

The Regional War Rooms

World War ence nal War

Political Background



November 1945



June 1948

1947



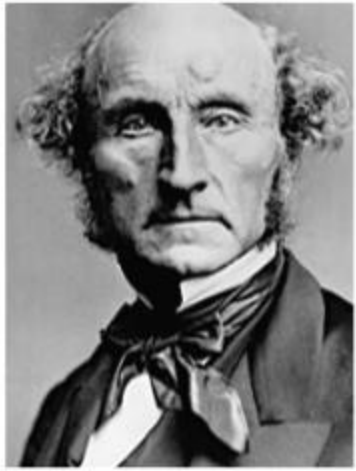
December 1948





Civil Defence Act 1948

Core Provisions



“The only purpose for which power can be rightfully exercised over any member of a civilised community, against his will, is to prevent harm to others.” from ‘On Liberty’, 1859, by John Stuart Mill.

The Machinery of Government

The Haldane Review, 1917. ‘To enquire into the responsibilities of the various Departments of the central executive Government, and to advise in what manner the exercise and distribution of the Government of its functions should be improved.’



Transition to War

Peacetime Government

King



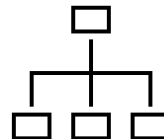
Prime Minister



Cabinet



Civil Service (Departments)



Wartime Government

King

Prime Minister

Wartime Cabinet
(smaller, strategic)

Home (office) Front

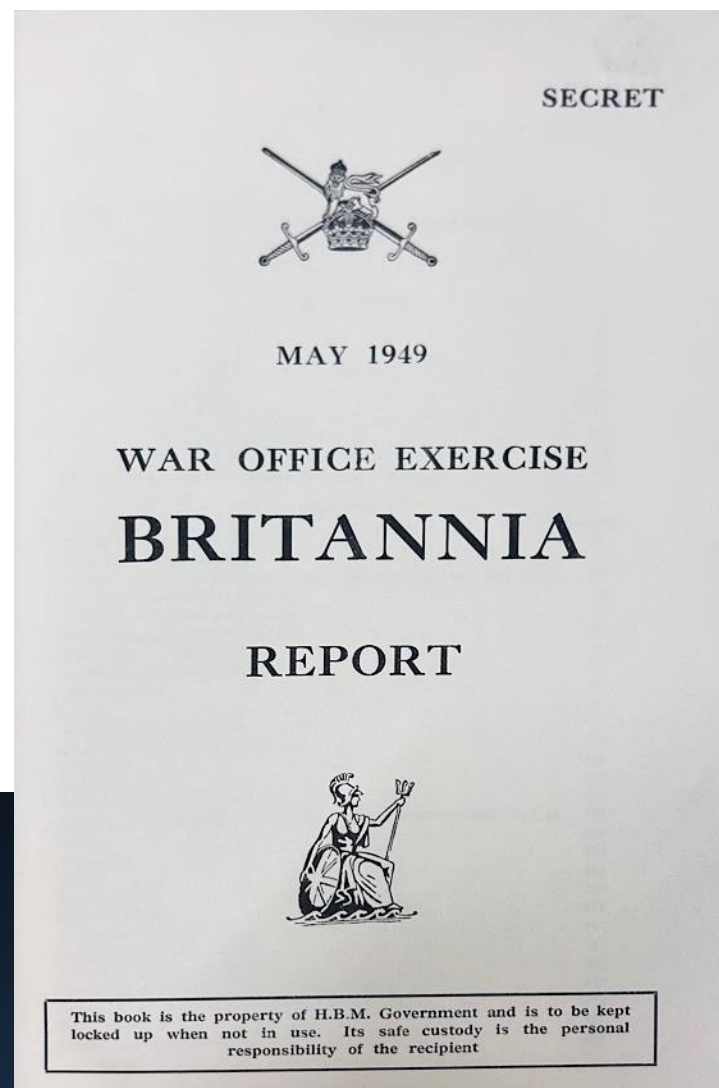
- Ministry of Home Security
 - Ministry of Supply
 - Ministry of Labour
 - Civil Defence

Divided into three phases, spanning eleven years from 1949 to 1960. It enabled all forms of military crisis, including nuclear, to be discussed.

1. May 1949—the present situation.
2. March 1952 - A crisis which did not result in a world war.
3. August 1960. The start of World War III, with a detailed look at the effects of a nuclear attack on Bristol.

