

SECRET BUNKER

OFFICIAL SOUVENIR GUIDE
TO SCOTLAND'S BEST KEPT SECRET





Welcome to Scotland's Secret Bunker. As you enter this amazing underground labyrinth and walk down the 150 metres of tunnel, from the innocent looking farmhouse to the bunker, consider for a moment the events that would be played out behind the hermetically sealed three tons of blast proof doors through which you are about to pass.

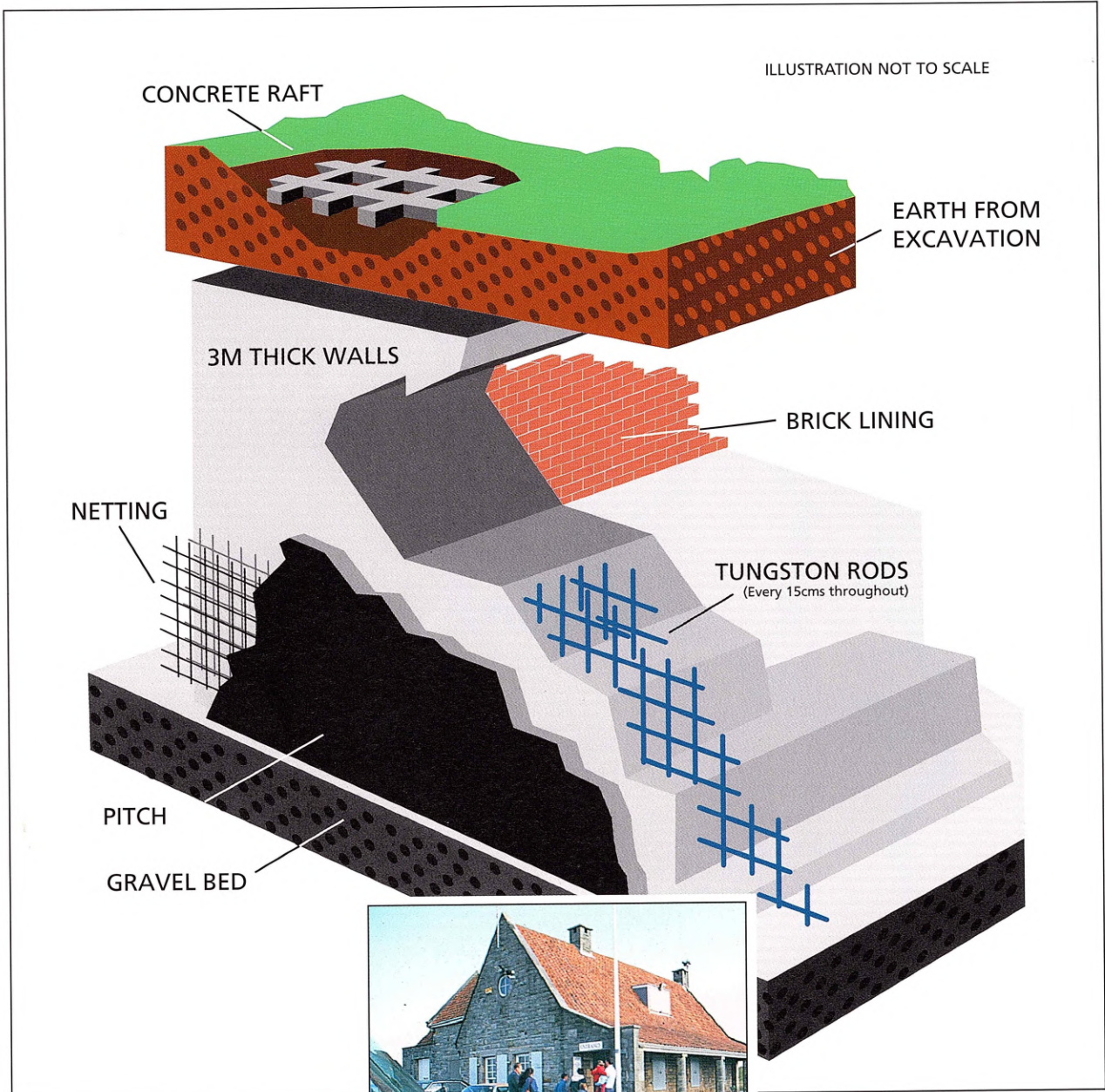
With hindsight, you may want to reflect that the policy of deterrence pursued by successive British governments since the end of World War II has worked...

which is why Scotland's ever-so-secret bunker is a museum today.

World War II ended with the detonation of two atomic bombs on Japan. Science had opened up a sinister and potentially much greater threat to mankind.

Our relationship with the Warsaw Pact countries - dominated by the USSR - who had been our war-time allies, dramatically deteriorated. Thus there existed a lethal and unstable combination of weapons and ideology which, for nearly the next half century, combined to create what came to be known as The Cold War.

The Government's plan at the end of World War II was to establish a chain of early warning radar stations along the east coast of the UK. The radar technology of the time, with its limited range of about 75 km, involved a massive building project. Those built in the areas of greatest risk were sited underground. Here, at Troywood in Fife, close to the key enemy targets of the Royal Navy's Rosyth dockyard and the fighter aircraft of RAF Leuchars, was one of these. There were several sizes of bunkers and this is one of the largest.



The underground structures involved a massive civil engineering task in those dark, austere post-war days. The design of the bunker demanded the excavation of a 40-metres deep hole with a foundation containing gravel at the bottom to form a type of giant “shock absorber”.

