>	Reports and memoranda on the technical properties of explosives, propellants and other materials prepared by the ERDE, formerly the Chemical Research and Development Department.
<b>Arrangement</b>	
<b>Publication note</b>	
<b>Unpublished finding aids</b>	
<b>Related material</b>	See also the records of the Director of Experiments and Research in <a href="#">SUPP 28</a>
<b>Separated material</b>	

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[SUPP](#) Records created or inherited by the Ministry of Supply and successors, the Ordnance Board, and related bodies  
[Division within SUPP](#) Records of research departments and experimental establishments

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### Record Summary

<b>Title</b>	Ministry of Supply and predecessors: Armaments Research Department and predecessors: Director of Experiments and Research's Collection of Reports, Abstracts and Other Records
<b>Legal status</b>	Public Record(s)
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Former reference (Department)</b>	
<b>Former reference (PRO)</b>	
<b>Creator names</b>	Petroleum Department, Petroleum Warfare Department, 1940-1942 Ministry of Fuel and Power, Petroleum Warfare Department, 1942-1946 Ministry of Supply, Armament Research Department, 1942-1954
<b>Covering dates</b>	1888-1971
<b>Physical description</b>	444 file(s)
<b>Dimensions</b>	
<b>Map scale number</b>	
<b>Physical condition</b>	
<b>Note</b>	

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### Access

<b>Access conditions</b>	Open
<b>Restrictions on use</b>	
<b>Immediate source of acquisition</b>	Ministry of Defence , from 1993
<b>Custodial history</b>	
<b>Accumulation dates</b>	
<b>Appraisal/destruction information</b>	
<b>Accruals</b>	Series is accruing
<b>Location of originals</b>	
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<b>Content</b>	
<b>Scope and content</b>	<p>Most of the records in this series appear to have come from the Director of Experiments and Research of the Research Department (later Armament Research Department), Woolwich and transferred to Waltham Abbey just after the Second World War when the decision had been made to concentrate explosives research there.</p> <p>This series consists of a comprehensive set of reference abstract cards and some related source material as well as some miscellaneous research reports.</p> <p>Pieces 1-103 consists of around 100,000 Reference Cards. The bulk of the cards are filed under scientific or technological headings. The remainder, relating mainly to foreign matters, are filed under 'Foreign' or by name of country. There is also a sub-section under the generic title 'Reports'. Some reference numbers given refer to sources (eg files) which are not part of this collection. Others refer to material available in other PRO series.</p> <p>The rest of this series consists for the most part of source material representing a variety of documents ranging from letters and loose minutes, many giving scientific and technical information of substance, to a selection of reports, including reports on experimental work and progress reports</p> <p>The remaining category of reference material in the series covers a selection of miscellaneous reports and related material. Included are research reports; drawings of apparatus; papers relating to committee work; periodic progress reports; reports from the Chemical Research and Development Department; report indexes and papers relating to Combined/British Intelligence Objectives Committees - CIOC/BIOC (mainly accession lists). The research material covers experimental results, tests methodology, calimetry, manufacturing processes, investigation into accidents and research in other countries.</p>
<b>Arrangement</b>	
<b>Publication note</b>	
<b>Unpublished finding aids</b>	
<b>Related material</b>	<p>Other related series are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">AVIA 37</a></li> <li><a href="#">AVIA 40</a></li> <li><a href="#">AVIA 59</a></li> <li><a href="#">AVIA 67</a></li> <li><a href="#">AVIA 68</a></li> <li><a href="#">DEFF 15</a></li> <li><a href="#">WO 385</a></li> </ul>
<b>Separated material</b>	


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[SUPP](#) Records created or inherited by the Ministry of Supply and successors, the Ordnance Board, and related bodies  
[Division within SUPP](#) Records of the Royal Ordnance Factories

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### Record Summary

Title	Ordnance Establishments: Headquarters and Factory Records
Legal status	Public Record(s)
Language	English
Former reference (Department)	
Former reference (PRO)	
Creator names	
Covering dates	1664-1988
Physical description	1380 files and volumes
Dimensions	
Map scale number	
Physical condition	
Note	

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### Access

Access conditions	Open
Restrictions on use	
Immediate source of acquisition	
Custodial history	
Accumulation dates	
Appraisal/destruction information	
Accruals	Series is accruing
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## Content