Strategic aim: 'broken-backed warfare'—keep core industry operating

EXERCISE BRITANNIA (MAY 1949)



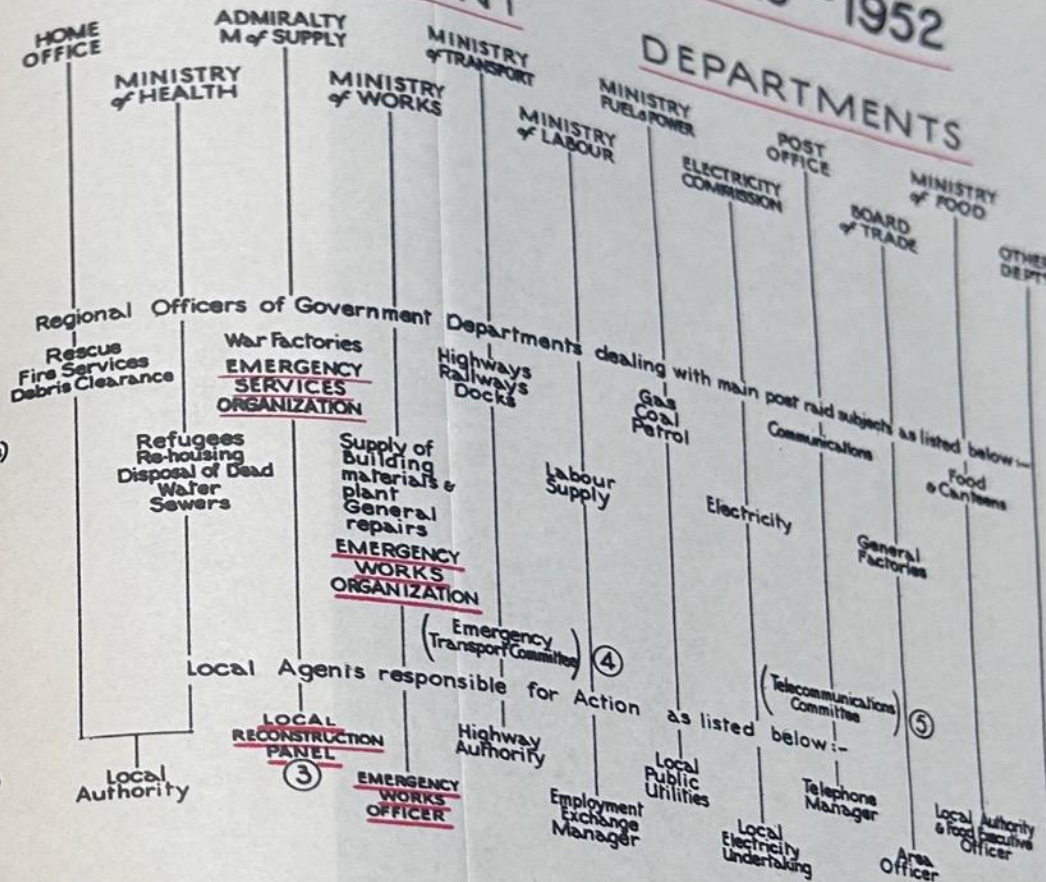
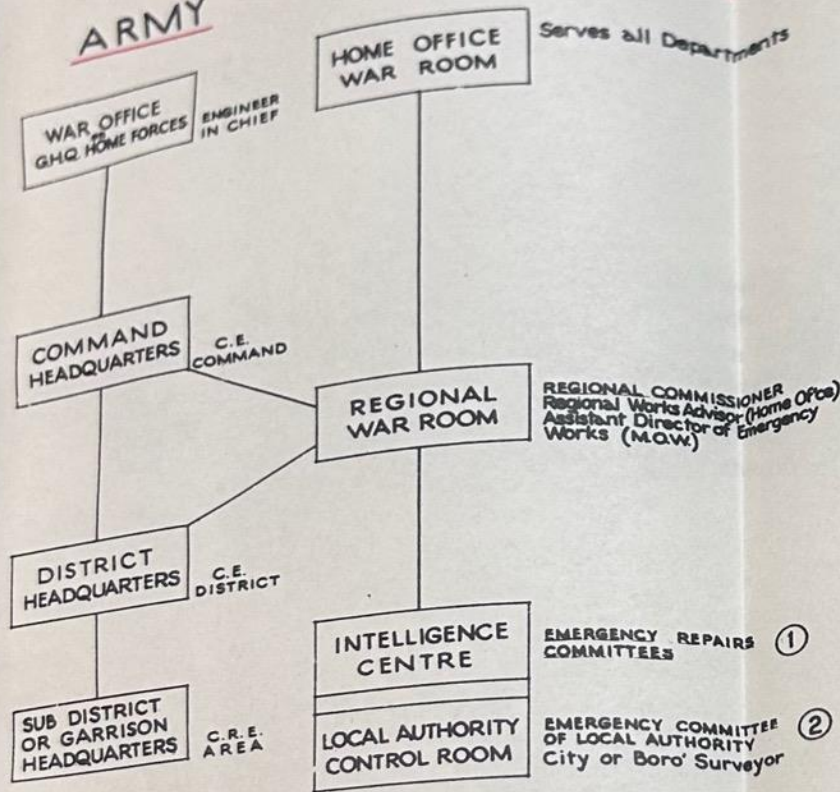
ENGINEER ORGANIZATION FOR POST RAID TASKS - 1952