Thereafter the building was constructed with an outer shell of 3 metres of solid concrete reinforced every 15cm with 2.5cm thick tungsten rods.

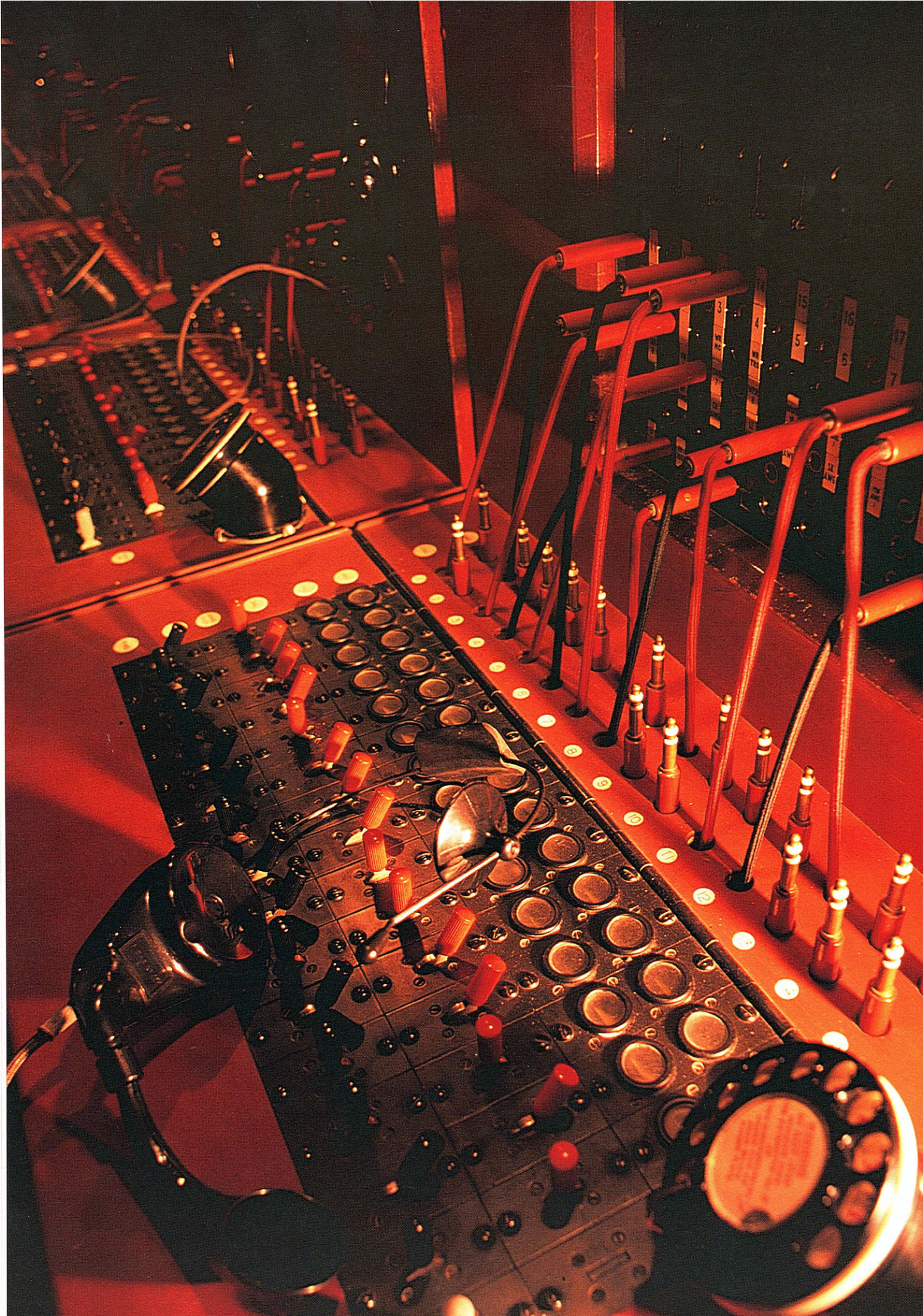
Finally the whole structure was lined with brick, covered with netting and soaked with pitch to form an outer casing, then any spare earth from the excavation was piled on top for added protection. Concrete rafts were layered in the mound to provide “burster caps.”

The guardhouse was built to resemble a traditional Scottish farmhouse but secretly reinforced with concrete and steel girders.

This building concealed the access to the bunker and provided accommodation for the security guards detailed to protect it from prying eyes.

After landscaping the site there was little to give away the secret from above ground.

The fact that even the locals didn't realise what was on their doorstep speaks volumes.

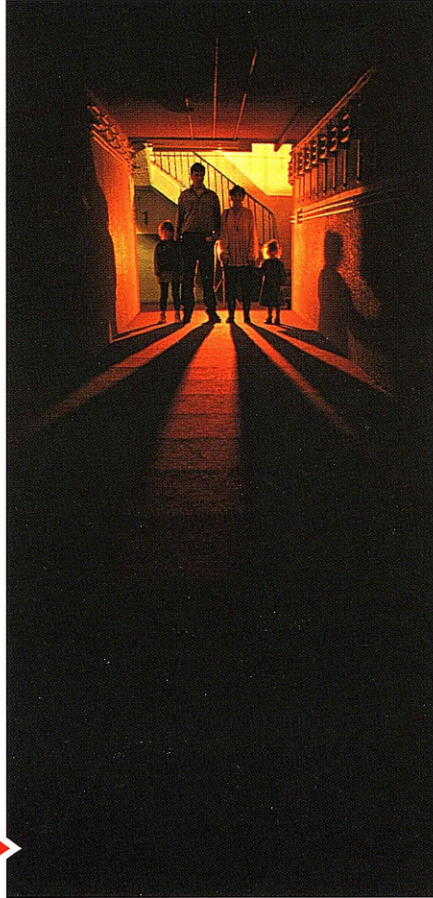


The tunnel stretches nearly 150 metres from the start, sloping gradually downhill to the top floor of the bunker. The drop from the top of the earth mound to the lowest level inside is 30 metres. The tunnel is encased in 0.5metre of concrete until it joins the bunker when the concrete increases to 3 metres.

