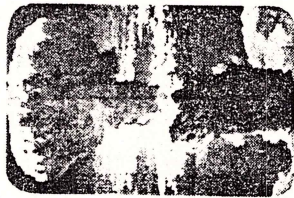


**PERSPECTIVE**

International tensions appear to be tightening every day and with them comes an increasing risk of nuclear war. In civil defence terms Britain is one of the worst prepared countries in Europe. This may well have been acceptable in the past but in 1980 people are beginning to express alarm. ROY TOWERS now tells you what happens when an A-bomb drops, how best to protect your family, and who will take over as the missiles begin to fall.



# Anatomy of an A-bomb explosion

IF A nuclear bomb drops on you it is like a big Kiangarrri. At least a SS20 missile, or all missiles, certainly, have been prepared to your little plot of earth some considerable time ago.

This knowledge will not be consoling, but along with other pieces of information it could well save lives in the event of nuclear war. Knowing just what the effects of a nuclear bomb are likely to be can help in planning defence measures. Even nine miles away anyone unprotected is likely to suffer from very severe blisters. The next factor is the effect of blast. It has been compared to a hurricane, with buildings up to two miles from the centre of the blast being virtually demolished.

Fallout is perhaps the most feared and least predictable effect of a nuclear blast. Many people imagine that fallout is debris from the bomb itself raining down in the aftermath of the explosion.

In fact, it is nothing more than everything that is blown up into the air which is being about at the location of the blast. The force of the explosion sucks up vast quantities of dust from the ground and whirls it up through the

rapidly rising fireball where it is irradiated. As the fireball dissipates the dust now thoroughly radioactive, is carried along by the wind and gradually falls back to earth. It can cover an area hundreds of miles long by tens of miles wide.

Radioactive material of this sort rapidly loses its damaging properties. It has been estimated that after 2 days the fallout will be 100 times less harmful than it was immediately after the blast. Another method of describing the effects of fallout is to draw concentric circles at varying distances from the actual point of impact to give an estimate of the range of damage up to 10 miles from the actual explosion.

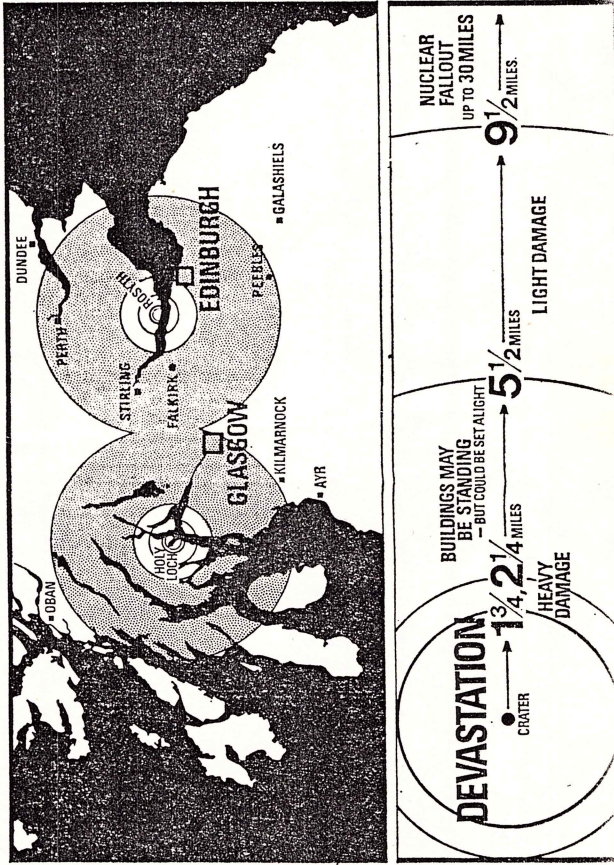
Technically, the point of impact of a nuclear bomb is known as Ground Zero. This is slightly misleading as several missiles are set to explode in the air above a target with a flattening effect much beloved of nuclear armaments experts.

**600ft. crater**

At the point of impact a crater is formed with a radius of 600ft. and a depth of 100ft. From the centre of the crater to a radius of 1/2 miles there is complete devastation with utter flattening of buildings and destruction of roads.

From 1/2 to 2 miles damage is heavy with most buildings destroyed. Buildings still standing but little else. From 2 1/2 to 5 1/2 miles the damage will vary from heavy to light. Houses and other buildings may still be standing, but chimneys will be blown off as will most roof tiles. Buildings anywhere up to this distance also face the chance of being set alight by the heat which accompanies the blast. From 5 1/2 to 9 1/2 miles damage will normally be light. Windows will have been blown in by the blast, but houses will be standing and habitable.

All of these calculations are based on the effect of a one megaton bomb falling on a particular area. Conditions will be different if more than one bomb hits the same area, but except in the case of strong military targets it is unlikely to be all too far from these figures. One bomb on to



# Surviving the holocaust of a nuclear attack

NUCLEAR war is unlikely to come in the form of a surprise attack. Government experts feel confident that political and military foot-stamping will give about 16 hours notice of a nuclear attack. This means that the average family will have a reasonable amount of time to prepare their home for the worst. In fact, your home gives by far the best chance of survival. Unless you are unlucky enough to live next door to a military base there is really no point in getting in your car and heading for the hills.

The authorities are likely to shut down petrol stations to prevent this, and even if you have petrol you stand a good chance of getting stuck in a traffic jam.

Many European countries have done a great deal to provide protection for their citizens in the event of nuclear war. In Russia there has been a huge campaign since 1972 to build civil defence shelters in factories, schools,