ARMY

CIVIL DEFENCE

GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENTS



NOTES :-

①

EMERGENCY REPAIRS COMMITTEE

Composition: Representatives of Government Depts.
Local Authority,
Local Reconstruction Panel,
Public Services, etc.

Functions: To co-ordinate information.
To determine priorities after raid.
To concert restoration plans.

②

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE OF LOCAL AUTHORITY

Composition: A few members of the Local Council.

Functions: Powers to act for Local Authority in matters of Civil Defence.

③

LOCAL RECONSTRUCTION PANEL

(Emergency Services Organization)
Composition: Local Industrial Representatives.

Functions: To facilitate repairs to War Factories.

④

EMERGENCY TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Representatives of :-
Government Depts
Railways
Local Authorities.

⑤

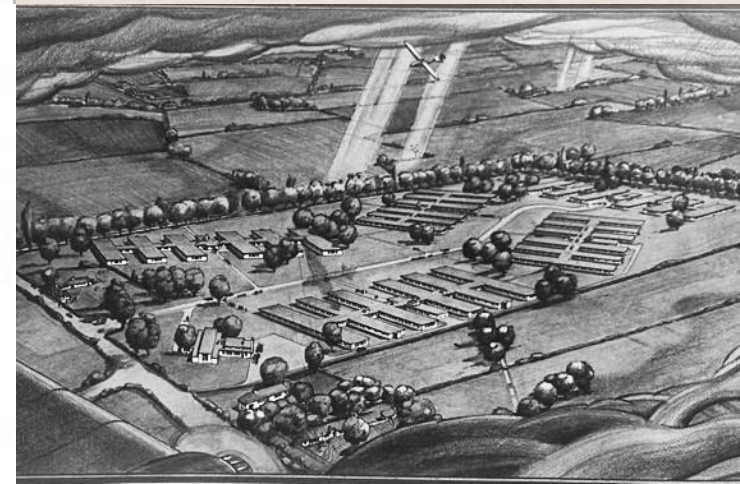
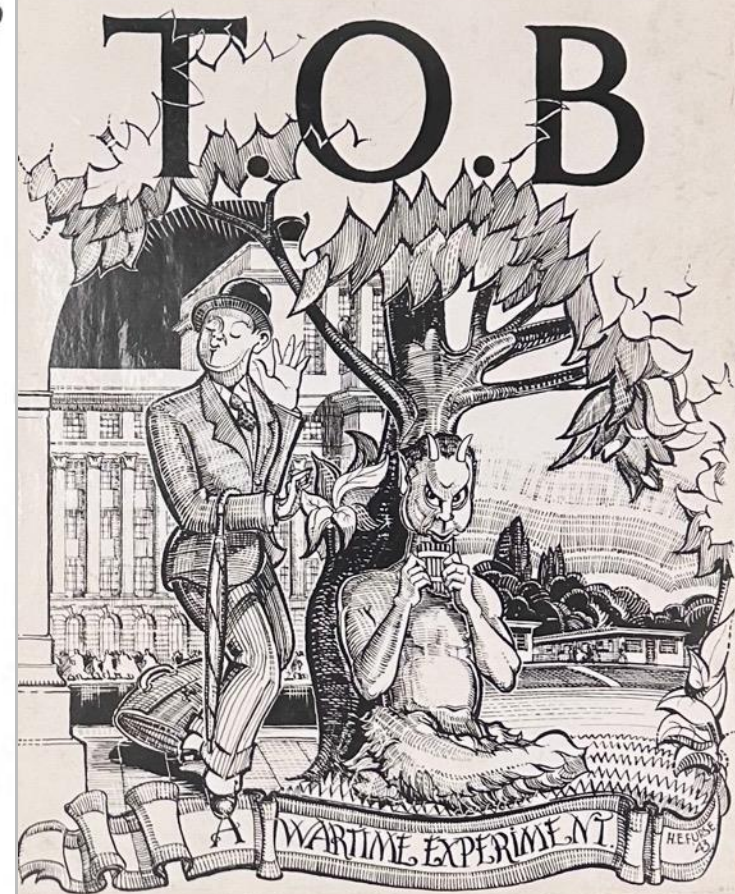
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Composition: Representatives of
Post Office, Railways,
Fire Service, C.D.
Services, etc.