Electric power is brought into the site through an additional deep cable tunnel.

There is an emergency exit tunnel at the opposite end of the building and adjacent to this area additional rooms house the main extractor fans, air intakes and effluent ejectors. It then accesses a deep stairwell leading to the surface via the emergency tunnel itself over 75 metres long. Sophisticated alarm detectors and CCTV systems protect all entrances and exits together with all airways and ducts.

The air intakes and extractors are all run in concrete tunnels and are additionally protected with tungsten security grilles and detection systems.



A vital link in The Cold War information chain was the Royal Observer Corps, whose 1500 personnel manned small, heavily-protected underground lookout posts throughout the UK.

In the event of an enemy attack where communication in the first few hours or even days would be confused, it was the duty of the Royal Observer Corps to report the location of bomb drops, measuring the power and pressure of the resultant detonation. These reports would then be co-ordinated at Headquarters. This information was absolutely vital when it came to making decisions about assisting the services in the evacuation of civilians and the use of resources such as food and medicine, plus retaliation.

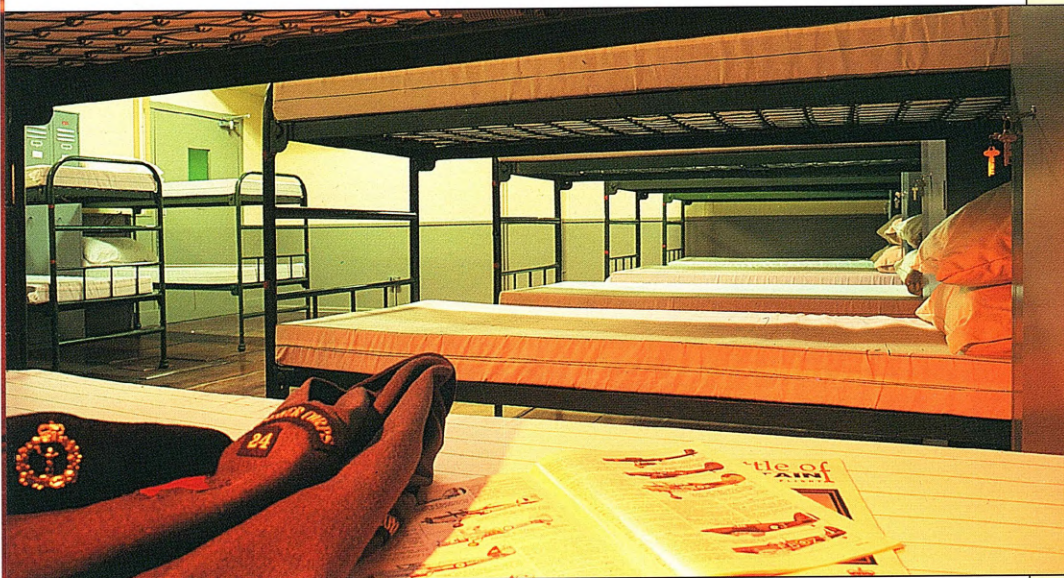
This room is a reconstruction of the The Royal Observer Corps Dundee headquarters, the contents of which have kindly been donated by the Home Office.

The Royal Observer Corps is now no longer operational.



Six dormitories in all were built capable of sleeping up to 300 personnel... but not all at once. Each staff member would work for eighteen hours and sleep for six, swapping their bunk with another staff member for the next six hours and so on. It was known as the "Hot Beds" principle.

The Secretary of State had his own suite of rooms, and the private secretary and military liaison staff were all provided with separate accommodation, the military staff sharing four to a room. The Minister of State was housed in his own office adjacent to and overlooking the nuclear operations room. ▼



FIRST LEVEL

- 1 Security Checkpoint
- 2 Main Bunker Entrance
- 3 Children's Area
- 4 Blast Doors
- 5 Royal Observer Corps
- 6 Dormitory
- 7 Security Command Control Rooms
- 8 Secretary of State Suite
- 9 Cinemas (2)
- 10 Exhibition Gallery
- 11 Chapel
- 12 Offices
- 13 Radio Workshop
- 14 BBC Studio Edit Suite
- 15 BBC Soundproof Room
- 16 Toilets/Showers
- 17 Bunker Cafe & Gift Shop
- 18 Kitchens
- 19 Toilets/Showers
- 20 Extract Fans
- 21 Equipment Storage
- 22 Emergency Exit
- 23 Security

Entrance

1

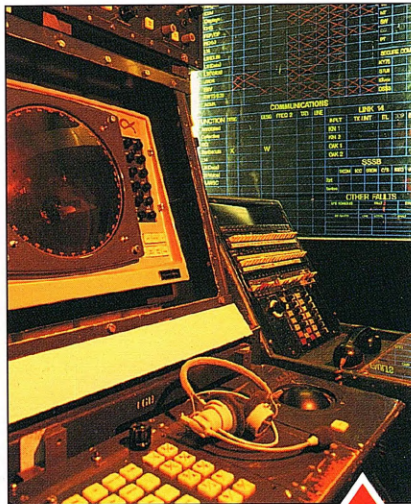
3

2

Equipped and staffed by the BBC, this sound studio would have issued all emergency broadcasts with the most



senior government minister in Scotland's Secret Bunker assuming the role of Regional Commissioners. All other radio and TV channels would be "off air".



