



Official Opening
of
New Group Headquarters and Operations Room
No. 18 Group, Royal Observer Corps

by

Air Vice Marshal G. H. Ambler, C.B., C.B.E., A.F.C.
Her Majesty's Deputy Lieutenant of the West Riding of Yorkshire
at 3-0 p.m. on Saturday, 11th April, 1964

Order of Proceedings

- 3 p.m. Arrival of Guests.
- 3-15 p.m. Arrival of Air Vice Marshal G. H. Ambler, C.B., C.B.E., A.F.C., Her Majesty's Deputy Lieutenant of the West Riding of Yorkshire.
- Parade General Salute.
- Inspection of the Parade.
- Presentation of Royal Observer Corps Medals.
- Parade March Past.
- Inspection of Display of Radiac Instruments.
- Inspection of Operations Block.
- Demonstration of Operational Procedures in Operations Room.
- Official Opening Ceremony by Air Vice Marshal G. H. Ambler, C.B., C.B.E., A.F.C.
- Response by Air Commodore C. M. Wight-Boycott, C.B.E., D.S.O., B.A., Commandant Royal Observer Corps.
- Refreshments at Air Training Corps Wing Headquarters Mess, Yeadon. (By kind permission of Wing Commander N. Hammond, O.B.E., R.A.F.V.R.(T.)).

Official Guests and Visiting Officers

Commandant, Royal Observer Corps	....	....	....	....	Air Commodore C. M. Wight-Boycott, C.B.E., D.S.O., B.A.
Deputy Lord Mayor of Bradford	....	....	....	....	Councillor E. Newby
Chairman of Aireborough Urban District Council	....	....	....	....	Councillor D. Gibbon, J.P.
The Director of Civil Defence (No. 2 North Eastern) Region	....	....	....	....	J. R. S. Watson, Esq.
Principal Warning Officer (Groups) Home Office	....	....	....	....	J. C. Brady, Esq., M.B.E., E.R.D.
Officer Commanding No. 11 (Northern) Sector Fighter Command R.A.F.	....	....	....	....	Air Commodore W. T. Brooks, D.S.O., O.B.E., A.F.C., R.A.F.
Chief Constable of the West Riding of Yorkshire	....	....	....	....	G. E. Scott, Esq., C.B.E.
Officer Commanding, R.A.F. Church Fenton	....	....	....	....	Group Captain D. R. Stubbs, D.S.O., O.B.E., D.F.C., R.A.F.
Officer Commanding, R.A.F. Bawtry	....	....	....	....	Squadron Leader J. J. Canning, D.F.C., R.A.F.
Deputy Commandant, R.O.C.	....	....	....	....	Observer Captain W. Rusby, O.B.E.
Assistant Commandant (Northern) R.O.C.	....	....	....	....	Observer Captain W. R. Wilkinson, O.B.E.
Commandant, Northern Area, R.O.C.	....	....	....	....	Observer Captain E. C. Tyrrell
Representing Superintendent Engineer, No. 3 Works Area, M.P.B.W.	....	....	....	....	G. R. Fox, Esq.
Chief Sector Warning Officer	....	....	....	....	E. Sedgwick, Esq.
Chief Fire Officer, West Riding of Yorkshire	....	....	....	....	H. Judge, Esq.
Representing Telephone Manager, Leeds	....	....	....	....	J. J. Perkins, Esq.
Deputy Commandant, Northern Area, R.O.C.	....	....	....	....	Observer Commander J. L. Waugh, M.B.E.
Area Training Officer, Northern Area, R.O.C.	....	....	....	....	Observer Lieutenant R. A. Huck
Group Commandant, No. 20 Group, R.O.C.	....	....	....	....	Observer Commander C. Burton
Group Commandant, No. 21 Group, R.O.C.	....	....	....	....	Observer Commander A. Dalton
Group Commandant, No. 23 Group, R.O.C.	....	....	....	....	Observer Commander T. W. Dobson, M.B.E.
Deputy Group Commandant, No. 20 Group, R.O.C.	....	....	....	....	Observer Lieutenant K. A. G. Rodley
Officer Commanding West Riding Wing, Air Training Corps	....	....	....	....	Wing Commander N. Hammond, O.B.E., R.A.F.V.R.(T).
Officer Commanding 44 (F) City of Bradford Squadron A.T.C.	....	....	....	....	Squadron Leader A. Crow, R.A.F.V.R.(T).
Representing Cawood Wharton & Co. Ltd.	....	....	....	....	J. Grunberg, Esq.
Superintendent War Department Store, Yeadon	....	....	....	....	W. Hobson, Esq.
Former Group Commandant, No. 18 Group	....	....	....	....	Observer Lieutenant K. Terry

No. 18 Group Staff - Royal Observer Corps, Leeds

Group Commandant Observer Commander W. A. Beaumont, O.B.E., M.A.

Deputy Group Commandant Observer Lieutenant C.P. Berry

Group Training Officer Observer Lieutenant H. N. Hodgson

Duty Controllers (Operations Room)

Observer Lieutenant V. Lee Observer Officer W. A. Walker

W/Observer Officer M. Hollings W/Observer Officer D. Dyson

Group Officers (Posts)

Observer Lieutenant F. Turner Observer Officer A. Goodworth

Observer Officer K. Marsden Observer Officer G. Norton

Observer Officer J. Rose

R.O.C. Liaison Officers

Observer Lieutenant G. R. Pilley Observer Officer D. Woodhouse

Observer Officer E. Johnson

No. 18 Group, Royal Observer Corps, Leeds

The original Leeds Group Headquarters (then No. 8) had its beginnings in Vicar Lane, Leeds, before being transferred to the General Post Office buildings in Leeds at the commencement of the War in 1939. In 1942 the Headquarters was moved to Grove House, Hyde Park, Leeds, where, except for a brief period of re-construction in 1942 it remained until the recent move to Yeadon.

In 1955 the Royal Observer Corps, with its network of Observation Posts covering the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland and manned entirely by spare time volunteers, was charged with the responsibility of reporting detailed information on any nuclear attack on this Country and of monitoring subsequent radio-active fall-out in the Home Office Warning and Monitoring Organisation.

This additional role has necessitated a complete rebuilding programme of both Observation Posts and Operations Rooms. The post personnel are now provided with underground accommodation which would enable them to operate under the severest conditions of radio activity and to be self-supporting for long periods. The new type operations room also has a very high protective factor, being air conditioned and provided with fully automatic stand-by electrical generating plant, dormitories, fully equipped kitchen and canteen with emergency rations including reserve water supply, capable of maintaining the general fitness of crews for considerable periods.

The instruments with which the Corps is now issued enables it, with a minimum of delay, to supply accurate information on the time, power, position and height of any nuclear explosion over any part of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland and also to provide accurate data on the degree of intensity and flow of radio-active fall-out. This information is passed to the Home Office Sector Operations Rooms where it is promulgated to the Air Defence Operations Centre of Fighter Command, Bomber Command Headquarters, Regional War Rooms and organisations within the NATO Alliance.

Notes

1. Map of location enclosed.
2. **Dress.** Serving Officers of Civil and Military Forces attend in uniform. No medals or awards to be worn.
3. **General Salute.** Officer guests should salute. Civilians to uncover.