Functions: To organize communications and determine priorities after raid.

CIVIL DEFENCE REGIONS

● Headquarters



Working
Party on
Civil
Defence

War Rooms



Accommodation & Functions

(22 Jun 1952)

<i>Accommodation required in the Regional War Rooms</i> (i) Regional Commissioner's Office and Conference Room. (ii) Central Map Room. (iii) Departmental Liaison Officers' Room. (iv) Fire Control Room. (v) Regional Police Staff Officer's Room. (vi) Hospital and Ambulance Control Room. (vii) Military Liaison Officer's Room. (viii) Regional Scientific Advisor's Room. (ix) Regional Commissioner's Officer's Room. (x) Messenger Room. (xi) Telephone Switch room. (xii) Teleprinter Room. (xiii) Communication Room (to include Telephone Booths, Duplicating Machines, and Message and Paper Racks). (xiv) Dispatch Riders' Room. (xv) Lavatories.	<i>Personnel required to man the HSWR.</i> Senior Regional Officer Regional Officer Grade II Regional Officer Grade III Intelligence Officer Map Plotters Log Officers Card Index clerks Filing clerks Operations Officers Operations Clerical staff Telephonists Teleprinter operators
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Location - Location - Location

Region		First location c.1949		Second c. 1950		Actual
Northern	1	Gosforth area, north of Newcastle - it was suggested that the headquarters could be the Royal Exchange Hotel in Newcastle as they had been during the war.		Government Buildings - Kenton Bar, Blakelaw, Newcastle Upon Tyne.		Government buildings Kenton Bar, Blakelaw, Newcastle Upon Tyne.
North-eastern	2	To remain at Redhill shire oak road, Headingly Leeds		Wheatfield Grove Road Woodland Leeds used by the government in the Second World War		Government buildings Leeds, Otley Road in Lawnswood.
North Midland Region	3	To be located at Park House on Lucknow drive Nottingham, a large house in the exclusive Mapperley estate of Nottingham.		Park House on Lucknow drive Nottingham.		Government buildings Chalfont Drive, Nottingham.
Eastern	4	To be located at the Trumpington park estate Cambridge south of Grantchester.		Government buildings Brooklands, Brookland Avenue Cambridge.		Government buildings Brooklands Cambridge.
Southern	6	To move to Marlborough House (private boys' school) on Parkside Road, Reading.		Marlborough House, Parkside Road, Reading.		Government buildings Reading University – Whiteknights.
South-western Region	7	To move to the Ashton Park area southeast of Bristol.		Government Buildings , Brislington, southwest Bristol.		Government buildings Brislington
Welsh	8	To remain at Coryton hall.		Coryton hall, Whitchurch, Cardiff.		Coryton Hall
Midlands	9	To move to an area southeast of Birmingham in the Solihull area.		Chadwick Manor, Chadwick Road, Nr Knole, Birmingham.		Solihull, Shirley Stratford Road
North-western	10	To move to an area southwest of Manchester in the Altrincham area.		'Beech lawn' a large house on Dunham road, Bowden, Altrincham, Manchester, which had been used by the admiralty during the war. ¹		On the site of a former bleach works, next to a large railway siding outside Cheadle
South-eastern	11	To remain at Bredbury House, Mount Ephraim, Tunbridge Wells		Bredbury House, Mount Ephraim.		Government buildings . Hawkenbury outside Tunbridge Wells.

