

NEWHAVEN FORT

THE COLD WAR

The Cold War (1945-1991) was very different from World War 1 or 2. Instead of fighting in battles the two enemies tried to prove that they were the best by building nuclear bombs, sending men into space and in sports contests like the Olympics. All the time people on both sides were very scared that the other side might try to attack them.

Two rival superpowers

United States of America (USA)

Allied with Britain and Western Europe
1st ever atomic bomb in 1945 in WW2
Supports democracy and capitalism
1st Man on the Moon (Neil Armstrong) 1969

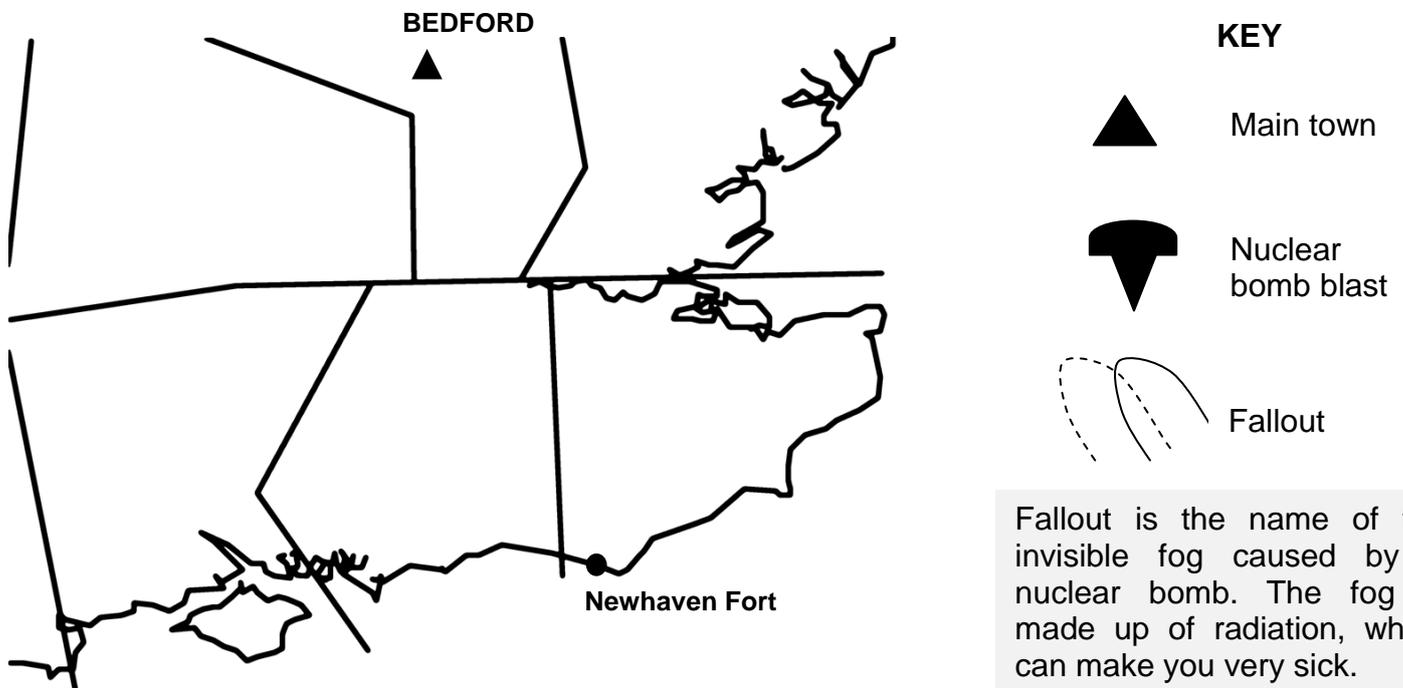
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)

Centred on Russia and Eastern Europe
1st Soviet atomic bomb in 1949
Supports communism
1st Man in Space (Yuri Gagarin) 1961

Between them the USA and USSR nearly destroyed the whole world by threats of nuclear bomb attacks. Countries like Britain had to plan to survive an attack, using underground shelters like in WW2. The Royal Observer Corps were part of the system to help people if a nuclear war started.

The Royal Observer Corps: Nuclear Defence Exhibit

The first things you see in the Nuclear Defence exhibit are two large glass maps. These were used to show where nuclear bombs fell and how the radiation from the bomb would spread. Then warnings and aid could be sent to affected areas. Luckily no nuclear bombs ever actually fell on Britain!