<b>Scope and content</b>	<p>This series contains entry books and miscellaneous records of Ordnance offices and individual ordnance and munitions factories, including the Royal Ordnance Factories at Woolwich, Waltham Abbey and elsewhere.</p> <p>The series also includes annual reports of the Master General (later Controller) of Ordnance.</p>
<b>Arrangement</b>	
<b>Publication note</b>	
<b>Unpublished finding aids</b>	
<b>Related material</b>	<p>Admiralty Naval Ordnance laboratory reports are in <a href="#">ADM 257</a></p> <p>For further records of the Research Department Woolwich and successors, see <a href="#">DEFE 15</a></p> <p>Other records about cordite production are in <a href="#">ADM 322</a></p>
<b>Separated material</b>	

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[ADM](#) Records of the Admiralty, Naval Forces, Royal Marines, Coastguard, and related bodies  
[Division within ADM](#) Records of Naval Ordnance Departments and Establishments

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### Record Summary

<b>Title</b>	Admiralty: Naval Ordnance Inspection Department, later Division: Laboratory Reports
<b>Legal status</b>	Public Record(s)
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Former reference (Department)</b>	
<b>Former reference (PRO)</b>	
<b>Creator names</b>	Board of Admiralty, Naval Ordnance Inspection Department, 1922-1984
<b>Covering dates</b>	1940-1969
<b>Physical description</b>	158 files and volumes
<b>Dimensions</b>	
<b>Map scale number</b>	
<b>Physical condition</b>	
<b>Note</b>	

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## Content

<b>Scope and content</b>	Reports of laboratories operating under the auspices of the Naval Ordnance Inspection Department in particular the Bragg Laboratory in Sheffield and the laboratory at Caerwent. They relate to chemical and metallurgical testing undertaken in connection with weapons and ammunition for the fleet. Some of the reports are the copies sent to Admiralty Centre for Scientific Information and liaison (ACSIL).
<b>Arrangement</b>	
<b>Publication note</b>	
<b>Unpublished finding aids</b>	
<b>Related material</b>	For records of the Royal Ordnance Factories see: <a href="#">SUPP 2</a> <a href="#">SUPP 5</a> Further reports of ACSIL are in <a href="#">ADM 213</a> Records of the Ordnance Select Committee, etc after 1855 are in <a href="#">SUPP 6</a>
<b>Separated material</b>	

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## Admin History


<b>Administrative / biographical background</b>	<p>The Naval Ordnance Inspection Department (NOID) was formed under the Chief Inspector of Naval Ordnance (CINO) in 1922 to avoid the deficiencies in quality of guns and ammunition which had previously become evident after the battles of the Falkland Islands and Jutland, amongst others in the First World War. An area organisation was created to supervise the new manufacture of weapons and empty and filled ammunition, to carry out proof firing at the various ranges, and to provide a world-wide service to the fleet based on gunwharfs and ammunition depots. This was later extended to torpedo manufacture and ranging, and to mines.</p> <p>In later years reorganisations caused new names to be given to NOID: firstly, Directorate of Weapons Quality (DWQ(N)), then, Directorate of Naval Ordnance Services (DN Ord S), and later Directorate of Technical Services (Warship Equipment) (DTS(WE)).</p> <p>A laboratory for conducting metallurgical testing and instrumentation work for CINO was opened in Sheffield before World War Two, and was known as the Bragg Laboratory from 1938 onwards. In the course of time it came to employ a wide range of chemical and physical analytical techniques, but the organisation and functions remained largely unchanged until 1968. At that time the chemical work was separated to become part of the Directorate of Chemical Inspection [later Directorate Quality Assurance (Material) -MQAD], Army Department, at Woolwich. The laboratory continued, with reduced work, as the Naval Ordnance Inspection [later Service] and Metallurgical Unit (NOIMU, later NOSMU). The unit was finally closed in 1984, its work being transferred to Woolwich.</p> <p>A subsidiary laboratory, dealing with propellants, existed at the Royal Naval Propellant Factory, Caerwent, Chepstow, until 1971.</p> <p>Staff were sent from the Caerwent laboratory to man the tetryl laboratory which re-opened at the Royal Naval Cordite Factory, Holton Heath, in 1946. In 1947 the Admiralty Materials Laboratory was formed at the factory.</p> <p>The Naval Ordnance Gauge Factory, Sheffield, was also under the supervision of NOID.</p>
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### Record Summary