The radar room displays some of the equipment that was among the last to record interceptions of Soviet incursions into our air space during the closing days of the cold war period (kindly donated from RAF Buchan by the Ministry of Defence). ▲

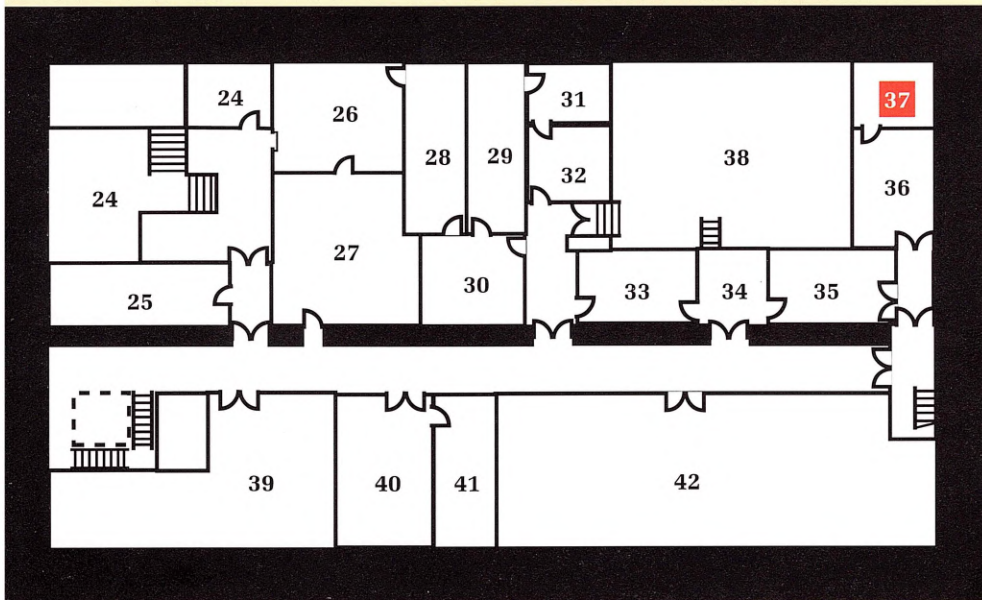
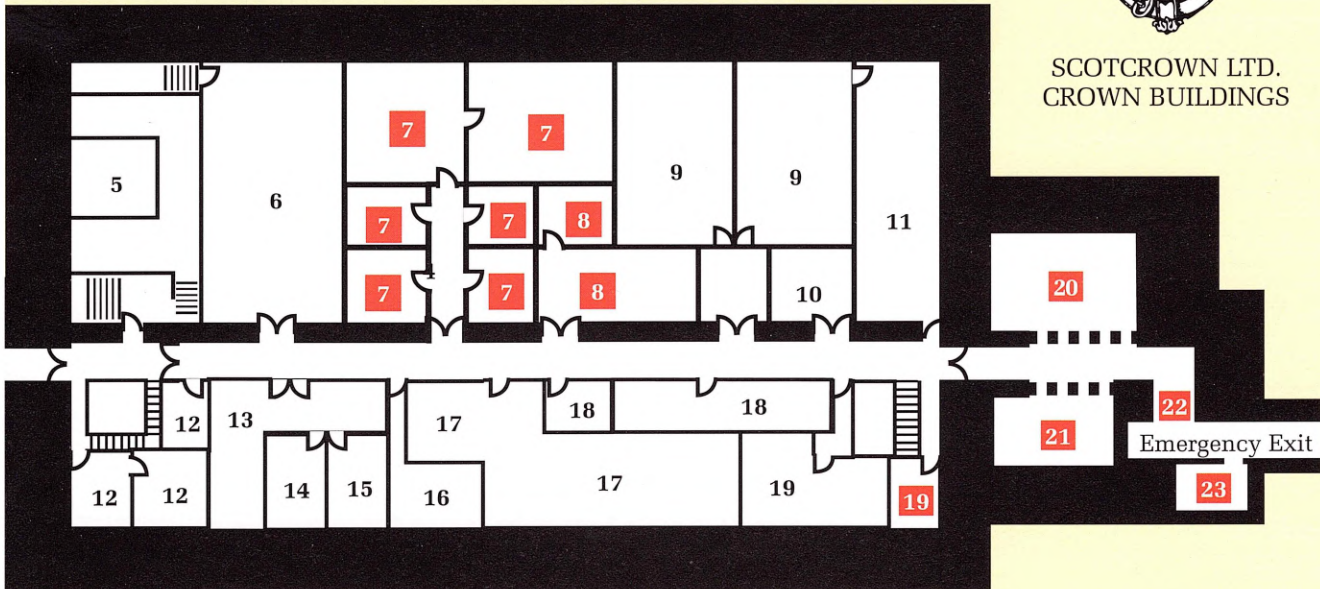
LOWER LEVEL

