



1 - A Brief History

Welcome to Scotland's Secret Bunker. We hope that you will gain a fascinating insight into life below ground during the bunker's 40-year history, from when it was built in 1951, right through to 1993 when it was taken off the Secrets list.

The structure of Scotland's Secret Bunker was designed with the possibility of nuclear attack in mind and involved a massive engineering task for the contractors. A hole, 135 feet deep, was excavated and then a foundation containing gravel was inserted to form a base or "shock absorber". Thereafter, the building was constructed with an outer shell of 10 feet of solid concrete reinforced every six inches with 1" thick tungsten rods. Finally the whole structure was lined with brick, covered with netting and soaked with pitch to form an outer casing. Spare earth from the excavation was piled on top for added protection, and concrete rafts were layered in the mound to provide "burster caps". It is estimated that there is approximately 40,000 tonnes of concrete in the bunker.

After landscaping the site, and building the traditional Scottish farmhouse, through which you entered, there was little to give away the 'secret' from above ground. It is thought that during and after construction, people were aware that something was going on but nobody quite knew the truth about what lay beneath the surface here at Troywood.

The guardhouse appears to be of simple stone construction, but is actually hiding an inner shell of solid concrete and massive steel girders. The house contained several rooms for sleeping and administration, but was later cleared to provide catering stores and the roof space held storage for 2,000 gallons of water.

A direct hit by a nuclear bomb would certainly have destroyed the whole bunker, including the guardhouse but the engineers who designed and built it made sure it could successfully withstand a nearby attack. If a bomb had landed approximately three miles away, the guardhouse would have been severely damaged and there may have been cracking of the bunker's outer shell, but the people deep inside would probably have survived.

The bunker was built in response to specific threats to national security brought on by growing international divisions. The Second World War ended in 1945, but by 1949 Europe had split its allegiance between the East and the West. America joined countries in Western Europe to form NATO and the Soviet Union joined forces with its Eastern European neighbours to form the Warsaw Pact. Relations between these two groups of allies soon deteriorated, and Britain feared the possibility of an attack from the USSR.

The Government decided that a new early warning system was needed to protect the UK and introduced a system called "ROTOR". This involved building a concentrated chain of radar stations along the east coast of the UK with a lesser number of stations around the remaining coastline. In the main area of perceived threat these stations were located underground.

This station, here at Troywood is an R3 bunker and one of the largest manned by the RAF. It monitored NATO air space until 1956, when ROTOR was superseded by more advanced radar positioned in new master stations that covered the whole of the UK. In view of this, the Troywood site became redundant and remained mothballed for two years.

In 1958, the Government, left with a rather expensive hole in the ground, decided to move in the Civil Defence forces to staff the bunker as a Regional Seat of Government.

In the years that followed, the testing of nuclear weapons by America and the USSR gathered pace and soon developed into what we now know as the Cold War.

As the Cold War intensified, the British Government believed it necessary to prepare the country for the possibility of nuclear attack, and in 1968, the bunker became a Regional Government Headquarters. Top Edinburgh officials would have been evacuated to Troywood, to run Scotland in the days and months following an attack.

Scotland was divided into three equal parts and allocated one HQ per region. However, with streamlining

over the years only this HQ remained. In late 1992 it was planned to give the Troywood site a massive facelift and rebuild. Just before this work was due to start, a defence White Paper was issued that signalled the end of the Regional Government Headquarter system (effectively the end of the Cold War) and so the rebuild was cancelled. In 1958, the Government, left with a rather expensive hole in the ground, decided to move in the Civil Defence forces to staff the bunker as a Regional Seat of Government.

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2 - The main tunnel

The tunnel slopes down to gradually down to the top floor of the bunker and is encased in solid concrete. This is 18" thick nearest the surface and increases to 10 feet at the blast doors. The drop from the top of the earth mound to the lowest level inside is 100 yards and electric power is brought into the site through an additional deep cable tunnel.

As you walk down the tunnel, you will pass the security office on your right-hand side where strict monitoring of personnel took place. The large boards outside show what zones were in use. The small room at the end of the tunnel is a reconstruction of an ROC lookout post that would have been manned by two or three personnel and provided localised information on the location and extent of bomb damage.