<b>Title</b>	Admiralty: Royal Naval Cordite Factory, Holton Heath: Reports
<b>Legal status</b>	Public Record(s)
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Former reference (Department)</b>	
<b>Former reference (PRO)</b>	
<b>Creator names</b>	Admiralty, Royal Naval Cordite Factory, Holton Heath, 1916-1957
<b>Covering dates</b>	1930-1983
<b>Physical description</b>	2 files and volumes
<b>Dimensions</b>	
<b>Map scale number</b>	
<b>Physical condition</b>	
<b>Note</b>	

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### Access

<b>Access conditions</b>	Subject to 30 year closure unless otherwise stated
<b>Restrictions on use</b>	
<b>Immediate source of acquisition</b>	Ministry of Defence , in 1999
<b>Custodial history</b>	
<b>Accumulation dates</b>	
<b>Appraisal/destruction information</b>	No other Royal Naval Cordite Factory reports appear to have surfaced after the site as cleared in 1996.
<b>Accruals</b>	
<b>Location of originals</b>	
<b>Copies information</b>	
<b>Held by</b>	The National Archives, Kew

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## Content

<b>Scope and content</b>	This series contains a published history of the Admiralty's Royal Naval Cordite Factory, Holton Heath, and an example of one of its reports from 1930.
<b>Arrangement</b>	
<b>Publication note</b>	
<b>Unpublished finding aids</b>	
<b>Related material</b>	Other records about cordite production including RNCF progress can be found in <a href="#">SUPP 5</a>
<b>Separated material</b>	

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## Admin History


<b>Administrative / biographical background</b>	The Holton Heath Factory, near Poole in Dorset, was opened in 1916 as an independent means of production of high grade propellants for Naval shells. The factory was involved in later rocket propellants but ceased production in 1957 with most of its work having being taken over by the Caerwent Cordite Factory. However, the Admiralty Materials Laboratory, which was formed in 1947, retained a presence on the site.
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### Record Summary

<b>Title</b>	Ministry of Defence and predecessors: Military Vehicles and Engineering Establishment and predecessors: Reports, Minutes and Papers
<b>Legal status</b>	Public Record(s)
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Former reference (Department)</b>	
<b>Former reference (PRO)</b>	
<b>Creator names</b>	War Office, Mechanization Board, 1934-? 1940 War Office, Mechanical Warfare Experimental Establishment, 1927-1934 Mechanisation Experimental Establishment, 1934-? 1952 Ministry of Supply, Wheeled Vehicle Experimental Establishment, 1927-1952 Ministry of Supply, Fighting Vehicles Research and Development Establishment, 1952-1959 Ministry of Defence, Fighting Vehicles and Engineer Equipment, 1965-1970 Ministry of Defence, Military Vehicles and Engineering Establishment, 1970-1984 War Office, Fighting Vehicles Research and Development Establishment, 1959-1970
<b>Covering dates</b>	1921-1984
<b>Physical description</b>	2950 files and volumes
<b>Dimensions</b>	
<b>Map scale number</b>	
<b>Physical condition</b>	
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### Access

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<b>Restrictions on use</b>	
<b>Immediate source of acquisition</b>	Ministry of Defence , from 1968
<b>Custodial history</b>	
<b>Accumulation dates</b>	
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<b>Accruals</b>	Series is accruing
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## Content

<b>Scope and content</b>	<p>Technical reports of tests of fighting vehicles by the Military Vehicles and Engineering Establishment and its predecessors, minutes of meetings of sub-committees of the Mechanical Warfare Board and the Mechanization Board, data books and photographs and drawings of vehicles.</p> <p>Many pieces contain photographs, drawings and diagrams.</p>
<b>Arrangement</b>	<p>The records of tests carried out by the Fighting Vehicles Research and Development Establishment have been associated with the records of the vehicles concerned in the tests, and are filed in subject and numerical order.</p>
<b>Publication note</b>	
<b>Unpublished finding aids</b>	
<b>Related material</b>	<p>For reports etc. compiled by the Military Engineering Experimental Establishment see <a href="#">SUPP 17</a></p> <p>For reports from the Inspectorate of Fighting Vehicles and Mechanical Equipment see <a href="#">WO 362</a></p> <p>For similar material, in the papers of the Royal Armoured Corps, see <a href="#">WO 341</a></p> <p>For technical reports of the Headquarters British Army of the Rhine see <a href="#">WO 351</a></p>
<b>Separated material</b>	<p>Some of the earlier records of tests carried out by the Fighting Vehicles Research and Development Establishment are missing.</p>