- 24 RAF Operations
- 25 Radar Room
- 26 Russian Uniform Display
- 27 Civil Defence Control
- 28 Telex & Communications
- 29 Switchboard
- 30 Secretaries
- 31 Police Control
- 32 Emergency Services Control
- 33 Computer Communications
- 34 Viewing Area
- 35 Meteorological Communications
- 36 Minister of State Office/Bedroom
- 37 Maximum Security Area
- 38 Nuclear Command Control Cent
- 39 Telephone Exchange & Museum
- 40 Cinema
- 41 Storage
- 42 Engineering & Plant Room

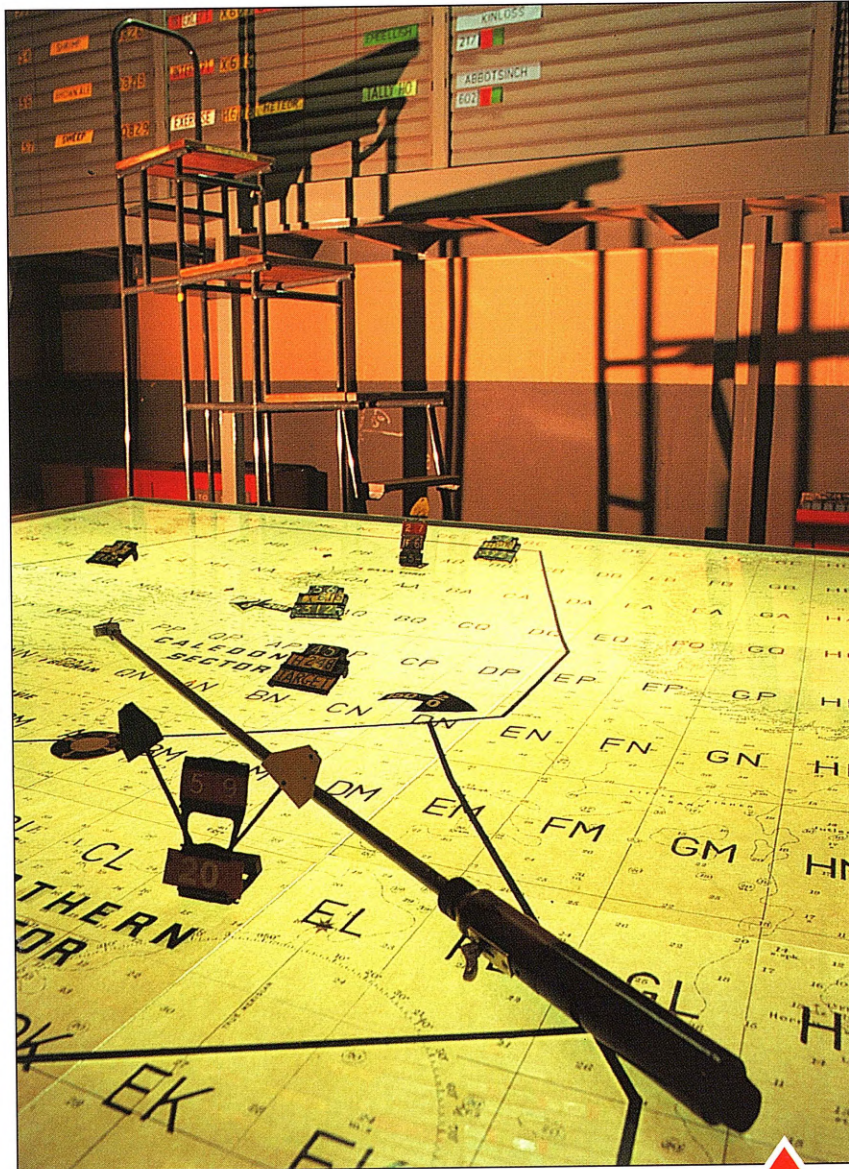
HOW TO FIND YOUR WAY AROUND SCOTLAND'S SECRET BUNKER



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NB Due to security restrictions certain areas must remain off-limits to the general public. These rooms are marked on the floor plans in red squares. Please do not attempt to enter any classified areas or underground corridors as silent alarms will be triggered in the security command control rooms.



In the RAF operations room is a rebuild of the original 1950s RAF centre housed at this site. Throughout The Cold War the Warsaw Pact countries continued to box and cox with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) countries to test their state of readiness in the event of hostilities breaking out.

For instance, a number of Royal Air Force stations, including RAF Leuchars just a few kilometres from here, were on a constant state of alert with heavily armed planes sitting in a special hanger ready to take off. The crews of this Quick Reaction

Alert Force, fully kitted up, lived in a special crew room beside their aircraft.

The moment a Soviet Bear or Bison aircraft entered NATO airspace the crews would be scrambled and could be airborne in a few moments. Until the end of The Cold War this was a regular occurrence, sometimes several times a day.

The room has been faithfully reconstructed using authentic artefacts found on this site including the "Tote" board which shows aircraft and anti-aircraft gun status. Even the files and papers are original!

CIVIL DEFENCE

The civil defence forces provided a full staffing at Scotland's Secret Bunker for the ten years 1958 - 68 when it was a Regional Seat of Government. This room is dedicated to their service at Troywood. It is a faithful rebuild of the Fife Group Control. Many of the original artefacts, paperwork, typewriters and communications equipment were donated by local Civil Defence veterans. Once the room had been two storeys high for RAF Operations-and it was massively refurbished before they moved in.