At the bottom of the main tunnel are large red blast doors. Each weighing about one and a half tons, these doors were designed to seal off the bunker and its inhabitants from blast and radiation on the surface. The kink in the tunnel was designed to dissipate as much of the force of the blast as possible and enabled armed security officers to defend the bunker against unwanted attention, whether from enemy forces or from contaminated locals. With such tight rations of food and medical supplies all comers, even those from amongst the native population, would have been treated with equal disdain and more than likely executed, well before they reached the bunker entrance. It's a chilling thought that you and I would have been shown no favour or compassion as we were forced to remain in the cold, contaminated world outside.

3 - The ROC Room

The Royal Observer Corps were never actually stationed in this bunker, but, nonetheless, they provided vital information for those who were. The role of the ROC was essentially to monitor the location and intensity of nuclear explosions and subsequent fallout. Also, they could use a pin hole camera to take photo 'positives,' as opposed to negatives, of the blast, helping to provide vital information on its exact location and size. These reports were co-ordinated at ROC HQ and this information was used to assist the Services in the evacuation of civilians, maintenance of law and order and the minimizing of casualties after an attack.

The ROC had a complement of some 1,500 personnel nationwide, and around 820 lookout posts along with several larger command bunkers. The posts were small but heavily protected and could be manned for up to three weeks. This one reconstructs the Dundee Regional Headquarters with artefacts kindly donated by the Home Office. Although one of the largest, it is clear they were not exactly the last word in comfort, with a chemical toilet and a hand-pump for removing water. The Royal Observer Corps was stood down at the end of the Cold War and is no longer operational.

4 - Medical Room

This medical room is a reconstruction of a 1960s style doctor's surgery. Between 1958 and 1968, while the Civil Defence Corps occupied the bunker, one doctor and two assistants had to be present during exercises and would have been stationed here during an alert. All the medical equipment that you see here is original and much of it looks very painful indeed. To some of the bunker's more queasy inhabitants, the threat of the huge needles doubtless loomed as large as the threat of a nuclear strike!

Fatalities would have almost certainly occurred in the bunker after a nuclear attack - radiation sickness for those who had dared to venture outside, disease and untreated injuries from the blast, would all have taken their victims. The dead would have been put in body bags and then into a convenient, space-saving cardboard coffin. Finally, when radiation levels had fallen sufficiently, they would have been pushed out of the

door to join the other ten million or so corpses outside.

5 - Dormitory

The most senior staff likely to stay in the bunker, including the Minister of State, the private secretary and military liaison staff would have had their own private accommodation. Most people working in the bunker, however, would have slept in one of 6 dormitories capable of sleeping up to 300 people. A "hot bed" system would have been in operation, whereby people took it in turns to use the beds with personnel jumping out of bed to be replaced immediately by others - the bed was quite literally still hot. A rota would have allowed people to work for 18 hours and sleep for 6. Living underground of course would have meant that there was no 'day' or 'night' shift.

6 - BBC Broadcasting Studio

This area houses the Radio Engineering Workshop, the BBC Studio Edit Suite and the BBC Soundproof Room. In the event of a possible nuclear attack, all radio stations would have been cancelled and this would have been the only station left on air. Emergency broadcasts to the nation would have been made from a radio suite such as this one in the bunker. BBC technicians and officers from the Scottish Office, Press Department would have formed the Bunker's Wartime Broadcasting Service team. Information delivered to the public from this bunker would have included war news, official announcements, survival advice and nuclear fallout warnings.

The Radio Engineering Workshop based in the bunker would have maintained all electrical and radio equipment to ensure that vital communications channels were kept operational at all times.

When you leave the BBC broadcasting studio you will notice a door marked 'Private'. Admittance to this area is restricted and contains information which, to this day, is still regarded as classified. This is one of several top-secret areas that still exist in the bunker - keep an eye out for similar locations on your tour - who knows quite what lurks behind them?

7 - Canteen

We have preserved the original canteen or 'Mess Hall' as those serving below ground would have known it. Clearly, all 300 personnel were not expected to eat at one time - a twenty-four hour meal shift system would have been in operation, as would a male/female divide.

The kitchens are extremely well equipped and can be used to provide a very high quality of catering - an essential morale booster for those working in such an artificial situation. As there was no refrigeration in the bunker, the food would have largely been dried, tinned or pre-packed and stored in every free location, whether under the beds or stashed in the corners of the Operations Room.

Today, the canteen offers a large selection of delicious snacks and beverages. Do stop for a little to sample some, and try to imagine the gusto with which ordinary homely things like food would have been received in this, otherwise alien and sterile, environment. There is no rationing in the bunker any more, so why not go ahead and treat yourself?