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## Admin History

<b>Administrative / biographical background</b>	<p>In 1917 the Mechanical Warfare Supply Department of the Ministry of Munitions added design responsibilities to those which it already possessed for tank supply. Its experimental grounds were at Dollis Hill in North London and Oldbury in Worcestershire.</p> <p>As part of the transfer of design and research functions back to the War Office after the end of the Great War, the Tank Committee - which had been formed in the War Office in 1917 - was re-constituted in 1919. In January 1920 a Mechanical Transport Advisory Board was formed under the chairmanship of the Director of Supplies and Transport, in the Quarter-Master-General's (QMG) Department. The Tank Committee was re-named the Tank Technical Committee in 1922.</p> <p>In April 1919 responsibility for designs, patterns and specifications of arms and ammunition - and for the administration of research establishments - had been restored to the Director of Artillery within the Master-General of the Ordnance's (MGO) Department.</p> <p>In 1924 the Directorate of Artillery [D of A] had been split into two directorates, D of A (II) becoming responsible for administration of committees, research establishments, experiments and tanks and in 1927 D of A(II) was reconstituted as the Directorate of Mechanization, with responsibility for small arms, tanks (later known as 'A' vehicles) and wheeled (later 'B') vehicles.</p> <p>In 1921 the experimental establishment set up at Dollis Hill was moved to Farnborough and renamed the War Office Tank Design and Experimental Branch (later Department). This had responsibility for the development of tanks. In 1923 it was reduced to a tank testing section and its design responsibilities were divided between the Research Department, Woolwich and industry. In 1926 design and testing functions were reunited in a Tank and Tracked Transport Experimental Establishment. This became the Mechanical Warfare Experimental Establishment in 1927, at the same time as the Tank and Tracked Transport Technical Committee, set up in 1926, became the Mechanical Warfare Board. In 1934 they became respectively the Mechanisation Experimental Establishment and the Mechanisation Board.</p> <p>Under the Ministry of Supply the Wheeled Vehicle Experimental Establishment concentrated on wheeled vehicles and a new Department or Directorate of Tank Design (later the Fighting Vehicles Design Department or Establishment) and the Fighting Vehicles Proving Establishment covered tracked vehicles.</p> <p>In 1952 the Wheeled Vehicle Experimental Establishment was closed and research and testing of wheeled and tracked vehicles were reunited under the Fighting Vehicles Research and Development Establishment. In 1970 it merged with the Military Engineering Experimental Establishment to become the Military Vehicles and Engineering Establishment.</p>
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### Record Summary

<b>Title</b>	Ministry of Supply and Ministry of Aviation: Chemical Research and Development Department and Successors: Reports and Memoranda (CRDD and ERDE Series)
<b>Legal status</b>	Public Record(s)
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Former reference (Department)</b>	CRDD and ERDE Series
<b>Former reference (PRO)</b>	
<b>Creator names</b>	Ministry of Supply, Chemical Research and Development Department, 1945-1948 Ministry of Supply, Explosives Research and Development Establishment, 1948-1958 Ministry of Aviation, Explosives Research and Development Establishment, 1959-1966 Ministry of Technology, Explosives Research and Development Establishment, 1967-1969 Ministry of Aviation Supply, Explosives Research and Development Establishment, 1970-1971 Ministry of Defence, Explosives Research and Development Establishment, 1971-1977
<b>Covering dates</b>	1940-1976
<b>Physical description</b>	1431 files and volumes
<b>Dimensions</b>	
<b>Map scale number</b>	
<b>Physical condition</b>	
<b>Note</b>	

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### Access

<b>Access conditions</b>	Subject to 30 year closure unless otherwise stated
<b>Restrictions on use</b>	
<b>Immediate source of acquisition</b>	
<b>Custodial history</b>	
<b>Accumulation dates</b>	
<b>Appraisal/destruction information</b>	

<b>Accruals</b>	Series is accruing
<b>Location of originals</b>	
<b>Copies information</b>	
<b>Held by</b>	The National Archives, Kew

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## Content

<b>Scope and content</b>	Reports and memoranda on the technical properties of explosives, propellants and other materials prepared by the ERDE, formerly the Chemical Research and Development Department.
<b>Arrangement</b>	
<b>Publication note</b>	
<b>Unpublished finding aids</b>	
<b>Related material</b>	See also the records of the Director of Experiments and Research in <a href="#">SUPP 28</a>
<b>Separated material</b>	

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## Admin History


<b>Administrative / biographical background</b>	
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## Series details AVIA 40

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### Context

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[Division within AVIA](#). Records of the Aircraft Torpedo Development Unit and Projectile Development Establishment and successors

