

# A BRIEF CHRONOLOGY OF EXPLOSIVES

Shown below are some highlights from history concerning the use of explosives, it is not an exhaustive list.

- 1250 Gunpowder, or a form thereof used by the Chinese, Hindus and the Arabs.
- 1270 Gunpowder mentioned by Roger Bacon
- 1346 Gunpowder is definitely used at the Battle of Crecy as a propellant.
- 1425 First record of grained gunpowder
- 1435 First powder mill opens in Nurnberg
- 1525 Classification of powder by screening started in France.
- 1540 Large grain powder is adopted for use in cannon.
- 1696 First use of Gunpowder as a blasting explosive. Albula road, Switzerland.
- 1800 Fulminate of Mercury discovered in England by Howard.
- 1804 E.I. du Pont de Nemours Co. Commenced operations in Wilmington Delaware.
- 1807 The Reverend Alexander Forsyth patents the Percussion lock using Fulminate of Mercury.
- 1833 First attempts at producing nitrocellulose.
- 1836 Pinfire Shotgun developed in France.
- 1841 Nicholas Von Dreyse (Prussian Army) develops the needle gun cartridge using fulminate of mercury
- 1847 Sobrero discovers Nitroglycerine
- 1860 Capt. Rodman (US ARMY) develops the prism shape of gunpowder grains.
- 1866 Nobel discovers that Nitroglycerine could be desensitised by mixing it with kieselguhr.
- 1867 The British and the Swedes both patent Dynamite.
- 1875 Nobel invents Blasting Gelatine.
- 1877 Trinitrophenylmethylnitramine (Tetryl) first developed
- 1884 Paul Vieille commences work on gelatinised nitrocellulose.
- 1836 Picric acid adopted by the French Government.
- 1886 Vieille produces the first workable smokeless powder. Poudre "B"
- 1888 Nobel patents the first double base powder.
- 1889 Abel and Deware patent Cordite
- 1891 Berthelot measures velocities of detonation.
- 1891 Lead Azide first prepared by Curtis.
- 1895/99 U.S. Army commences using double base powders
- 1902 TNT used in Germany in artillery shells.
- 1904 TNT adopted by The USA in military applications.
- 1909 US Army adopts single base powders.
- 1914/18 the first amatols developed. Experiments commenced on new explosives such as RDX.