

ROYAL OBSERVER CORPS GROUPS

These are the 29 groups in the U.K.
You should contact the address nearest
to your home.

ENGLAND

MAIDSTONE	No. 1 Group	57 London Road, Maidstone, Kent.
HORSHAM	No. 2 Group	Drill Hall, Denne Road, Horsham, Sussex.
OXFORD	No. 3 Group	Woodstock Road, Upper Wolvercote, Oxford.
COLCHESTER	No. 4 Group	Errington Lodge, 22 Lexden Road, Colchester.
WATFORD	No. 5 Group	256 Cassiobury Drive, Watford, Herts.
NORWICH	No. 6 Group	Old Catton, Constitution Hill, Norwich, Norfolk.
BEDFORD	No. 7 Group	Days Lane, Biddenham, Bedford.
COVENTRY	No. 8 Group	R.A.F. Church Lawford, Rugby, Warwick.
YEOVIL	No. 9 Group	53 Southwoods, Hendford Hill, Yeovil, Somerset.
EXETER	No. 10 Group	Poltimore Park, Exeter, Devon.
TRURO	No. 11 Group	Daniell Street, Truro, Cornwall.
BRISTOL	No. 12 Group	Lansdown, Bath, Somerset.
WINCHESTER	No. 14 Group	Abbots Road, Winchester, Hants.
LINCOLN	No. 15 Group	Fiskerton, Lincoln.
SHREWSBURY	No. 16 Group	Holywell Street, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.
LEEDS	No. 18 Group	Grove House, Grosvenor Road, Hyde Park, Leeds, 6.
YORK	No. 20 Group	Shelley House, Acomb Road, York.
PRESTON	No. 21 Group	Longley Lane, Goosnargh, Preston, Lancs.
CARLISLE	No. 22 Group	No. 14 M.U., R.A.F. Carlisle, Cumberland.
DURHAM	No. 23 Group	The Sands, Durham City.

SCOTLAND

EDINBURGH	No. 24 Group	R.A.F. Turnhouse, Edinburgh 12.
AYR	No. 25 Group	Monkswell House, 17 Waterloo Road, Prestwick, Ayrshire.
OBAN	No. 27 Group	Albany Street, Oban, Argyll.
DUNDEE	No. 28 Group	Criagiebarns, Dundee, Angus.
ABERDEEN	No. 29 Group	Quarry Road, Northfield, Aberdeen.
INVERNESS	No. 30 Group	Raigmore, Inverness.

WALES

SOUTH WALES	No. 13 Group	Picton Terrace, Carmarthen, S. Wales.
NORTH WALES	No. 17 Group	Borras, Wrexham, Denbighshire, Wales.

NORTHERN IRELAND

ULSTER	No. 31 Group	Knox Road, Lisburn, Co. Antrim, N. Ireland.
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THE ROYAL OBSERVER CORPS



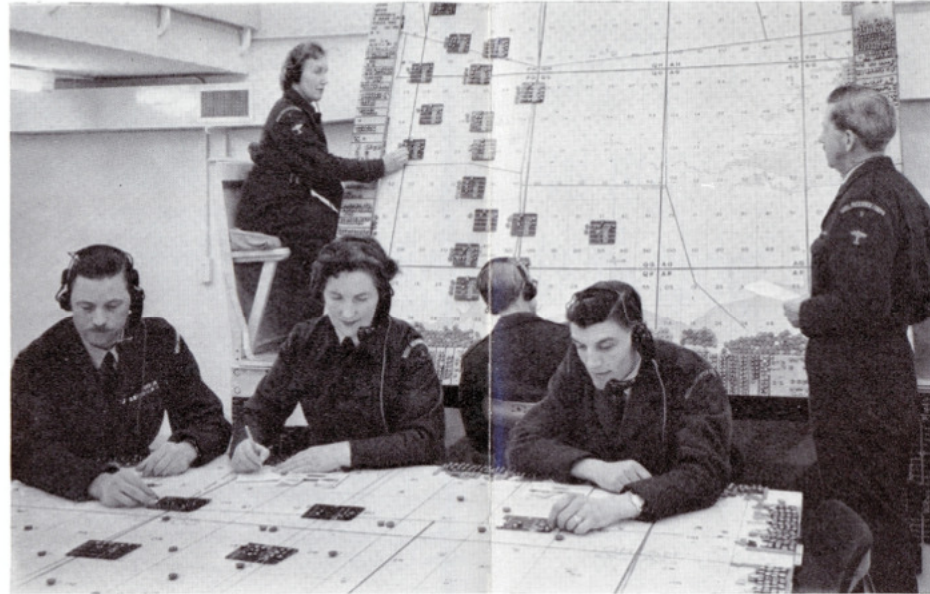
Why you are needed in the Royal Observer Corps