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### Record Summary

<b>Title</b>	Ministry of Supply: Guided Projectile Establishment: German Rocket Research, Drawings
<b>Legal status</b>	Public Record(s)
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Former reference (Department)</b>	
<b>Former reference (PRO)</b>	
<b>Creator names</b>	
<b>Covering dates</b>	1939-1946
<b>Physical description</b>	5529 flat sheet(s)
<b>Dimensions</b>	
<b>Map scale number</b>	
<b>Physical condition</b>	
<b>Note</b>	

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<b>Access conditions</b>	
<b>Restrictions on use</b>	
<b>Immediate source of acquisition</b>	
<b>Custodial history</b>	
<b>Accumulation dates</b>	
<b>Appraisal/destruction information</b>	
<b>Accruals</b>	
<b>Location of originals</b>	
<b>Copies information</b>	
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## Content

<b>Scope and content</b>	These are mainly prints of original drawings taken into custody by the allied agencies engaged in collecting German documents at the end of the Second World War. They relate to various projects at German research establishments, including the A4 rocket, popularly known as the V2, but do not appear to constitute complete sets for each project.
<b>Arrangement</b>	The German titles of the drawings have been used in <a href="#">AVIA 40</a> . English translations of many of the terms used have been provided.
<b>Publication note</b>	
<b>Unpublished finding aids</b>	
<b>Related material</b>	See also the records of the Director of Experiments and Research in <a href="#">SUPP 28</a>
<b>Separated material</b>	

## Admin History

<b>Administrative / biographical background</b>	<p>The first German Army experimental station established solely for the purpose of conducting rocket experiments was the Abteilung Versuch West at the Kunersdorf Artillery Range in 1930. This station tested the performance of propellants and was under the direction of Hauptmann Dornberger. A student group led by Werner von Braun, which had been using facilities at Reinickendorf was merged with the Dornberger group in 1933.</p> <p>After six years of research and development the first successful firing tests took place at Peenemunde, but it was not until 1942 that a combustion chamber producing 25 tons thrust was developed. Work continued on improving the accuracy and performance of the rocket, and on the 8th September 1944 the first A-4 (V2) was launched against England.</p> <p>During the war German research establishments were experimenting with several different types of rocket missiles. These, however, were of a defensive nature and did not receive the same priority as the V1 and V2 terror weapons. In the later stages of the war further development and production of such weapons was stopped completely.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>GERMAN MISSILES - descriptive details</i></p> <p>A4 - Popularly known as the V2 (Victory weapon). Surface to surface missile: A long-range fin-stabilised rocket, using a liquid oxygen and alcohol propellant, and carrying a one-ton explosive warhead, maximum range 225 miles. The launching site required only a hard surface, strong enough to support the missile and fuel-weight, and therefore with mobile firing equipment the site could be changed frequently. The weapon was essentially a large area random missile for use against cities.</p> <p>It is estimated that about 3000 A-4's were used for testing and training purposes, with a 25% failure rate due to launching errors and structural defects.</p> <p>HS 117 - Schmetterling. Surface to air missile: Designed for use against aircraft. Development of this weapon was curtailed in 1942, because of its defensive nature. When the tide of battle turned against Axis powers, work was recommenced but the missile never became operational.</p> <p>Wasserfall. Surface to air missile: A radio-controlled super-sonic rocket, weighing less than 4 tons, with a length of 25-ft, using a nitric acid and hydro-carbon propellant. It could be transported on a standard freight railway wagon and lifted into a vertical launching position without special equipment. Mechanical construction was simplified by the use of a compressed gas fuel feeding system and by replacing valves with diaphragms.</p> <p>Work on the Wasserfall commenced during 1942 and by the end of 1944 some 25 missiles had been tested. Further development was stopped in the following year.</p> <p>Enzian - Surface to air missile: A powerful ground-launched flak rocket intended to operate as a pilotless aircraft against heavy bomber formations. Experimental models were built from the end of 1943 until production ceased in March 1945.</p> <p>Natter (Walter Power Unit) Surface to air missile: A small piloted, rocket propelled interceptor, intended to provide defence for vital targets. The missile was to be guided by an automatic pilot in the initial stages of flight, when closing in on a target the pilot would take over and fire a salvo of rockets from the nose of the craft. The pilot would then eject and descent by parachute; the propulsion would also break clear and descend by the same method for recovery and re-use.</p> <p>Flight tests began in November 1944 and of the 30 units built, only one survived the tests. The drawings for this weapon relate only to the Walter Power Unit, which was the main constituent of this missile.</p> <p>Rheintochter I Surface to air missile: A ground launched sub-sonic radio-controlled anti-aircraft rocket. Up to January 1945, 82 missiles had been test fired but development was stopped in February of that year. The weapon was not approved for mass production, but was used as an experimental model for</p>
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further development.


