# Teignmouth cordoned off as suspected WWII bomb discovery raises fresh safety fears



Authorities in Teignmouth have recently cordoned off parts of the seaside town following the discovery of a suspected explosive device. Cafés and other establishments near the pier have been evacuated as safety measures were put in place. This unsettling revelation comes nearly five years after another significant find in the same area, when a World War II bomb weighing a staggering 1,200 kilograms was unearthed by scuba divers.

The earlier incident, which occurred in July 2018, saw the Royal Navy’s bomb disposal team respond swiftly to the threat. They evacuated significant portions of Teignmouth before safely transporting the World War II bomb to sea for a controlled detonation. This bomb, classified as an SC 1,200 model, contained 631 kilograms of Trialen, a high-explosive material, further highlighting the pressing concerns surrounding unexploded ordnance in coastal regions. The 2018 event underscored a broader issue, as unexploded devices from the war continue to pose latent risks to local communities.

Teignmouth's history is steeped in the remnants of wartime strife. During World War II, the town faced numerous air raids, contributing to its present-day awareness of such dangers. Historical records indicate that Teignmouth was subjected to 22 separate raids, with several bombs reported to have fallen into the sea adjacent to the pier. Notably, the pier itself, a venerable 155-year-old structure, survived these attacks and underwent modifications to discourage German troops from using it as a landing stage.

Recent events in nearby Plymouth serve to remind residents of the real risks associated with unexploded munitions. In February 2024, a 500-kilogram World War II bomb was discovered in a residential area, prompting one of the largest peacetime evacuations in British history, affecting over 10,000 residents. Military experts were called to safely transport the device for detonation, a stark indication of how historical remnants can disrupt contemporary life.

The resilience of Teignmouth, both in terms of its physical structures like the pier and its communities, has been tested over the decades. The town’s ability to withstand the challenges posed by past conflicts serves as a testament to its enduring spirit. However, the presence of unexploded ordnance continues to loom large, urging local authorities and residents alike to remain vigilant in their safety efforts.

As investigations into the latest discovery proceed, the community is once again reminded of the legacy of war that continues to shape life in this picturesque coastal town.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2059545/teignmouth-live-seaside-lockdown-explosive-pier), [[2]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-44784001)
* Paragraph 2 – [[3]](https://www.brimstoneuxo.com/uxo-news/teignmouth-seafront-evacuated-as-massive-german-bomb-is-found-beneath-pier/), [[7]](https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-england-devon-44784298)
* Paragraph 3 – [[4]](https://apnews.com/article/britain-wwii-bomb-plymouth-f8118ef543c0a24917e3e6160089478e), [[6]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/29/a8957929.shtml)
* Paragraph 4 – [[5]](https://www.devonlive.com/news/devon-news/bombs-bullets-storms-skinny-dipping-3744917)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2059545/teignmouth-live-seaside-lockdown-explosive-pier), [[4]](https://apnews.com/article/britain-wwii-bomb-plymouth-f8118ef543c0a24917e3e6160089478e)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2059545/teignmouth-live-seaside-lockdown-explosive-pier> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-44784001> - In July 2018, a 1,200 kg World War II bomb was discovered near Teignmouth Pier by two scuba divers. The Royal Navy bomb disposal team evacuated parts of Teignmouth to safely tow the device out to sea and detonate it. The bomb, identified as an SC 1,200 model, was dropped by the German Luftwaffe during the war. The incident highlighted the ongoing risks posed by unexploded ordnance in coastal areas. The controlled explosion was carried out by Royal Navy divers from Devonport.
3. <https://www.brimstoneuxo.com/uxo-news/teignmouth-seafront-evacuated-as-massive-german-bomb-is-found-beneath-pier/> - In July 2018, a massive 1,200 kg World War II German bomb was found near Teignmouth Pier, leading to the evacuation of parts of the seaside town. The bomb was discovered by two civilian scuba divers and was later destroyed in a controlled explosion at sea by Royal Navy divers from Plymouth. The incident underscored the ongoing hazards posed by unexploded ordnance from the Second World War, particularly in coastal areas. The bomb was an SC 1,200 model, containing 631 kg of Trialen, a potent high-explosive material.
4. <https://apnews.com/article/britain-wwii-bomb-plymouth-f8118ef543c0a24917e3e6160089478e> - In February 2024, a 500-kilogram World War II-era bomb was discovered in Plymouth, leading to one of the largest peacetime evacuations in British history. Over 10,000 residents were evacuated as military experts transported the unexploded device through a residential area to a ferry slipway, from where it was taken out to sea and detonated. Plymouth was heavily bombed during World War II, with 59 separate air raids resulting in significant civilian casualties and infrastructure damage.
5. <https://www.devonlive.com/news/devon-news/bombs-bullets-storms-skinny-dipping-3744917> - Teignmouth Pier, a 155-year-old structure, has a history of surviving various challenges, including bombings during World War II. During the war, the pier underwent modifications to prevent German forces from using it as a landing stage. Despite these efforts, the pier faced threats from air raids, with two bombs falling into the sea nearby on July 7, 1940. The pier's resilience is highlighted by its survival through storms, bombings, and other adversities over the years.
6. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/29/a8957929.shtml> - During World War II, Teignmouth, a coastal town in Devon, England, was targeted by German bombers in a series of air raids between July 1940 and February 1944. The town endured 22 separate raids, many conducted during the day. The author recalls instances of enemy planes crossing overhead on their way to Plymouth and other destinations. One night, during fire-watching duty, the author witnessed planes heading to Plymouth, which was being heavily bombed, and experienced the blast from nearby bombs.
7. <https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-england-devon-44784298> - In July 2018, a World War II bomb was discovered near Teignmouth Pier by two scuba divers. The Royal Navy bomb disposal team evacuated parts of Teignmouth to safely tow the device out to sea and detonate it. The bomb was identified as a German SC 1,200 model, weighing 1,200 kg. The incident prompted the evacuation of seafront properties and the establishment of a cordon until the bomb was detonated in a controlled explosion at sea.