The Royal Observer Corps has been known for many years as 'the eyes and ears of the R.A.F.'. Today, if nuclear war came to Britain, the R.O.C. would be the key to our entire civil defence system. And, through the information it is being trained to obtain and pass on, might well represent the difference between life and death for hundreds of thousands. It would go swiftly into action as guide and informant to the Civil Defence organisation, the military forces, and the allied N.A.T.O. countries. Just as in the last war its 32,000 men and women observers spotted, plotted and reported enemy aircraft attacking the United Kingdom, enabling R.A.F. fighters and anti-aircraft gunners to come speedily to grips with the attackers, so in a nuclear war the R.O.C. would be the only organisation in Britain equipped and trained to report on deadly nuclear fall-out on a national basis.

New, reinforced headquarters for the R.O.C.

Following a nuclear bomb-burst, dust and debris is sucked up by the explosion vacuum, falling later as lethal, radioactive particles which drift over the countryside. Thanks to the array of sensitive instruments and apparatus now equipping the R.O.C.'s 29 new, reinforced group headquarters and 1,500 observation posts, the Corps would be able to inform the Civil Defence organisations allied to it as to the fall-out's direction, intensity and rate of travel, enabling the authorities above ground to warn the populace in the path of the radioactive dust.

R.O.C. groups cover the whole of the British Isles, and the headquarters of each group has an operations room which



is in contact with a network of about 50 posts, spaced at some 5 to 10 miles apart. With its close network of posts, scattered strategically throughout the countryside, reaching even the remote Orkneys, Shetlands and the Hebrides, the R.O.C. is ideally suited for its fall-out reporting role.

And, as there still remains the possibility of low-level air attack, even in nuclear war, visual aircraft spotting still remains an important task for observers.

It's fun working for the R.O.C.

There is a good deal of fun and social life to be had in working with the R.O.C. There is the keen but friendly rivalry

between posts and operations room in various contests, and the good companionship of training evenings where observers get to know each other and also meet members of the Royal Air Force and Civil Defence teams. But the highlight of the annual programme is the week which all men and women of the R.O.C.

can spend at a summer camp as guests of a R.A.F. fighter station. At these voluntary camps a full-time entertainments officer ensures that observers combine their practical training with a real holiday atmosphere, with dances, concerts, film shows and amusing prize-winning competitions.

What happens in a R.O.C. post?

Each post now has a specially built underground room, furnished and stocked with rations, to give a complete cover from radiation for the men and women on duty. Here, by means of 'bomb power' and 'ground zero' indicators, the observers would be the first to report the explosion of a nuclear bomb—giving details which would be of the utmost

importance to the scientists of the U.K. Warning Organisation who predict fall-out and alert the nation. Next, from their survey meters, the post crew would be able to register the amount of radiation in the area, reporting every five minutes to the R.O.C. group operations room.

What you do in a R.O.C. operations room

These are the vital links in the chain between the posts within the group and the Warning Organisation. In the operations room—the focal point of each group headquarters—'plotters' are training to record instrument readings sent in from the posts and to display them on a table map covering their own particular part of the country. Another table records information arriving from adjacent operations rooms so that an accurate picture can be formed of the situation over a wider area. Meanwhile other observers are training as a triangulation team—that is to fix precisely the position, height and power of the nuclear explosion. And, from a balcony overlooking the tables, 'tellers' will pass on all this information to the Warning Organisation.

The specially built reinforced headquarters, which houses the operations room, is complete with kitchens, canteens, sleeping accommodation, showers and the very latest ventilating plant, to ensure that observers can live and work comfortably for several weeks in absolute safety from fall-out.

This, then, is why your spare-time help is needed in the Royal Observer Corps. And as the R.O.C. network covers the whole of the British Isles, there must be an observation post or operations room somewhere near your home.