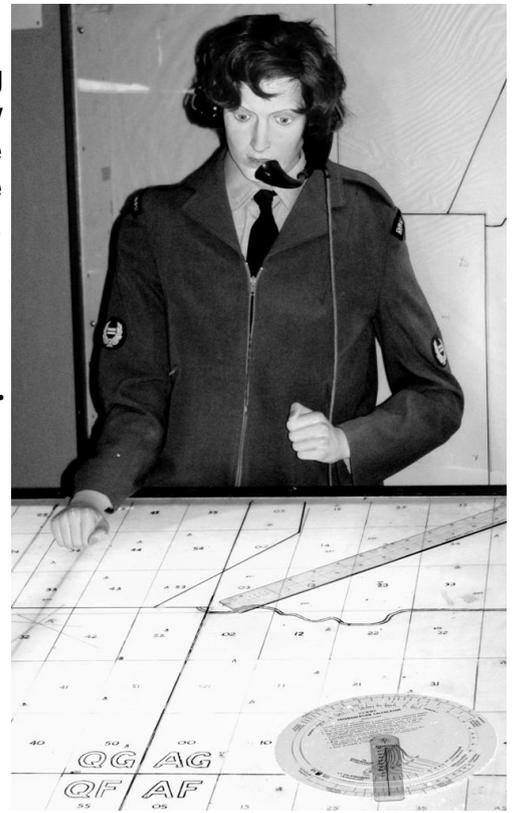
A copy of the maps is above. The straight lines show the ROC sectors, each of which has a 3-letter code: **HOR, WIN, OXF, COL, BED, MAI**.

1. Can you write the right code in the right sector?
2. Can you find and copy the main town names off the glass maps, like Bedford above? Finally, look at the right-hand glass map. The pretend nuclear bomb blasts are marked with green and orange 'mushroom cloud' shapes. The white curves drawn around them show the fallout, which is the area made sick by radiation from a nuclear bomb.
3. Mark on the map above the places of the four bomb hits in the HOR and MAI sectors and copy the curves around those bombs.
 - a) Is Newhaven Fort safe from the fallout?
 - b) How about your house or school?

Watching the skies

In the 1940s and 1950s the Royal Observer Corps was watching for enemy bomber aircraft. Then from 1957 onwards new weapons called Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) were invented. These were rockets that could be fired from one country, fly nearly into space, and then drop on the target country. The ROC then had to spot the bombs and look where they fell.

What is the lady on the right doing?



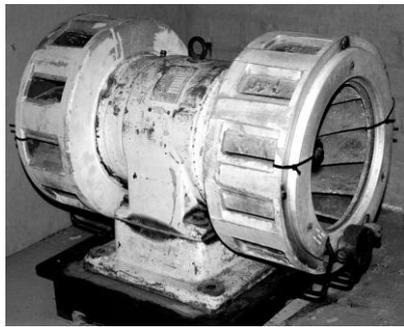
Look on the wall behind her. There is a board showing where nearby ROC posts are.

What is the post number for Brighton?

Which town is post number 51?

Another job of the ROC was to warn towns if there was a nuclear attack. The towns could then tell the people to be prepared.

Find the object on the left. What is it?



Where is it from?

Listen

Listen to the talking in the background of the ROC post. What colour is the national attack warning?

Who has to go to the main door?

Now go to the back room, where the man on the right is. Press the button to listen to the people.

What does the first beeping noise mean?



The ROC post at the back is underground to protect it from nuclear bombs and radiation. If there was an attack then there would be no shops to get food from, so they brought their own. Can you see it on the top of the bunk bed? It's all in tins! This makes it last longer. Fill in the blanks by looking at the writing on the tins.

- 1. O.....B.....
- 2. R.....J.....
- 3. S.....
- 4. C.....,S.....

Behind you now is a display case. On the wall is the NATO alphabet chart. It gives names for each letter so that people can understand you on the radio. So *cat* would be *Charlie Alpha Tango*. Spell your name (or part of it) like NATO.



Now find the object on the left. It detects nasty radiation and luckily shows that there isn't any today. Can you read what type of radiation it detects?

G.....

Now that you're prepared, you can help during a nuclear attack. Don't forget your tinned food!