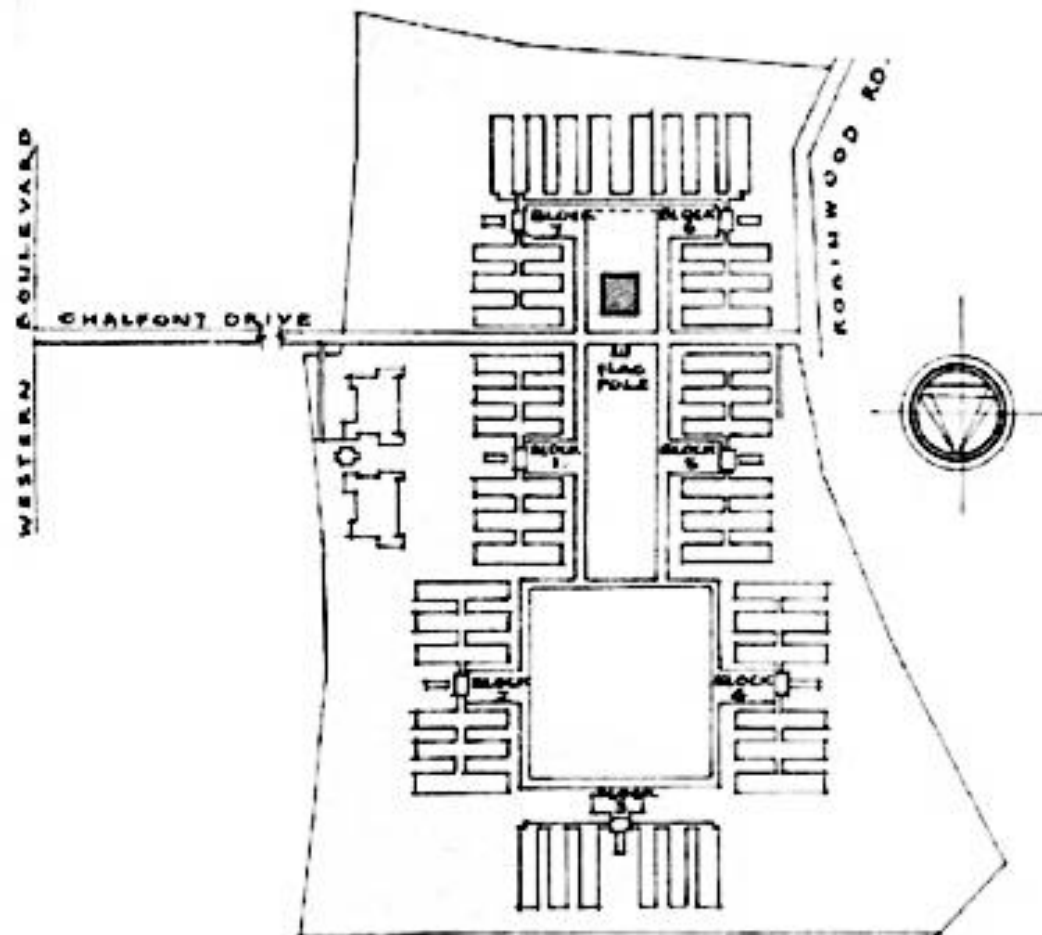


The Nottingham War Room: Design and Function

A case study of the 1952–53
Regional War Room at Chalfont Drive
'The Kremlin'