Hecht - No information available.

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## Index terms

<b>Corporate names</b>	
<b>Personal names</b>	Werner Braun, 1912-1977
<b>Places</b>	
<b>Subjects</b>	missiles rockets V2 rocket

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### Record Summary

<b>Title</b>	Ministry of Supply: Guided Projectile Establishment: Thermodynamic Charts
<b>Legal status</b>	Public Record(s)
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Former reference (Department)</b>	
<b>Former reference (PRO)</b>	
<b>Creator names</b>	
<b>Covering dates</b>	1947-1950
<b>Physical description</b>	1 flat sheet(s)
<b>Dimensions</b>	
<b>Map scale number</b>	
<b>Physical condition</b>	
<b>Note</b>	

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<b>Restrictions on use</b>	
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<b>Appraisal/destruction information</b>	
<b>Accruals</b>	
<b>Location of originals</b>	
<b>Copies information</b>	
<b>Held by</b>	The National Archives, Kew

## Content


<b>Scope and content</b>	Twenty enthalpy charts which were compiled by Dr. Hugo Karl Reichert of the Rocket Propulsion Establishment during the period 1947-50.
<b>Arrangement</b>	
<b>Publication note</b>	
<b>Unpublished finding aids</b>	
<b>Related material</b>	See also the records of the Director of Experiments and Research in <a href="#">SUPP 28</a>
<b>Separated material</b>	

## Admin History

<b>Administrative / biographical background</b>	The charts show heat transfer of rocket engines of the period and were widely used until superseded by computer methods.
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### Record Summary

<b>Title</b>	Ministry of Supply and successors: Explosives Research and Development Establishment: Registered Files
<b>Legal status</b>	Public Record(s)
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Former reference (Department)</b>	(WA and XR Series)
<b>Former reference (PRO)</b>	
<b>Creator names</b>	Ministry of Supply, Explosives Research and Development Establishment, 1948-1958
<b>Covering dates</b>	1946-1976
<b>Physical description</b>	41 file(s)
<b>Dimensions</b>	
<b>Map scale number</b>	
<b>Physical condition</b>	
<b>Note</b>	


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### Access

<b>Access conditions</b>	Open unless otherwise stated
<b>Restrictions on use</b>	
<b>Immediate source of acquisition</b>	Ministry of Defence , from 1992
<b>Custodial history</b>	
<b>Accumulation dates</b>	
<b>Appraisal/destruction information</b>	
<b>Accruals</b>	Series is accruing
<b>Location of originals</b>	
<b>Copies information</b>	
<b>Held by</b>	The National Archives, Kew


## Content

<b>Scope and content</b>	Registered files of the Explosives Research and Development Establishment at Waltham Abbey including administration of the site and lands as well as research into explosives, especially propellants for guided missiles.  A technical organisation chart (Sept 1962) is in <a href="#">AVIA 67/8</a>
<b>Arrangement</b>	
<b>Publication note</b>	
<b>Unpublished finding aids</b>	
<b>Related material</b>	See also the records of the Director of Experiments and Research in <a href="#">SUPP 28</a>
<b>Separated material</b>	

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## Admin History


<b>Administrative / biographical background</b>	<p>From the 16th century gunpowder was manufactured at mills on the River Lea near Waltham Abbey, Essex, and the industry passed into government ownership in 1787.</p> <p>By World War II, manufacture of more modern explosives was long established, and production had been centralised in the Royal Gunpowder Factory (RGPF). The factory was closed in 1945 but the site remained in use firstly as an outstation of the Armament Research Department (ARD), then as the Chemical Research and Development Department (CRDD) of the Ministry of Supply (changed again for a short period from a "Department" to an "Establishment", giving CRDE).</p> <p>In 1948 the title was again changed to Explosives Research and Development Establishment (ERDE), which accurately described the nature of its work. Most of the ERDE's work was concerned with propellants, in later years mainly for guided weapons, though there were continuing programmes in other areas such as initiating compounds and research into non-metallic materials for defence use.</p> <p>In 1977 ERDE was amalgamated with other organisations to become part of the Propellants, Explosives and Rocket Motor Establishment.</p> <p>ERDE was under the control, firstly, of the Ministry of Supply, and then of the Ministry of Aviation (1959), the Ministry of Technology (1967), the Ministry of Aviation Supply (1970) and the Ministry of Defence (1971).</p>
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<b>Personal names</b>	
<b>Places</b>	Waltham Abbey, Essex
<b>Subjects</b>	