8 - The Cinemas

This room has at various times in the life of the bunker been used as offices and a dormitory, but today it plays host to our cinema room. In here, various documentaries and information films are shown at regular intervals.

The first shows actual footage of the very first atom and hydrogen bomb testing and is testament to the awesome and chilling destructive power of these weapons. The second film is a BBC television production entitled 'Advice to Householders' which would have been transmitted as the threat of nuclear conflict escalated. In it, vital information about preparations at home for a nuclear attack are given, as well as instructions on how to survive the lengthy fallout period that follows a nuclear strike. In reality, very little of the information in the film would have helped the average householder to survive, but it would, it was hoped, have instilled a degree of calm and measured thought into the otherwise horrific situation.

9 - CND Exhibition Room

This exhibition space is used by the CND (Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament). Through this exhibition, they aim to show the history of the movement from its beginnings in the 1950s through to the present day and explain exactly what the movement hopes to achieve.

The first-ever public meeting of the CND movement took place in London in 1958, in response to the ever-increasing frequency of atomic testing, first by the US, then by Russia and Britain. Not only were there growing fears of nuclear war breaking out, but there was also growing concern at the environmental damage

caused by these atmospheric tests.

In the early years membership increased rapidly. CND's advocacy of unilateral nuclear disarmament - the proposal that Britain should take the initiative and get rid of its own nuclear weapons - caught the imagination of many, as it became clear that international negotiations were clearly not working. Over the years membership of the CND has periodically grown and waned as the world stumbled from one nuclear threat to another - The Cuban Missile Crisis, the deployment of US Cruise and Pershing missiles to Britain and several other Western European countries, the Gulf War and, most recently, the threat of a new wave of sophisticated terrorism. The Scottish CND movement has always been particularly strong as British and US nuclear submarines are now based here in Scotland.

Today, membership figures have stabilised, and there is a huge resource of experience and determination in a campaign that will continue until the aim of a world free of all weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, chemical and biological is achieved. Only then can we create genuine security for future generations.

We felt it important to include this exhibition as part of the bunker's display as it enables us to attempt to show the history of the bunker from all perspectives.

10 - Memorial Chapel

When the bunker was originally built, a chapel was not incorporated into the design. This chapel was later included as a memorial to all those who worked to keep the peace during the Cold War. Their names are unknown, and our debt to them is immense.

St. Andrew's Church, RAF Cranwell, kindly loaned both the pulpit and matching prayer-desk to the bunker in 1996. These two pieces were part of the Far East Air Force (FEAF) chapel, which is now located in Cranwell. The FEAF was formed in 1945 from Air Command South East Asia and its Headquarters was RAF Changi. It was disbanded in 1971 and the chapel then returned to the UK.

In recent years, the chapel has played host to a wedding and is often used for services and recitals.

11 - Blast Doors

These blast doors protect the vital air filtration and sewage ejection systems which would have kept the Bunker habitable. Sewage would have flowed down into a sealed cylinder at the bottom of a pit. When it was full, a compressor would have blown it to the surface into an outside sewage field.

An emergency tunnel gives access to a deep stairwell leading to the surface. Sophisticated alarm detectors and Closed Circuit Television systems protect all entrances and exits, together with all airways and ducts. The air intakes and extracts are all run in concrete tunnels and these are additionally protected with tungsten security grilles and detection systems.

Sadly, you cannot go beyond these doors, as this is still, to this day, a restricted area and the doors are alarmed, not to mention extremely heavy!

12 - Minister of State Room

This room was for the use of the Minister of State, who would have had overall authority for all wartime operations. He would have been both revered and feared in equal measure, as he quite literally had the power of life and death, with the ability to launch nuclear counter-strikes by telephone.

It was estimated that approximately 70% of the nation's population would have initially survived a nuclear attack, albeit in various states of disrepair. A nuclear blast impacts on the human body in a number of ways. The flash is bright enough to blind and the heat enough to evaporate, or at least severely burn, a human body. After the initial explosion come 200 mph winds, followed by an all-consuming vacuum and a five-day period of lethal radiation.

Hospitals and doctors also would, of course, have been hit hard, so the Minister of State would be able to issue commands to terminate the physical and mentally ill, the elderly and the infirm and those already too sick as a result of the blast. The harsh reality is that, in a matter of days, we would have run out of essential drugs like morphine, so he would have ordered the police or military to put us out of our misery with their pistols.

