

# Nurses key to nuclear 'aid help'

10/6/83 G

Gareth Parry

The Royal Army Medical Corps has built two hospitals in the past decade. One is sinking into soft ground the other is large areas of glass and concrete which would collapse like a pack of cards in the event of an attack on Britain," civil defence and emergency planning officers heard their conference in Bourne-mouth yesterday.

The military hospitals — the richness of Kent at Catterick, Yorkshire, and the Royal Herbert at Woolwich, London, were given as examples of the state of unpreparedness in some areas of the country against nuclear war.

Dr Ron Goodhead, a leading authority on nuclear, biological and chemical warfare effects as presenting to the conference with an alternative argument to the British Medical Association's recent gloomy prognosis that the National Health Service would collapse in the event of a limited nuclear strike. But he said that many things had to be remedied in order that some amount of medical care would be available.

"Protect and survive" — the Government publication which advised people under nuclear attack to "amongst other things cover their heads with their coats" — was "a bit of a disaster itself and had the mickey taken out of it," said Dr Goodhead, a Newcastle upon Tyne GP and a colonel in the RAMC Territorial Army's list.

Dr Goodhead said a serious flaw in planning was the notion of rescue teams digging out survivors.

A doctor would be a rarity and so the greatest good for the greatest number of people, he said, would come from nurses and others with a knowledge of first aid.

"The public is abysmally ignorant of first aid but trained nurses would be invaluable no matter that they may have been retired for years," he said. "Basic nursing procedures, which would be invaluable as many doctors would not be sufficiently equipped, do not alter."

There would be so many injured that priority treatment might have to be given to "the young, artisans—those people whose recovery would be of most use," said the doctor.

I  
E  
if  
id  
li-  
of  
Y.  
g.  
in  
'd  
as  
te  
in  
u-  
on  
ot  
al  
et  
A  
it  
e-  
w  
p  
d  
as  
n  
e  
It  
of  
to  
es  
"

# Doctors' warning on life after bomb

4/3/83

By Andrew Veitch

Britain's medical services would collapse after a nuclear attack and could not even treat the casualties after the detonation of a one megaton bomb on a single city, the British Medical Association's inquiry into the effects of a nuclear war reported yesterday.

The Department of Health's plans for the aftermath of a war will be ineffective, and the

Grim picture of aftermath, page 6; Leader comment, page 12

Home Office's calculations of the numbers of deaths and injuries are seriously deficient, the 20-month inquiry has found.

There will be no drugs or equipment, and doctors and nurses will be helpless. They will be more likely to spend their time looking for food than treating the sick and

dying, according to the report by the BMA's Board of Science and Education.

Dr John Dawson, head of the BMA's professional division and a member of the group which prepared the report, said yesterday: "This is simply a dispassionate account of the medical effects of nuclear weapons."

"There are no recommendations. People should read the report and form their own conclusions." The report's conclusions could be used to justify armament or disarmament, he said.

The group has concluded that a limited nuclear war would be improbable and escalation to a full scale nuclear exchange would be inevitable. A possible 200-megaton attack on Britain would become 600 megatons if cruise missiles were deployed. A full-scale attack against military and strategic targets by the Soviet weapons thought to be currently targeted on Britain would, it says, kill 38.6 million people and injure another 4.3 million.

Copies of the report were sent to Government Ministers seven days ago. The Defence Secretary, Mr Michael Heseltine, said yesterday that the inquiry's conclusion that the decision to deploy cruise missiles would raise the scale of Soviet attack three or fourfold had "no basis in fact."

CIVIL DEFENCE

4/11/83 G.H.

HO

# November uprising on nuclear shelters

By ALAN CAMPBELL

DISSIDENTS in Moscow are reported to be complaining bitterly about the non-provision of nuclear shelters for the citizenry.

According to reliable sources, the unprecedented public reaction to present civil defence procedures results from the imminent arrival in Britain of Cruise missiles.

The dissidents have taken a measured risk in drawing world attention to their plight.

The Muscovites are reported to be particularly upset that a network of nuclear shelters and bunkers is already established in the neighbourhood for the use of leading officials and bureaucrats. They were incensed recently when taken to Ayrgrad nearby and shown round a superb local authority shelter.

Comrade Alex Loudon, vice-chairman of Moscow and Waterside Community Council, said yesterday: "We are not CND or anything. Cruise missiles are being spread about the country and we now have a strong strike attack and no defence."

Mr Loudon, who visited the Ayr shelter, said: "There is nothing available for the ordinary people."

The community council is applying to Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Council for £20,000 to build nuclear shelters in Moscow and Waterside. Each would hold 250 people 1.5 metres underground with enough tinned food to last 14 days.

For the rest, the best medical aid might be to attempt to "improve the quality of their death."

"People would much prefer to die on a stretcher or beside a friendly face than lie alone out on a street," said Dr Goodhead. He said hospital resources would be "overwhelmed" by the simultaneous arrival of more than six seriously injured people.

This would mean that provision would have to be made for a "field hospital" care of the type employed by the military.

The BMA in its report in May said that a single nuclear air burst over one city would result in more burn victims than the total number of burns unit places throughout Britain.

"The burns unit is a recent development—people successfully treated bad burns before and in many cases the simple procedure of fluid replacement would save lives," he added.

"We can teach lay people who have a little bit of nous how to do medical procedures which would help many people to survive."

B  
K  
f  
V  
I  
t  
t  
z  
i  
f  
a  
v  
b  
t  
l  
c  
s  
t  
f