THE SWITCHBOARD

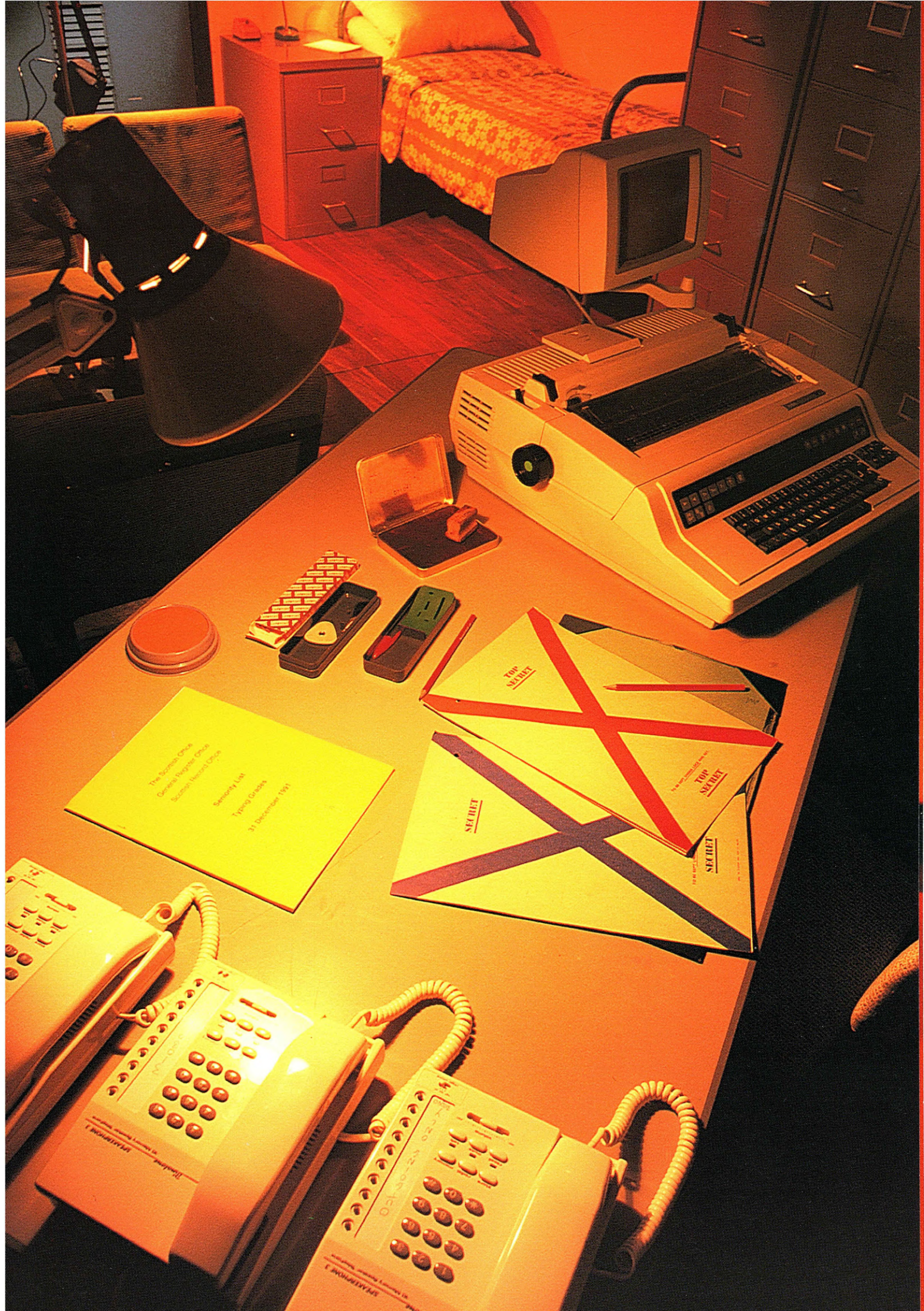
Communications were vital for Scotland's Secret Bunker. Not only was it necessary to be in regular contact with the Prime Minister's office; information would also pour in from many military and civilian sources.

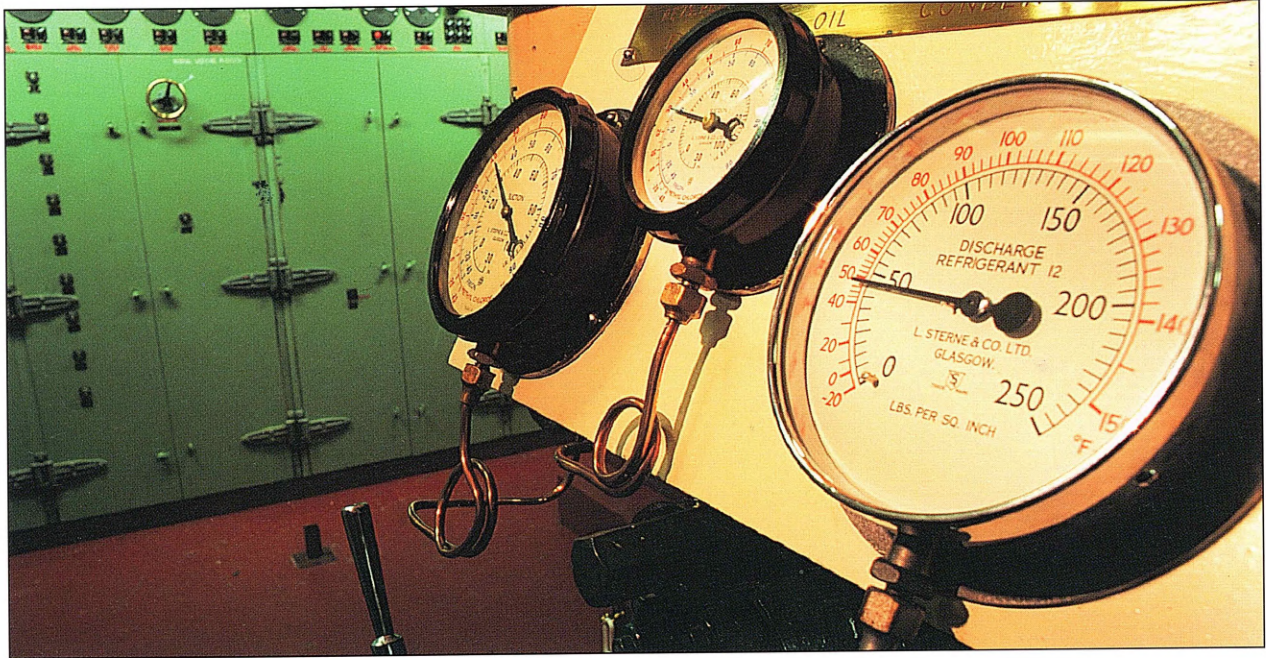
In addition, there would be many requests for information from those inside the bunker - particularly where major decisions were required. Secretaries, telex machines and their operators - and particularly telephones - would be crucial.