13 - Scientific Advisers

Here, the Minister of State's scientific advisers would have plotted the exact whereabouts of bomb drops on Scotland and been able to work out where the vast plumes of radioactivity were heading. The height of the bomb blast would also have been calculated, as this has a huge effect on the dust and radiation distribution.

From this information, warnings would have been given to the minister who, indirectly, would have passed them on to the population at large. A black warning would indicate imminent fallout. A grey warning would signal fallout due within the hour and a white warning would have been the All Clear. A red warning indicated an imminent attack - what we now know better as the four-minute warning. The red war-phones that you can see around the bunker are connected to 14,000 points around the country - police stations, fire stations, government offices - and these would then have sounded the local sirens. An up and down siren, like in the Second World War, would have signalled an attack. Three bangs in a row, or, in Scotland, church bells tolling, would have signalled a fallout warning. The All Clear signal, again as in the Second World War, was a constant note. In particularly remote areas of the UK the warning would also have been given by word of mouth or whistles.

All the equipment in this room is original and the large map that you see still plots the simulated bomb drops of an actual war-game exercise.

14 - Viewing Gallery

This gallery looks out over the operational and military centre of the bunker and would have been used by the Minister of State for observation and for delivering instructions. Up-to-the-minute information would have been shown on the giant maps and wall charts - all of which could have been viewed from this point, allowing a coherent and considered response to any situation.

15 - Computer Room

The bunker's computer system was linked to the national database, which in turn provided full access to the national defence computer. This vital network would not only have allowed important information to be shared nationwide but would have also enabled a unified response to any aggressor.

16 - The Plant Room

The Plant Room houses the equipment that would have been used to power the entire bunker and, when it was first built, was extremely sophisticated. The equipment that you see here is original and it is a testament to the skill of the engineers that the system is still operational to this day. The bunker has a natural constant temperature of about 18 degrees Celsius, which means that fortunately at the moment we don't actually need to use the heating system. Just running the heating alone would cost about £200 an hour, and the heating system is only one part of the original technology still housed in the Plant Room. It was designed with the possibility of a nuclear attack in mind and therefore is able to filter the air against radioactive particles. Capable of moving air at 52,000 cubic feet a minute, the entire air content of the bunker can be changed 14 times every quarter of an hour. The equipment can also be used to refrigerate, ozonate, de-ozonate, humidify and de-humidify the air.

In the event of a power failure, the plant room's emergency generator could power the bunker for up to three months. The back-up system alone produces 750kVA (kilovolt amperes) of power, which would be more than enough to power all the coastal villages of Fife. In the event of a fire, a smoke extraction system can remove smoke at 78,000 cubic feet a minute and there is a highly advanced 24-hour fire-detection system in operation. Today, process gases have been changed for ozone friendly operation.

Right up until the bunker's decommissioning in 1993, the government used to send an engineer once a month to start up the systems that you can see here, and a team of ten engineers to run system checks on the electronic, communications and computer equipment.

17 - Central Government & Nuclear Operations Command Centre

In 1968, the bunker became a regional government headquarters and it was from here that Scotland would have been run during and after any nuclear attack. Senior ministers would have been evacuated to Troywood from Edinburgh, together with their staff of telephonists, secretaries and civil servants. The Central Government and Nuclear Operations Command Centre would have been at the heart of it all.

18- Com Cen

Communication was of vital importance throughout the different stages of the bunker's 40-year operational history. If the bunker had lost contact with organisations and sources in the outside world, its work would be rendered useless. For this reason there were over 500 internal and 2,800 external lines, manned 24 hours a day by 10 members of staff. The original switchboards are situated here in the communications centre. To be certain that the communication system could work in the event of a nuclear attack, the whole bunker was enclosed in a "Faraday cage". This provides a total earth loop and protects the telephone system from the electromagnetic pulse caused by the detonation of a nuclear bomb. In fact, this switchboard was used right up to final decommissioning in the 1990s and is still the best method of avoiding a complete communications

breakdown.

19- Command Centre

Major decisions about war and the running of the country would have been made in the command centre. All the main government departments would have been represented including the departments of Transport, Trade, Agriculture, Fisheries and even the DSS (who were doubtless planning to pay pensions and social security after the bomb). This reconstruction shows their desks grouped around the giant plotting charts.

The emergency services including the Fire Brigade and police would also have been present and liaised with representatives from other organisations to co-ordinate rescue work on the surface. Government scientific advisers and Met Office staff would have played a vital role in predicting fallout and the meteorological consequences of nuclear war. These forecasts were plotted on the large illuminated board in the adviser's cabin. The information on the board shows predictions plotted in December 1993, during a final war games exercise.