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


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- [AVIA 67](#) Ministry of Supply and successors: Explosives Research and Development Establishment: Registered Files

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### Record Summary

Title	
Legal status	Public Record(s)
Language	
Former reference (Department)	WAC/118/022 Pt A
Former reference (PRO)	
Map designation	
Creator names	
Covering dates	1960-1962
Physical description	
Dimensions	
Map scale number	
Physical condition	
Note	

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### Access

Access conditions	Normal Closure before FOI Act: 30 years
Record opening date	
Closure status	Open Document, Open Description
Restrictions on use	
Immediate source of acquisition	
Custodial history	
Location of originals	
Copies information	
Held by	The National Archives, Kew

## Content


Scope and content	ERDE programmes of research and development 1960-1963
Arrangement	
Publication note	
Unpublished finding aids	
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### Record Summary

<b>Title</b>	Ministry of Supply and Ministry of Aviation: Rocket Propulsion Establishment: Reports and Technical Memoranda
<b>Legal status</b>	Public Record(s)
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Former reference (Department)</b>	
<b>Former reference (PRO)</b>	
<b>Creator names</b>	
<b>Covering dates</b>	1958-1976
<b>Physical description</b>	125 file(s)
<b>Dimensions</b>	
<b>Map scale number</b>	
<b>Physical condition</b>	
<b>Note</b>	

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### Access

<b>Access conditions</b>	Open
<b>Restrictions on use</b>	
<b>Immediate source of acquisition</b>	Ministry of Defence , from 1992
<b>Custodial history</b>	
<b>Accumulation dates</b>	
<b>Appraisal/destruction information</b>	
<b>Accruals</b>	Series is accruing
<b>Location of originals</b>	
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## Content

<b>Scope and content</b>	This series consists of a series of technical memoranda and a series of technical notes on rocket development and fuel research which ran concurrently from the inception of the establishment in 1958; the series also includes half yearly progress reports.
<b>Arrangement</b>	
<b>Publication note</b>	
<b>Unpublished finding aids</b>	
<b>Related material</b>	For other related material concerning armanents research, see: <a href="#">SUPP 28</a>
<b>Separated material</b>	

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### Record Summary

<b>Title</b>	Ministry of Supply: Tropical Testing Establishment, Nigeria: Reports and Memoranda
<b>Legal status</b>	Public Record(s)
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Former reference (Department)</b>	
<b>Former reference (PRO)</b>	
<b>Creator names</b>	Tropical Testing Establishment, Nigeria, 1944-1958
<b>Covering dates</b>	1945-1968
<b>Physical description</b>	816 file(s)
<b>Dimensions</b>	
<b>Map scale number</b>	
<b>Physical condition</b>	
<b>Note</b>	

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### Access

<b>Access conditions</b>	Subject to 30 year closure
<b>Restrictions on use</b>	
<b>Immediate source of acquisition</b>	Ministry of Defence , from 1977
<b>Custodial history</b>	The reports in this series do not constitute a complete consecutive run; they are however all that were received from Tropical Testing Establishment upon its closure
<b>Accumulation dates</b>	
<b>Appraisal/destruction information</b>	
<b>Accruals</b>	Series is accruing
<b>Location of originals</b>	
<b>Copies information</b>	

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## Content

<b>Scope and content</b>	Reports and memoranda on the susceptibility of equipment and materials to deterioration under tropical conditions, and quarterly reports on the work of the Tropical Testing Establishment from 1948 to 1958.
<b>Arrangement</b>	
<b>Publication note</b>	
<b>Unpublished finding aids</b>	
<b>Related material</b>	
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## Admin History


<b>Administrative / biographical background</b>	In August 1944 a combined War Office/Ministry of Supply mission visited West Africa to explore facilities for storage and exposure tests on service equipment for use in the tropics. As a result, the West African Tropical Testing Establishment (W.A.T.T.E.) was established in Nigeria, with its headquarters at Lagos and main testing area at Port Harcourt. A similar unit, specialising in the testing of signals and radar equipment (S.R.T.T.E.) and administered by the Ministry of Supply was already in existence in Nigeria, and in April 1946 the two establishments were merged into a single organisation, the Tropical Testing Establishment, administered by the joint Ministry of Supply and Aircraft Production. It continued the work of testing a wide range of service equipment and packing until it closed in September 1958. Residual reports on outstanding matters were subsequently issued by the Ministry of Supply and Ministry of Aviation up until 1961.
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<b>Subjects</b>	tropical industry