The original telephone switchboards are still in the bunker, all in full working order, equipped with 2,800 outside lines and 500 internal extensions - and it was all manually operated!

To ensure the system remained working in the event of a nuclear bomb being dropped, the whole bunker is enclosed in a "Faraday cage."

This provides a total "earth loop" and protects the telephone system from the electromagnetic pulse of a detonation. Fifty years on, this equipment is still the best method of avoiding a complete communications breakdown. The switchboards were staffed by ten operators 24 hours a day.





THE PLANT ROOM

Still containing much of its original equipment, this is surely a testament to the skill of the engineers who built and maintained the plant.

Filtering the air intakes against radioactive particles, gas and biological warfare, the plant moves 1500 cubic metres of air every minute.

This changes the entire air content of the bunker 14 times every fifteen minutes. In the event of fire a smoke extract system can remove smoke at 2200 cubic metres a minute and there is a 24 hour fire detection system in operation. Air can be refrigerated/heated, ozonated/deozonated, humidified and de-humidified.

Fortunately the bunker retains a natural temperature of 18 degrees celsius with little variation. To run the heating system alone would cost over £200 per hour.

In the event of a power failure the bunker has its own emergency generator that can produce 750kva for up to three months! That is enough to supply the coastal villages in Fife. Process gases have been changed for ozone friendly operation.



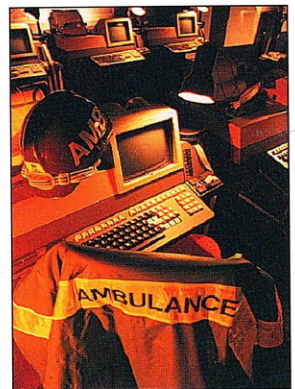
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT & NUCLEAR OPERATIONS

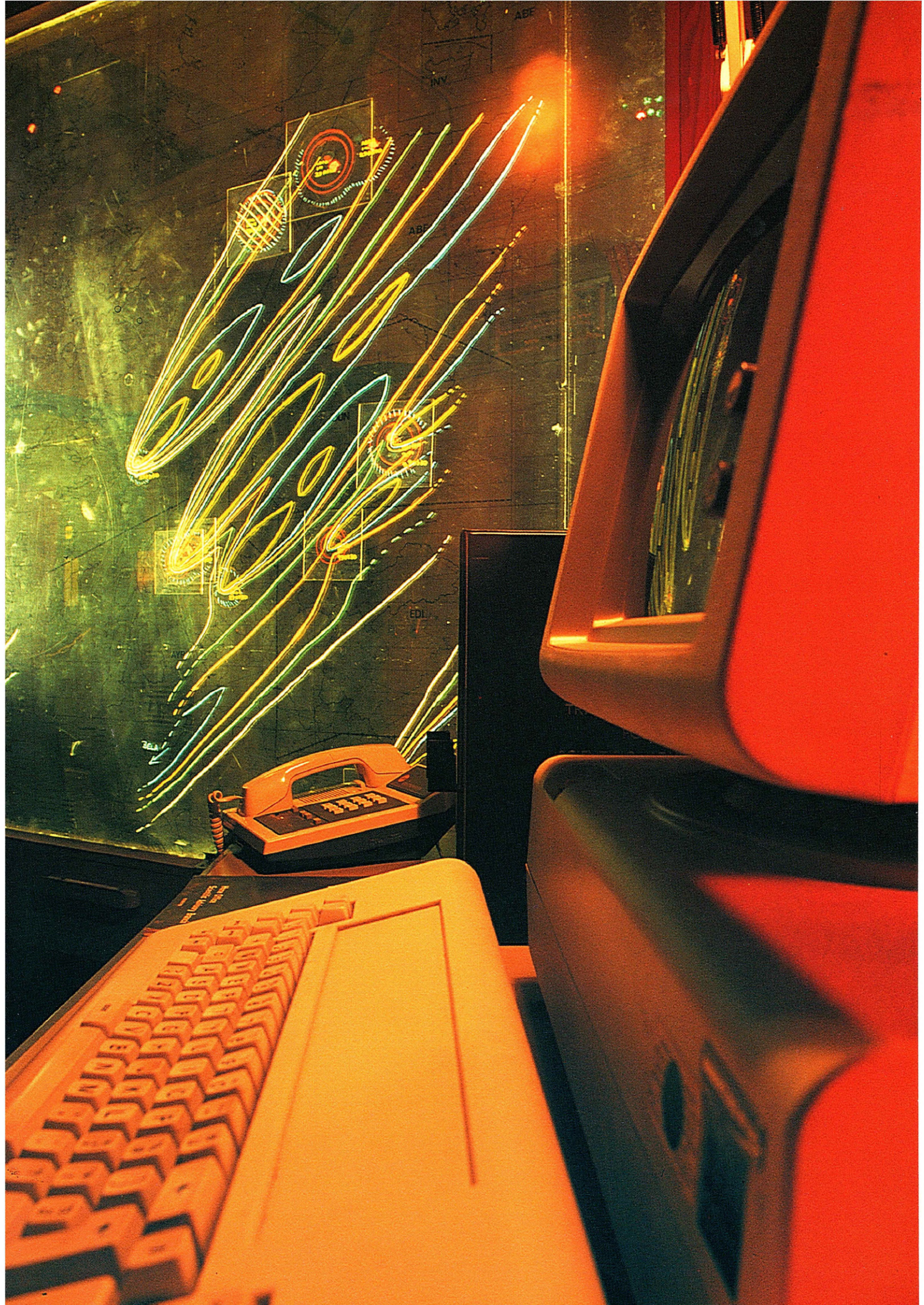
Major decisions would be made here in the heart of Scotland's Secret Bunker! Senior ministers would be evacuated here from Edinburgh along with their key civil servants. The offices of the emergency services, scientific advisors, the Met Office and computer staff would surround the main command floor.

