

The Peace News

GOOD BUNKER GUIDE

As we were preparing these pages—the third in our series of articles for the Hard Rock “Home Defence” exercise—for printing, it was reported that the exercise has been cancelled by the Home Office because at least twenty of the local authorities listed opposite had refused to take part. More information will appear elsewhere in this issue and in later issues.

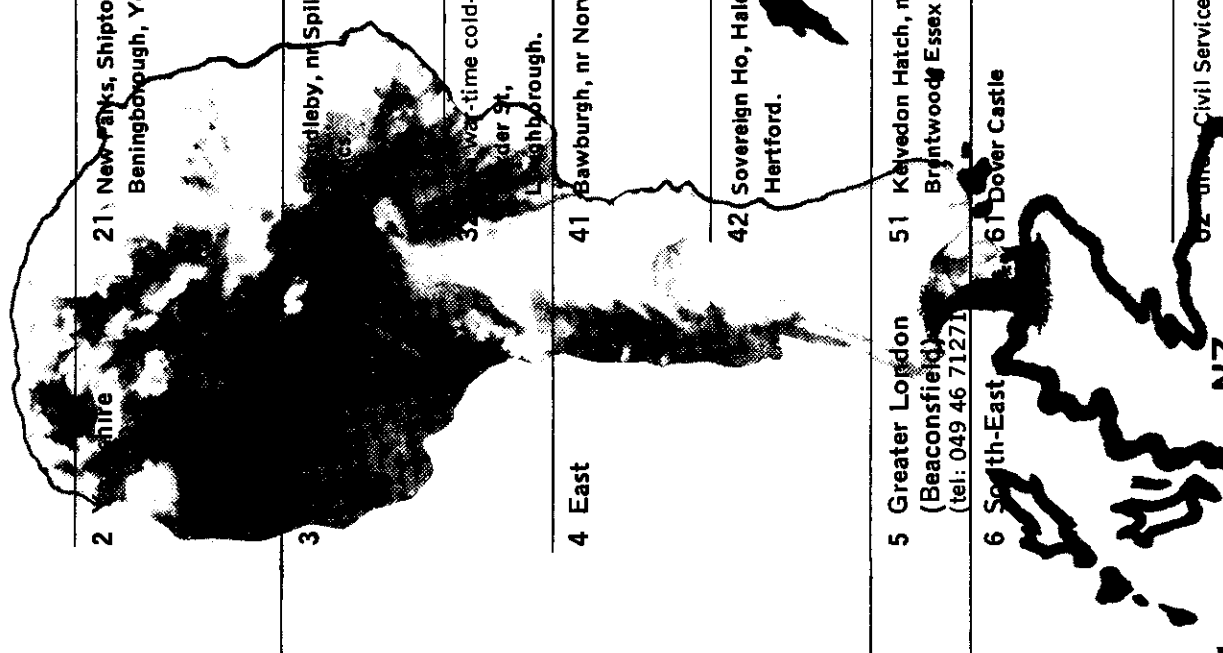
The chart opposite gives, we believe, the clearest and most complete list of Home Defence bunkers in England and Wales yet produced. We hope it'll be useful in planning activities opposing their existence and their use in future exercises.

THE HOME DEFENCE STRUCTURE

In any time of threatened unrest—whether caused by a government taking us into war or by, say, very strong opposition to its economic policies—twelve Regional Commissioners would be appointed from the ranks of junior Cabinet Ministers. These would be the only elected officials in the entire system. There's no evidence of any civilian “regional seat of government” existing to house them. It is assumed that they'd be housed in the Armed Forces Headquarters (AFHQs), their communication with the outside world controlled by the Regional Military Commander.

Most functions affecting the civilian population would be carried out at Sub-Regional Headquarters (SRHQ) level. A Sub-Regional Commissioner—usually a County Council Chief Executive—and a small civilian staff would have theoretical absolute power from here—again “working alongside” a military commander with

Army District (and District HQ)	Home Defence Region (+Armed Forces HQ)	Sub-Region (+ Sub-Region Headquarters)	11 currently being built at	Counties— & County Main Headquarters (CMHQ) & County Standby Headquarters (CSHQ)
North-East (York)	1 North (Ouston nr New-castle)	Hexham, Northumberland.		CLEVELAND Municipal Bldgs, Middlesbrough. (0642 248155) CMHQ: semi-basement in Old Town Hall, Middlesbrough. CSHQ: in District Council bldgs (Civic Centre, Hartlepool). DURHAM County Hall, Durham. (0385 6441) CMHQ: basement area in County Hall. “not hardened”. CSHQ: with District Council control, 2nd floor, Darlington Town Hall. NORTH HUMBERLAND County Hall, Morpeth. (0670 514343) CMHQ: specially-designed basement of new County Hall. CSHQ: TYNE & WEAR Sandvford Ho, Archbold Terr, Newcastle. (0632 816144) CMHQ: basement of Civic Centre, Sunderland. CSHQ: “at another District Council HQ”.
	2	21 New Parks, Shipton-by-Beningbough, Yorks.		HUMBERSIDE County Hall, Beverley, Hull 17. (0482 867131) CMHQ: Wavne (nr Hull), ex Army radar control bldg. CSHQ: basement, Grimsby Town Hall. NORTH YORKS County Hall, Northallerton. (0609 3123) CMHQ: basement of County Hall. SOUTH YORKS County Hall, Barnsley. (0226 86141) CMHQ: basement of Cusworth Hall, Spottborough, Doncaster. CSHQ: basement of civic bldgs, Barnsley. WEST YORKS County Hall, Wakefield 1. (0942 67111) CMHQ: basement of County Hall. CSHQ: Brighouse, nr Halifax.
Eastern (Colchester)	3	32 Spaldley, nr Spilsby, Loughborough.		DERBYSHIRE County Offices, Matlock. (0629 3411) CMHQ: a normal office in County Offices—“definitely for civil emergencies only”. CSHQ: LINCOLNSHIRE County Offices, Lincoln 1. (0522 299931) CMHQ: at County offices. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE County Hall, W Bridgford, Nottm. 2 (0602 863366) CMHQ: basement in County Hall. CSHQ: under the Water Board, Mansfield.
	4 East	41 Bawburgh, nr Norwich.		LEICESTERSHIRE County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester 3. (0533 871313) CMHQ: at County Hall. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE County Hall, Northampton 1. (0604 34883) CMHQ: on ground floor, County Hall. CSHQ: in a Social Services bldg owned by County Council, Kettering.
	42	Sovereign Ho, Hales Hertford.		CAMBRIDGESHIRE Shire Hall, Castle Hill, Cambridge 3. (0223 358811) CMHQ: basement in the Shire Hall. CSHQ: at Town Hall, Peterborough. NORFOLK County Hall, Norwich 1. (0603 61122) CMHQ: basement in County Hall. CSHQ: basement in CC bldg “in the Kings Lynn area”. SUFFOLK County Hall Ipswich 4. (0473 55801) CMHQ: underneath Police HQ, Civic Drive, Ipswich: “purpose built”. CSHQ: St Edmundsbury District Council bldg, Bury St Edmunds.
London	5 Greater London (Beaconsfield) (tel: 049 46 71271)	51 Kewdon Hatch, nr Brintwood Essex (sic)		BEDFORDSHIRE County Hall, Bedford. (0234 63222) CMHQ: at County Hall. CSHQ: County Hall, Chelmsford 1. (0245 67222) CMHQ: at County Hall. CSHQ: very large bldg on/under playing fields at Mistley, Manningtree. HERTFORDSHIRE County Hall, Hertford (0992 54242) CMHQ: lower ground floor, County Hall. CSHQ: basement rented in District Council bldg Hemel Hempstead.
South-East (Aldershot)	6 South-East	61 Dover Castle		NW GROUP under new school, Beatrice Rd, Southall, Middx. (01-574 5775) N GROUP Mill Hill Barracks (temp: GLC blocking move to Dollis Hill) NE GROUP Northumberland Ave, Wandsworth E12 (01-530 2121) SE GROUP Pear Tree Hse, Lunham Rd/Hawke Rd, SE19 (01-761 4266) SW GROUP Church Hill Rd, North Cheam, Surrey. (01-641 1400) KENT County Hall, Maidstone. (0622 671411) CMHQ: Maidstone. “Policy of not revealing whereabouts.” CSHQ: SURREY County Hall, Penrhyn Rd, Kingston/Thames. (01-546 1050) CMHQ: at the Technical College, Guildford. CSHQ: at the Town Hall, Reigate. EAST SUSSEX Pelham Ho, St Andrews Lane, Lewes. (079 16 5400) CMHQ: basement in County hall (not Pelham Ho) off Western Rd. CSHQ: WEST SUSSEX County Hall, Chichester. (0243 785100) CMHQ: cellar in County Hall. CSHQ: purpose-built 60s bldg, rear of disused CC bldg, Horsham.
	62	62 unknown		BERKSHIRE Shire Hall, Shinfield Park, Reading. (0743 85444) CMHQ: “purpose-adapted” basement, Shire Hall. CSHQ: at District Council offices, Newbury (2 sites for relocation)



and a contingent of police.

Since it is assumed that after a nuclear attack all long-distance communications would break down, the surviving AFHQs and SRHQs would probably be the highest effective layer of the hierarchy—any national bunkers would merely serve to protect the skins of the important people in them. It is assumed that the Army has its own deep bunkers: at Wilton, nr Salisbury and/or Warminster, Wiltshire. It now seems likely that there is a bunker for senior Ministers, etc., in a very large underground factory at Corsham, Wiltshire.

SCOTLAND & N IRELAND

Apologies to readers in these countries for the lack of details on their Region and County HQs; help tracing these would be much appreciated. Scotland is divided into three Zones, equivalent to Sub-regions in England and Wales. North Zone HQ is at Anstruther, Fife; West Zone is possibly at East Kilbride, Strathclyde. There are large bunkers at Kirkcaldy, W Lothian and Barmston Quarry, Edinburgh. One of these is East Zone HQ, and the other is Scotland Central Control—a tier of control above the Zones which has no equivalent South of the Border. The peacetime Army District HQ is at Craighall Barracks, west of Edinburgh. Northern Ireland has its SRHQ—equivalent to Gough Barracks, Armagh; this is also the peacetime Army District HQ.

SOURCES/FURTHER READING

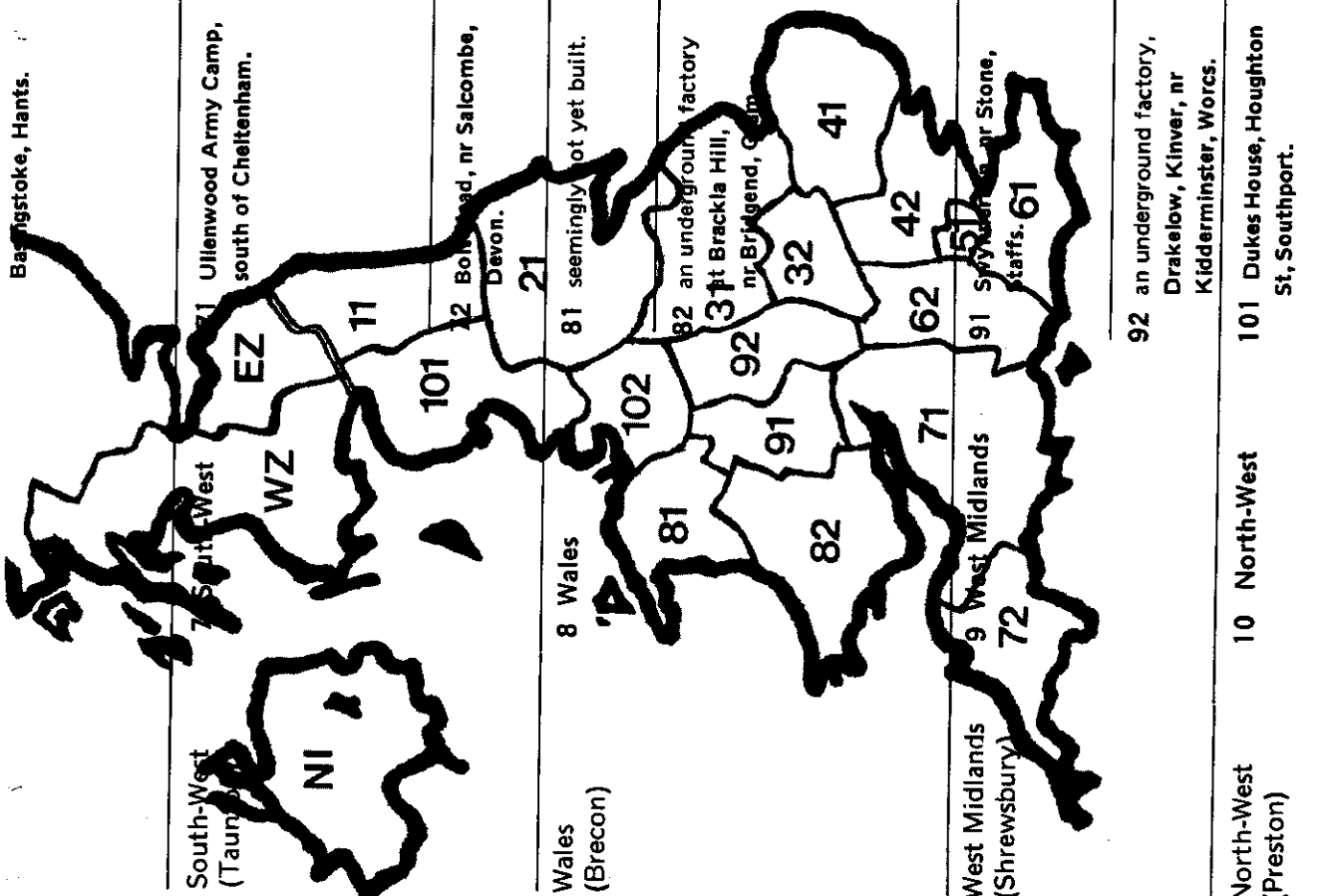
The information in this chart has been put together from a great many sources over the years, by people too numerous to mention; special mention, however, should go to Duncan Campbell of the New Statesman.

The information on County bunkers is Official. Not Secret; much of it is therefore available on County Information Officers where they are prepared to be helpful. Gaps in the list indicate either unhelpfulness or the nonexistence of a bunker. You should be able to fill in these gaps either from your local Municipal Yearbook (which lists council-owned premises) or by ploughing through Council Minutes—both available at main libraries. Please send us any information you turn up. Where the name of town is given as the location for a County bunker it is likely to be at County Hall—but please check this.

Much of the information here is in GND's Hard Rock/Hard Luck pack—but this list contains a number of corrections and updates to their lists. The pack is available from GND, Goodwin Street, London N4.

See previous articles in FN's Hard Rock series appeared in the issues of May 14 and June 25. Lists are available for 40p each post paid from: Face News, 8 Elm Avenue, Nottingham 3.

Basingstoke, Hants.



CSHQ: "purpose-built 15 yr old shelter", Fire Stn, Bletchley.
 HAMPSHIRE: The Castle, Winchester. (0962 4411)
 CMHQ: Basement of car park bldg at The Castle.
 CSHQ:
 ISLE OF WIGHT: County Hall, Newport, IOW. (0983 524031)
 CMHQ: rented ex-RAF site, Ventnor (shared with Air Traffic Control)
 CSHQ:
 OXFORDSHIRE: County Hall, Oxford 1. (0865 722422)
 CMHQ: underground, alongside CC bldg at Wooddeaton, NE of Oxford.
 CSHQ:

AVON: Avon Ho, The Haymarket, Bristol. (0272 290777)
 CMHQ: Flowershill, Brislington.
 CSHQ:
 DORSET: County Hall, Dorchester 1. (0305 3131)
 CMHQ: at the City Library, Dorchester.
 CSHQ:
 GLOUCESTERSHIRE: Shire Hall, Gloucester 1. (0452 21444)
 CMHQ: at the Shire Hall.
 CSHQ:
 SOMERSET: County Hall, Taunton. (0823 73451)
 CMHQ: purpose-built, under late 60s extension to County Hall.
 CSHQ:
 WILTSHIRE: County Hall, Bythesea Rd, Trowbridge. (022 14 3641)
 CMHQ: at County Hall.
 CSHQ:

CORNWALL: County Hall, Truro. (0872 74282)
 CMHQ: at County Hall.
 CSHQ:
 DEVON: County Hall, Topham Road, Exeter 2. (0392 77977)
 CMHQ: basement room under a wing of County Hall.
 CSHQ: under the Civic Centre, Barnstaple (shared with District Co.).
 CSHQ:

CLYDE: Shire Hall, Mold, Clwyd. (0352 2121)
 CMHQ: at the Shire Hall.
 CSHQ:
 GWYNEDD: County Offices, Caernarfon. (0286 4121)
 CMHQ: Caernarfon.
 CSHQ:
 DYFED: County Hall, Carmarthen. (0267 4251)
 CMHQ: Carmarthen.
 CSHQ:
 MID-GLAMORGAN: County Hall, Cathays Park, Cardiff. (0222 28033)
 CMHQ: Bridgend Ind Est—protest stopped rebuilding Spring 82.
 CSHQ:
 S GLAMORGAN: County HQ, Newport Rd, Cardiff 2. (0222 499022)
 CMHQ: Wenvay, Cardiff.
 CSHQ: Coryton, Cardiff.
 W GLAMORGAN: Guildhall, Swansea. (0792 50821)
 CMHQ: West Cross, Swansea.
 CSHQ: Civic Centre, Neath.
 GWENT: County Hall, Gwent. (063 33 6771)
 CMHQ: at Town Hall, Abergavenny (& room allocated at County Hall).
 CSHQ:
 POWYS: County Hall, Llandrindod Wells. (0597 3711)
 CMHQ: Llandrindod Wells.
 CSHQ:

W MIDLANDS: County Hall, 1 Lancaster Circus, Birmingham. (021-300 5151)
 CMHQ: at CC training centre, Sutton Coldfield; ex-AA Gun Control.
 CSHQ:
 STAFFORDSHIRE: County Bldgs, Stafford 16. (0785 3121)
 CMHQ: basement, County Building.
 CSHQ: Queens Avenue, Stoke-on-Trent.
 WARWICKSHIRE: Shire Hall, Warwick. (0926 493431)
 CMHQ: basement at Shire Hall.
 CSHQ: Basement rented at Dist C office, Retreat Bldg, Rugby.

SHROPSHIRE: The Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury 2. (0743 222100)
 CMHQ: basement CD room in 10-year-old Shirehall bldg.
 CSHQ:
 HEREFORD & WORCS: County Hall, Spetchley Rd, Worcester. (0905 325366)
 CMHQ: basement in County Hall.
 CSHQ: basement of old Shire Hall, Hereford.

CUMBRIA: The Courts, Carlisle. (0228 234556)
 CMHQ: Carlisle.
 CSHQ:
 LANCASHIRE: County Hall, Preston 1. (0772 54868)
 CMHQ: West Leigh, Lea Rd, Preston.
 CSHQ:

CHESHIRE: County Hall, Chester 1. (0244 602424)
 CMHQ: under County Hall.
 CSHQ: Municipal Bldgs, Earle St, Crewe.
 GTR MANCHESTER: County Hall, Piccadilly Gdns, M1. (061-247 3111)
 CMHQ: "small ex-CD bldg", Mill Lane, Cheadle nr Stockport.
 CSHQ: Bolton.
 MERSEYSIDE: Metropolitan Ho, Old Hall St, Liverpool. (051-227 5234)
 CMHQ: old "CD bunker" (7 WW2) under Walker Art Gallery, L. pool.
 CSHQ: In District Council "educational premises", Southport.

NOTE: Where the site of an Armed Forces HQ bunker is not identified in column 2 above, it is likely that it is located at the "peacetime" Army District Headquarters (given in column 1). Region 3 is an exception to this; it has no Army District HQ and its designated Military Regional Commander is an RAF man. It's AFHQ is therefore likely to be at an air-base in the Region.