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Covering dates	1811-1814
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### Access

Access conditions	Normal Closure before FOI Act: 30 years
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
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Map designation	
Creator names	
Covering dates	1815-1816
Physical description	
Dimensions	
Map scale number	
Physical condition	
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Record opening date	
Closure status	Open Document, Open Description
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
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<b>Former reference (PRO)</b>	
<b>Map designation</b>	
<b>Creator names</b>	
<b>Covering dates</b>	1818
<b>Physical description</b>	
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<b>Closure status</b>	Open Document, Open Description
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
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<b>Map designation</b>	
<b>Creator names</b>	
<b>Covering dates</b>	1789 Sept. 2-1790 Apr.1
<b>Physical description</b>	
<b>Dimensions</b>	
<b>Map scale number</b>	
<b>Physical condition</b>	
<b>Note</b>	With one letter dated 16 August 1790.

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<b>Former reference (PRO)</b>	
<b>Creator names</b>	
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<b>Legal status</b>	Public Record(s)
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Creator names</b>	Royal Ordnance Factories, c 1855-c 1988
<b>Covering dates</b>	1664-1988
<b>Physical description</b>	2 series
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<b>Scope and content</b>	<p>Records of the Royal Ordnance Factories relating to the manufacture of munitions.</p> <p>Includes material which would otherwise be found amongst the Records of the Ordnance Office and its successors at the War Office (WO).</p> <p>Comprising headquarters and factory records in <a href="#">SUPP 5</a> and accounts in <a href="#">SUPP 2</a>.</p>
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<b>Related material</b>	<p>Minutes and papers of the Royal Ordnance Factories <a href="#">AVIA 51</a></p> <p>Records of Upnor Castle magazine are in <a href="#">ADM 160</a></p>

**Separated material**

Balance sheets for 1921-1922 and 1936-1937 are missing.

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The Manufacturing Departments of the Ordnance Office were the predecessors of the modern Royal Ordnance Factories.

The oldest was Woolwich Arsenal, renamed the Royal Arsenal in 1805. The Warren at Woolwich was first used for the proof of ordnance in 1651 and Tower Place was acquired for storage in 1670. Manufacture commenced when the Laboratory (later the Royal Laboratory) was established in 1696. Subsequently the Royal Brass Foundry for the manufacture of brass ordnance was founded in 1716 and the Royal Carriage Department was added in 1803.

The manufacture of gunpowder commenced with the purchase of a privately-owned mill at Faversham in 1759 and the establishment there of the Royal Powder Mill. This was closed in 1825. Meanwhile another powdermill was purchased at Waltham Abbey in 1787 and named the Royal Gunpowder Factory. Powder was stored at Greenwich from an early date until 1763, when the magazine there was moved to Purfleet. It was also stored from at least as early as 1695 at Upnor Castle (later the Upnor Armaments Supply Depot).

The manufacture of small arms commenced in 1804 at the Tower of London and moved in 1807 to the Royal Manufactory of Small Arms at Lewisham. The Royal Small Arms Factory site at Enfield was purchased in 1811 and operations commenced in 1816; the work of the Lewisham establishment was transferred there in 1818.

When the Ordnance Office was dissolved in 1855, the manufacturing departments, namely the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich, the Royal Gunpowder Factory at Waltham Abbey and the Royal Small Arms Factory at Enfield, were transferred to the War Office. There they were the concern successively of the Artillery, Ordnance and Artillery and Stores Departments or Divisions. In 1887, when they were renamed the Royal Ordnance Factories, control passed to the financial secretary's Civil Department, from which in 1899 they returned to the Ordnance Department.

Between 1915 and 1920 they were the concern of the Ministry of Munitions, but after the war they returned to the Department of the Master General of the Ordnance. In 1936 they were transferred to the Director General of Munitions Production.

In August 1939 responsibility for the Ordnance Factories was transferred to the Ministry of Supply. There, at first, it was a directorate under the director-general of munitions production. Later it became itself a directorate general under the controller general of munitions production. In 1959 the Ordnance Factories returned to the control of the War Office.

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weapons  
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<b>Map designation</b>	
<b>Creator names</b>	
<b>Covering dates</b>	1805 June 23-1806 Sept. 29
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