There is an office here for the Minister of State. The Secretary of State would be housed upstairs in his own suite.

On the main floor senior staff from the major ministries would keep in touch with the outside world and up to the minute status information would be shown on the giant map displays and wall charts.

The sinister war telephones in the middle of the room would be used to issue final warnings to any aggressor before an all-out nuclear strike.





THE CAFE

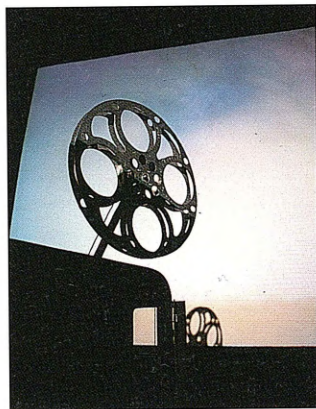
We have preserved the original canteen or mess hall for those serving below ground. Clearly all 300 hundred were not expected to eat at one time.

However, the kitchens are well equipped and capable of being used to provide high quality catering - an essential morale-booster for those working in such an artificial situation.



It was necessary to have offices for all sorts of people in Scotland's Secret Bunker including security and special rooms where government ministers and senior staff could meet, hear reports from experts and make decisions crucial to the survival of the civilian population.

You will see some of these rooms. Others have been given a new role as cinemas, showing actual information films made at the time (for instance, how to turn your house into a shelter - and don't forget the transistor radio and pail!) plus an exhibition gallery and display of original Warsaw Pact uniforms.



Every attempt has been made to cover the story of Scotland's Secret Bunker from the early 50s to its final closure - over 40 years of Cold War history.

The exhibitions are constantly being updated and there is a planned programme of display improvement and refurbishment under way at present.

Scotland's Secret Bunker is most grateful for the support of Central Government and other patrons. Without their assistance and the financial support of Fife Regional Council and Fife Enterprise this work would not be possible. Scotland's Secret Bunker is also grateful to the large number of individuals who have donated items and given freely of their time to contribute to this unique exhibition, providing an insight

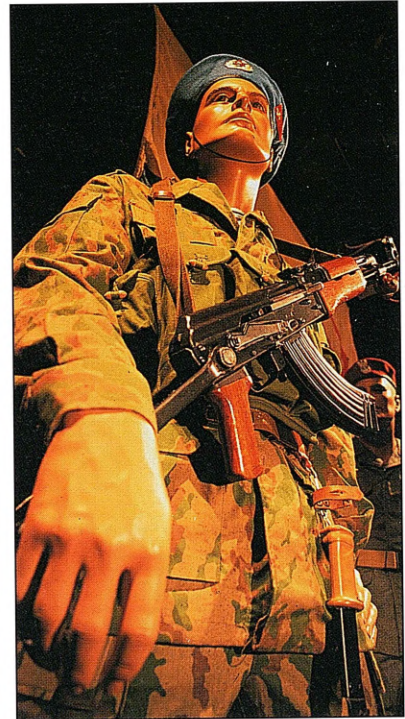
into a mysterious and unknown area of our national history.

It is hoped that you have enjoyed your visit to the Bunker, and have found it both informative and entertaining. Please tell your family and friends.

Scotland's Secret Bunker is open from April 1st to the end of October daily 10am to 5pm

Please pop into the souvenir shop and see the extensive range of authentic posters and memorabilia from the Great War right through to the Cold War.

Take home a memento of your visit to Scotland's Best Kept Secret!



Please ask any of the staff if you would like to know more about Scotland's Secret Bunker

Group visits can be arranged at any time. More detailed evening tours can be booked for groups wishing to have an exclusive visit to this site.

These evening tours include special videos and a realistic 'Nuclear detonation'. Scotland's Secret Bunker looks forward to welcoming you.



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