You will find the answers to many of your questions overleaf. If you contact any of the addresses given in this leaflet arrangements will always be made for you to visit your nearest post or operations room to see for yourself what the Corps does.



Join an operations room or post of the Royal Observer Corps



Top left: One of the new underground operations rooms.

Above: Post observers on an aircraft reporting exercise.

Top right: Recording fall-out reports in an operations room.

Opposite: A break for tea and a chat.

Bottom right: A training session on radiac instruments.

Below: An R.O.C. officer explaining the use and operation of a contamination meter.

Who is eligible?

Men and women who are British subjects may serve in the Royal Observer Corps. There are, however, certain restrictions on the recruitment of some classes of reservists.

What are the age limits for recruitment?

The lower age limit is 15 for men and 16 for women. At operations rooms the upper age limit is 55 and at posts, 60.

How fit must I be?

Normal fitness is sufficient, and the wearing of spectacles is no bar to joining. You may, however, be asked to produce a medical certificate of fitness to undergo training and duty with the R.O.C.

For how long do I join?

You must be prepared to join for at least three years. If, for domestic reasons, you want your release from the Corps during this time, your application will be sympathetically considered.

Shall I have to take a test?

Not at first, but after six months at a post or nine months at an operations room

you must take a Primary efficiency test. The Intermediate and Master tests which follow are voluntary. Those who pass the Master test may wear the coveted 'Spitfire' badge—the hall-mark of the expert.

What spare time must I contribute?

You will be expected to complete at least 18 hours' training every six months, including exercises.

What rank can I attain?

You will join in the basic rank of Observer. Promotion to Leading and Chief Observer is made by the Commandant, R.O.C., and observers of all ranks are eligible for appointment as officers.

What allowances do I get?

Provided you fulfil your training obligations you will qualify for annual grant at the following rates:

Chief Observer £7 0s. 0d.
Leading Observer £6 0s. 0d.
Observer £5 0s. 0d.

plus an out-of-pocket expenses allowance of 3s. for each period of duty of 2-5 hours and 6s. for over 5 hours.

Additionally, you receive £2 each year in

which you pass the Intermediate test and an extra £3 when you also pass the Master test.

What about uniform?

Observers wear the blue uniform (similar to the R.A.F.) when attending for R.O.C. duty or training. All uniform is supplied free.

What would my position be in a national emergency?

Subject to liability for service in the armed forces, an observer must undertake to devote not less than 12 hours weekly to R.O.C. duties during a period of national emergency.

Do I get a travelling allowance?

Yes. Travelling allowances are paid to cover all journeys to attend normal training meetings.





HIGHLIGHTS IN R.O.C. HISTORY

1925

Two Observer Corps groups formed and manned by Special Constables. Raid Reporting Organisation the responsibility of a combined Air Ministry, Home Office and G.P.O. Committee.

1929

The Organisation taken over by the Air Ministry, but Observers remained Special Constables until 1939.

1939

The Corps mobilised.

1940

First big trial came with the Battle of Britain.

1941

In recognition of the Corps' excellent work King George VI granted the title 'Royal' in 1941. Women joined the R.O.C. for the first time.

1944

R.O.C. 'Seaborne' Observers materially helped the invasion operations. First V.1 identified by the R.O.C. Many V.1s destroyed by fighters working on R.O.C. directions.

1950

H.M. King George VI became Air Commodore-in-Chief of the Corps. R.O.C. Silver Jubilee celebrated. R.O.C. Medal instituted.

1953

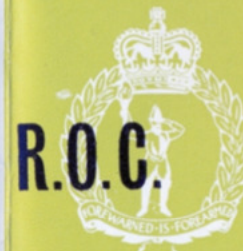
H.M. the Queen became Air Commodore-in-Chief of the Corps.

1955

The R.O.C. undertook the new role of reporting radioactive fall-out.

1956 - 63

Complete rebuilding of posts underground and reorganisation of the Corps into 29 groups, each with new protected headquarters. Development and production of specialised instruments for nuclear burst and fall-out reporting.



How can I join?

By applying to the Commandant of your local group, whose address you will find on the back cover, or write to:

**THE COMMANDANT,
ROYAL OBSERVER CORPS HEADQUARTERS,
BENTLEY PRIORY,
STANMORE, MIDDLESEX.**

Or contact an R.O.C. member who lives in your district, his address is:
