

G. 18/3/85

164 bombs that 'destroyed UK'

THE United Kingdom was "hit" by 164 nuclear bombs at the weekend as part of the civil defence exercise, Intex 85, aimed at monitoring the effects of nuclear war on Europe.

Nuclear war bunkers, underground Royal Observer Corps posts, and county council emergency headquarters were manned to plot the course of the simulated nuclear attack and the resultant fallout.

By the end of the day most of the British population was dead and a large proportion of the rest doomed.

The exercise normally unpublicised to deter demonstrations, is held annually to help train volunteers and test communications systems.

In Northampton, Mr Alan Farrell, the national secretary of the Association of Civil Defence and Emergency Planning Officers, said he thought more public information was necessary.

At his headquarters under Northampton county hall, teleprinters were busy from 8 am on Saturday with news of the first air-burst nuclear

An exercise at the weekend simulated the effects of a raid. Paul Brown went to Northampton to watch

attacks — mostly over military targets.

The first bomb went off at Maidstone and there were more than 20 around Britain in a few minutes.

The pattern was repeated all over Nato with Belgium, Denmark, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, West Germany, and the Isle of Man and Channel Islands taking part.

In Northampton, the scientific advisers were only interested in the war as it affected the county.

Dr Roger Woodcock, a chemistry teacher, had already prepared a map from the weather reports to show the likely extent and drift of fallout should bombs or missiles hit his part of England. The first air-bursts were plotted for blast and heat damage and only one on nearby Leicestershire caused blast and fire damage to the north-east of the county.

The second wave of bombs began with a two megaton bomb on Aberdeen aimed to destroy the oil industry. The first hit to worry Northampton was a one megaton bomb near Peterborough at 11.40 am which appeared to be up-wind of the country's most heavily-populated areas.

Other volunteers tested communications with the Leicestershire headquarters and exchanged messages. Raymet, the radio amateurs emergency network, had second-hand teleprinters bought from British Telecom for £5 each which they had converted into a radio-telephone system.

The headquarters were linked to half a dozen other centres by several communication channels.

Mr Farrell believes in civil defence, although he acknowledges that the vast majority would die. He does not

advocate the idea of a limited nuclear attack, but says that radiation decays very quickly.

He feels that many lives could be saved in Northamptonshire if survivors were given the right information about fallout.

Mr Farrell is one of four officers and three support staff. He has 14 volunteer scientific advisers but needs about 40.

He also has around 80 other volunteers, mostly local authority senior officers, but to have a county-wide monitoring service as suggested by Home Office circulars, he would need several thousand volunteers.

He says that finding these is virtually impossible, partly because CND publicity had been effective.

At 4.08 pm there was a 800 kiloton ground-burst south of Northampton and at 7.40 pm a two megaton bomb left a crater where Stanwick had been.

It was clear that only around 100,000 of Northamptonshire's 560,000 population would have survived the initial attack.

Tests on G. stockpile 12/4/85

By Andrew Veitch,
Medical Correspondent
HEALTH officials are testing a paper-lined, second-hand freight container as a potential means of stockpiling medical supplies for a nuclear war. The container, acquired at a cost of £825 and packed with items regarded as essential for the holocaust is including 250 feather pillows — Burtonwood standing on for inspection at the end of this month to see if the stores have survived the war planners in the Department of Health's stockpile study group will then decide whether the NHS should buy 2,000 second-hand containers in a national stockpiling operation.

The stores, include:
4 blankets; 2,000 sheets; 2,000 camp beds; 3 Prinus stoves; 200 lamps; 100 Terry rollers; 100 stoves; 3 Terry towels; 100 stretchers; 3 study pillow slibs; 1,000 Barnes emergency stoves; and for the South-west Regions, said Mr John tainers on one of these containers on trial stuffed with Public Service Agency's fire pot at Burtonwood. We will be opening it at the end of this month.