Apsley TOB



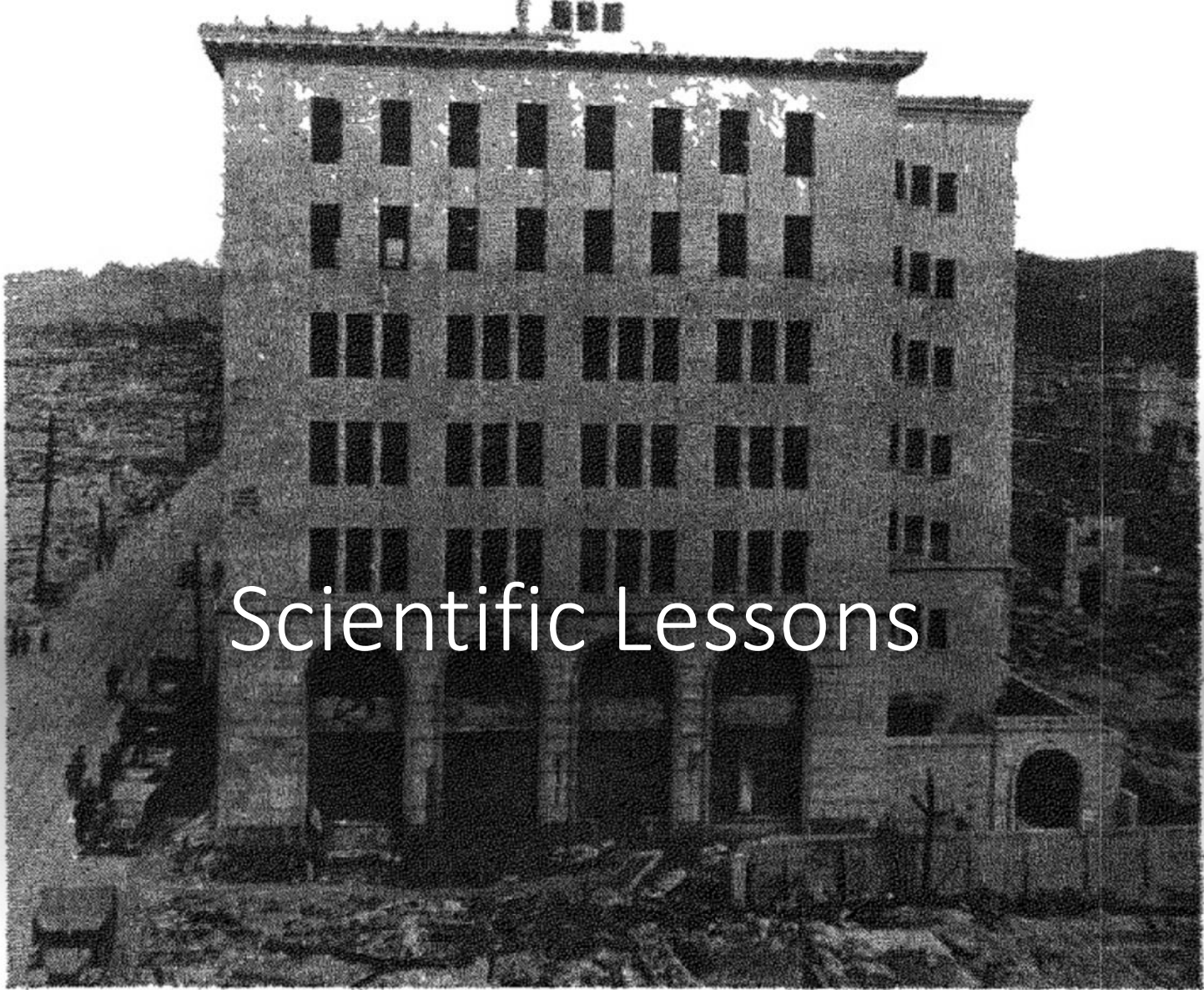


KEY PLAN

SCALE 1/5000

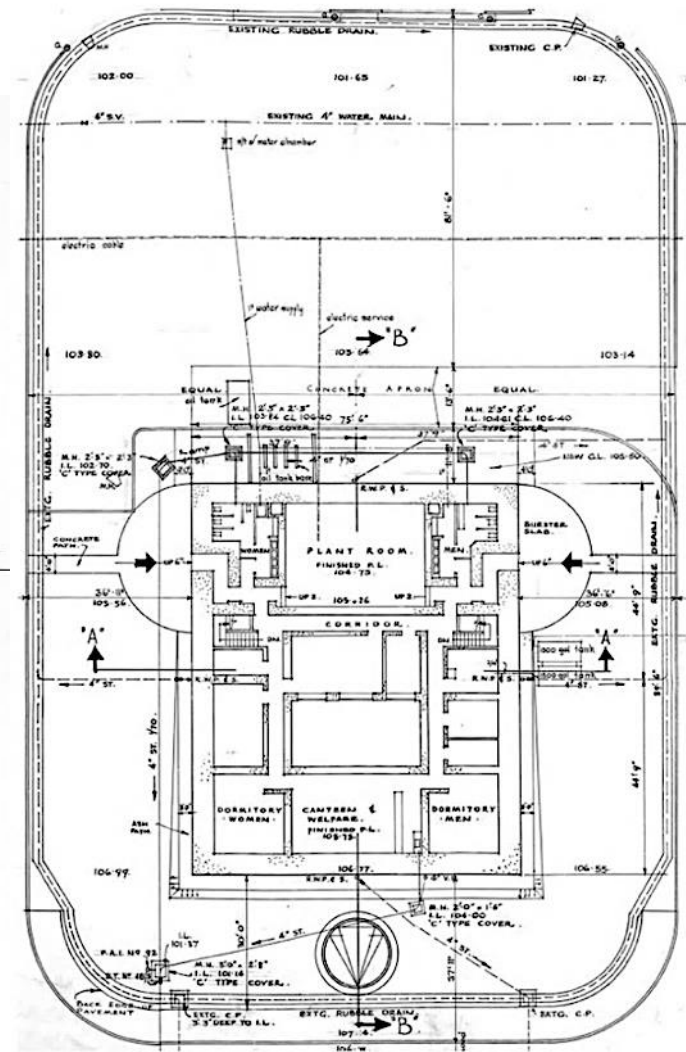
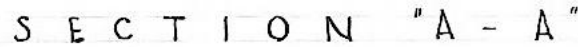
Design
Responsibility:
L. G. Pargeter
MBE





Scientific Lessons

Reinforced concrete building about 300 yds. from the centre of damage which is to the left of the Photograph. There was no serious structural damage although a roof panel was depressed and some internal party walls were deflected. Designed