The Minister of State, would have been the most senior person in the bunker and had an office overlooking the Command Centre. He had a bed in his office allowing him to be on duty 24 hours a day and had his own team of secretaries.

Up-to-the-minute developments would have been plotted on the large charts in the command centre and the black and red war telephones situated on the back wall would have been used to issue final warnings to an attacker. A series of numbers, called the nuclear command key, held in a safe in the Minister of State's room, would be read down the war telephone before an all-out nuclear strike.

But it wasn't just the threat of nuclear conflict that raised the bunker to maximum security status. During the Miners' strikes of the Heath administration this bunker and many like it throughout the country were put on the highest level of alert with the imminent possibility of civil unrest and maybe, as some thought, even an escalation to civil war!

20 - The Armoury

This room is the Armoury and contains a selection of weapons, from pistols to grenades to semi-automatic machine guns, which would have been used to defend the bunker against hostility. Many of these date back to the bunker's early years of the mid 1950s, whilst some, such as the semi-automatic SA80 are still standard British army issue today.

The room would have been rather like a bank vault with heavy doors to stop unwanted intruders. It would therefore almost certainly have contained confidential top-secret paperwork that the average worker in the bunker would not have been allowed to see.

It may have also have contained a secure store of cyanide for taking if, after three months of being sealed underground, there was nothing to come up for or, more realistically, if the inhabitants could not get out. If the main tunnel had collapsed under a blast, it is fairly likely that the rear emergency exit would have gone the same way. With no way out and no-one outside to rescue you - and remembering that even if there had been, the bunker was secret anyway - this is where you would have spent whatever remained of your life.

21 - The Civil Defence Room

Between 1958 and 1968, the bunker was used as a regional seat of government and was staffed by members of the Civil Defence Corps. Essentially, the role of the Civil Defence was to raise public awareness of possible threats to safety during war and peacetime, and to advise them on how best to protect themselves. They were also responsible for dealing with the consequences of any disaster, natural or man-made. During the Second World War, for example, the Civil Defence Corps played a large role in the clear-up operation after the Blitz. They were responsible for rescue work and providing help and facilities for those badly affected by the bombing.

During the Cold War, when Britain faced the real possibility of nuclear attack, the Civil Defence Corps was responsible for producing a series of booklets and short films, designed to tell people what measures they should take in order to protect themselves and their homes from a nuclear attack. "Protect and Survive" pamphlets would have been available to all members of the public. The version on film, which can be seen in the bunker today, was ready to be broadcast on television and in cinemas, had the threat of war increased. If Britain had suffered a nuclear attack, massive areas of the country would have been obliterated, which meant that mass evacuation plans were shelved (filed or rejected?) early during the Cold War. The Civil Defence would have had a huge task ahead of them dealing with the homeless, hungry and traumatized, not to mention those critically injured and dying.

Today, the Civil Defence room in the bunker is a faithful reconstruction of the Fife Group Control, which

disbanded with the rest of the Civil Defence Corps in 1968. It is equipped with original artefacts and paper work, typewriters and communications equipment. The Civil Defence forces provided a full staffing at the bunker for ten years and this room is dedicated to their service at Troywood. We are also grateful to many local Civil Defence veterans for their kind donations of documents for exhibition.

22 - The RAF Operations

The RAF manned this bunker from 1953 to 1956 and operated as one of concentrated string of early warning radar stations built along the east coast of the UK. Together they monitored British airspace for unwanted incursions and were built in response to specific threats to national security.

23 - Radar Room

The equipment in the Radar room, to your left as you enter the RAF room, was used at RAF Buchan and was among the last to record interceptions of Soviet incursions into Britain's air space during the closing days of the Cold War. Indeed this equipment still displays the actual information and details of these hostile sorties.

24 - The RAF Operations

A number of RAF stations, including RAF Leuchars just a few miles from here, were on a constant state of alert with heavily armed planes sitting ready for take off in anticipation of such incursions. The crews of this Quick Reaction Alert Force, fully kitted up, lived in a special crew room beside their aircraft. The moment a Soviet Bear or Bison aircraft entered NATO airspace, the crews would be scrambled and could be airborne in a few moments. Until the end of the Cold War this was a regular occurrence, sometimes several times a day.

When the RAF manned this bunker, their main operations room would have been in the Central Government Command centre. It would have been a hive of activity with the large tote board in the centre of the room showing aircraft and anti-aircraft gun status. Photographs of the original two-storey layout can be seen on the wall outside this room.

Because of advancing technology, it wasn't long before the bunker became outdated. No longer able to detect the most up-to-date enemy equipment, this bunker was closed and lay empty for two years before the Civil Defence Corps moved in, in 1958.

25 - Uniform Display

In this storeroom is a display of original military uniforms which spans the operational life of the bunker. This display is regularly updated.

26- BT Communications

Throughout the different stages of the bunker's 40-year operational history, communication was always of paramount importance. In the event of war it would have been necessary to be in regular contact with the Prime Minister's office, information would pour in from many military and civilian sources. In addition, there would be many requests for information from those inside the bunker - particularly where major decisions were required. For this reason there were over 500 internal and 2,800 external lines, manned 24 hours a day by 10 members of staff. The original switchboards are now situated in the Communications Room adjacent to the Central Government Command Centre.

Take your time to look around the telephone museum at the various models used during the bunker's history. Included in the collection are examples of both domestic and field telephones. Do you recognize any of the models? Perhaps you or somebody you know still owns an original dial telephone like the ones featured in our display. Whilst many of these phones and the switchboard seen here may look rather antiquated when compared with current technology, their manual operation ensured that they were not affected by the electromagnetic pulse of a nuclear detonation. This meant that they could be relied on operationally for far longer than first expected. In fact, this switchboard was used right up to final decommissioning in the 1990s and is still the best method of avoiding a complete communications breakdown.

27- BT Main Exchange Apparatus

This part of the BT Display contains the main computer control racks for BT digital communication. The racks control all outgoing messages, thus keeping the bunker in touch with the outside world. A small team of BT engineers was employed to make frequent visits to the bunker, ensuring that the vital equipment was all in good working order. To be certain that the communication system could still work in the event of a nuclear attack, the bunker is enclosed in a "Faraday cage". This provides a total earth loop and protects the telephone system from the electromagnetic pulse caused by the detonation of a nuclear bomb.

28 - Stairwell

This is a reconstruction of the measures that the government recommended for householders in the event of an imminent nuclear attack. Mass movement and exodus from the cities brought about by hysteria would have been harmful to the war effort and at any rate a futile gesture. Instead people were encouraged to stay at home and build shelters in their houses like the one you can see here.

The government suggested that after establishing a stout anti-fallout room in your house with no, or at least a minimum of, outside walls, a 'lean to' shelter should be made with sloping doors or strong boards rested against an inner wall. Further protection was to be added in the form of bags or boxes filled with earth and sand or even books and clothing. The two open ends should be partly closed, again using boxes of earth and sand or heavy furniture.

The 'lean to' shelter should be well stocked with provisions. The recommended list provided by the government included:

3½ gallons of water to be used sparingly, which could be eaten cold, which would keep fresh and which were tinned or well wrapped. opener, bottle opener, cutlery and crockery. torch and spare batteries. portable radio and spare batteries. Your only link to the outside world. Important instructions would have been broadcast on what to do after the attack. There is some debate as to whether radios would in fact have worked at all. The electromagnetic pulse would most probably have knocked them out. Instructions were given to wrap the radio in tin foil, creating a mini Faraday cage, retract the aerial and switch it off and not turn it on again until after the explosion. With a bit of luck it might then have worked!

You and your family would then have had to live in the confines of this space for a minimum of forty-eight hours, the time when radiation fallout is at its peak. An All Clear signal would have sounded to indicate that it was safe to leave the shelter - this could potentially be anything up to fourteen days after the strike! The reality is, of course, that you would more than likely have been dead by this time, but building, and then living in the shelter, would have kept you occupied and stopped mass hysteria.

In Conclusion

The Bunker offers a unique and valuable insight into the whole history of the Cold War and a testament to the very real threat to us all that the possibility of conflict brought. Every attempt has been made to cover its history from the early 50s to the final closure over forty years later. Exhibitions are being updated wherever possible and there is a constant programme of improvement and refurbishment under way. We are ever grateful for the support of Central Government and of our patrons. Without their assistance, and the financial support of the Fife Regional Council and Fife Enterprise, this work would not be possible. We are also grateful to the large number of individuals who have donated items for display and given freely of their time to contribute to this unique exhibition, providing an insight into an otherwise unknown area of our national history.