for earthquake resistance, this building has a composite reinforced concrete and steel frame.



Structural Measures at Nottingham

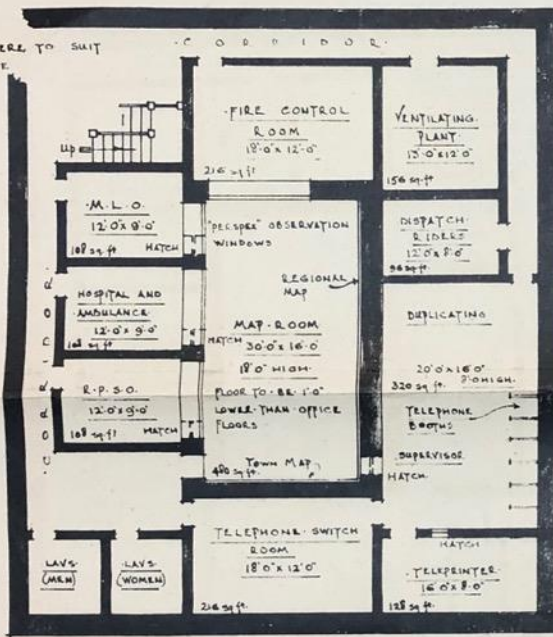
Revised plan
dated 14 March 1952

Baseline Accommodation (Working Group, 9 Nov 1949)

~~SECRET~~ 1492.

ADVICE 1949

ENTRANCE - HERE TO SUIT
DESIGN - ON SITE.

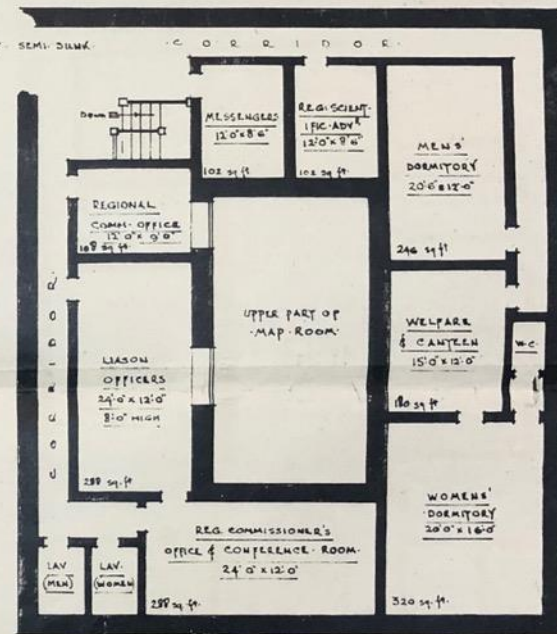


LOWER FLOOR

NOTE:

EXTERNAL WALLS TO BE
THICKENED ACCORDING TO
DEGREE OF PROTECTION
REQUIRED.

ENTRANCE - HERE IF SEMI-DUNK
STRUCTURE.



FIRST FLOOR

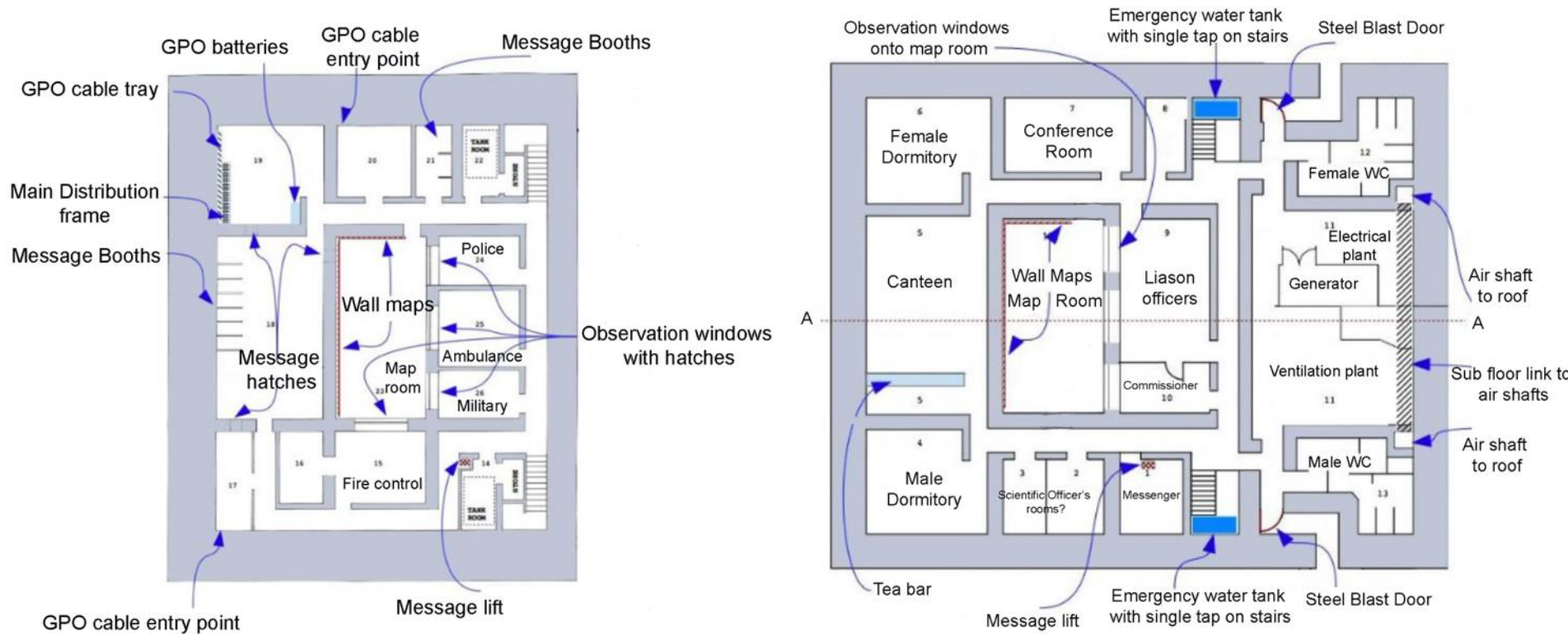
DRAWN BY *H. Smith*
TRACED BY *H. Smith*
CHECKED

SUGGESTED LAY-OUT FOR REGIONAL WAR ROOM

SCALE EIGHT FEET TO ONE INCH

CHIEF ENGINEERS BRANCH
HOME OFFICE
SEPTEMBER 1949

Nottingham as Built - 1953





Canteen



Dormitory



Message Lift



Lighting and ventilation



message booths



1950s signage



PMBX 5



Communication supervisor's area with hatches



teleprinter



Home Office
tape relay
network



Central map room



Storage packing



The hydrogen bomb test —at Enewetok in 1952