

## **You and the bomb / Nuclear Free Local Authorities.**

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**MOST PEOPLE DO.** A National Opinion Poll in May 1980 found that 65% of all those interviewed expected nuclear war in their lifetime.

American people share this view. In a Gallup poll in September, 1981 68% believed that an all-out nuclear war between the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. was a possibility in the next 10 years.

### WHY IS THERE A REAL RISK OF NUCLEAR WAR

We are told that nuclear weapons are just intended to deter an attack. This is what is meant by "deterrence." It means always getting ready to fight a nuclear war. That is why the Government is basing cruise missiles here under American control, and wants to buy Trident submarines.

This policy carries enormous risks. One side may try to win a nuclear war, or nuclear missiles may be fired accidentally. The risks increase daily as more and more countries develop extremely powerful and accurate nuclear weapons.

So long as such weapons exist, they may be used.

### WHAT ABOUT CIVIL DEFENCE?

Many remember the bombings of World War II. Many lives were lost and widespread destruction was caused. Yet with the help of home (or civil

defence, we survived and were able to recover.

A nuclear war would be totally different. Within hours, it could destroy all our major cities and leave Britain a radioactive wasteland.

The Government's civil defence plans tell us to stay at home. This cannot provide proper protection against nuclear attack for the bulk of the population.

Studies of the "Square Leg" war exercise show that about 27 million of us would die, and 6½ million would be injured. Many leading scientists and doctors believe that in a real nuclear war casualties would be far greater.

What sort of world would the survivors emerge to?

### AFTER A NUCLEAR WAR

The sky would be dark with smoke and dust. With little sunshine, it would be freezing cold for several months. Food, water and fuel would be scarce, if available at all. Fresh food would contain radioactivity, making it unsuitable for eating, and water from reservoirs would be unsafe to drink. Without the basic services we take for granted — housing, transport, telephones, the sewerage system — life would be primitive. There would be epidemics of diseases like plague, cholera and typhoid.

It has been said that the living would envy the dead.

### DEFENDING BRITAIN WITHOUT THE BOMB

Military nuclear bases in Britain are targets in a nuclear war. As well as our own bases, we have over 100 American ones in this country — many of them nuclear. Britain is so densely populated that attacks on these bases would cause massive civilian casualties. A number of countries (such as Canada, Switzerland and Sweden) refuse to have nuclear weapons. They find defending themselves by conventional weapons a practical alternative, and believe a defence policy based on nuclear weapons carries unacceptable risks.

### WHAT ARE YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS DOING?

Everyone agrees that nuclear local councils, having declared "zones", are working with serious issues — as envisaged in Regulations.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

We can all change. We can do a little, things will stop. Leaflets, books, and more from: 51 Leopold Street, Barnsley, S70 0BZ.

WE ARE SHORTLY BE PUBLISHING A MORE DETAILED BOOKLET ON SOUTH YORKSHIRE AND NUCLEAR WAR.



Produced by Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Councils, Sheffield City Council and South Yorkshire County Council in consultation with doctors and scientists.

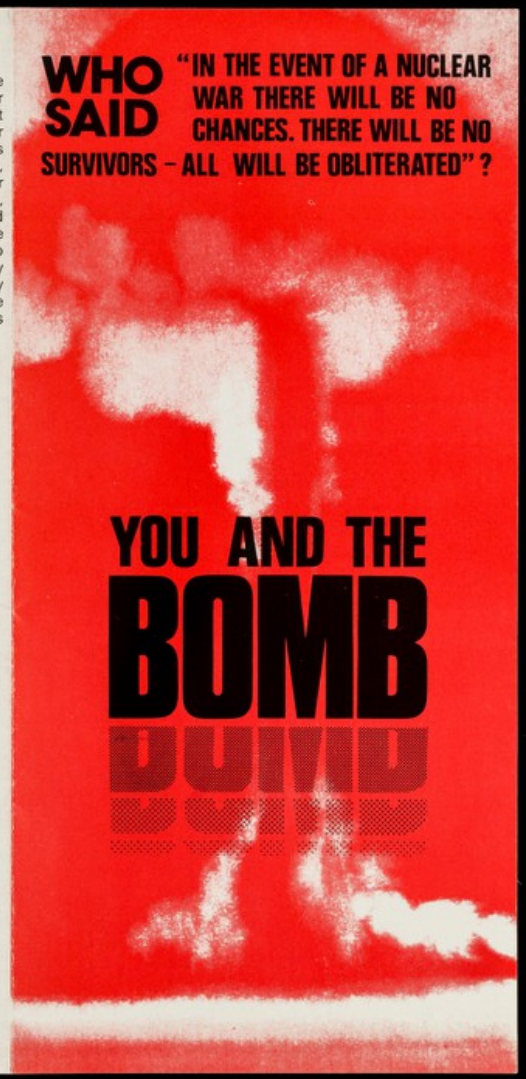
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### WILL JOBS BE LOST?

Some firms in South Yorkshire do work for the nuclear industry. So you may worry that jobs would be lost if nuclear weapons were phased out. This need not be so. If we wanted, money spent now on nuclear weapons could be invested in, say, the engineering and construction industries, or the health service. Compared to high-technology military spending, almost any alternative use of the same amount of money creates MORE jobs.

**WHO SAID** "IN THE EVENT OF A NUCLEAR WAR THERE WILL BE NO CHANCES. THERE WILL BE NO SURVIVORS - ALL WILL BE OBLITERATED"?

**YOU AND THE BOMB**





**EARL MOUNTBATTEN**, former Chief of Defence Staff, said this in May, 1979. He added: "I am not asserting this without having deeply thought about the matter".

**WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO SOMEONE LIKE YOU?**

The following experiences would probably be typical for people in the areas marked A to E on the map, based on the Government "Square Leg" war exercise. However, the characters mentioned are entirely fictitious.

**INSIDE ZONE A**

John is on his shift in a Sheffield engineering works when the bomb explodes. In seconds, the works are totally devastated by the blast and intense heat of the explosion. His wife Katie and their children are at home in Burngreave. They too are killed instantly.

The whole area is unrecognisable. Roads and railways are obliterated, cars melt, and the River Don and River Sheaf boil dry. Eight of Sheffield's hospitals are destroyed. No help can be provided for the few survivors and they are left to die. The bomb leaves a huge crater a third of a mile across and 300 feet deep.

**INSIDE ZONE B**

Dr. Tarla Patel is delivering a baby at Sheffield's Northern General Hospital. The bomb blast, followed by hurricane-force winds, leaves little of the hospital standing. Many are killed. Others have horrible injuries from flying glass and falling masonry. The baby, her mother and Dr. Patel are buried under rubble. The heat from the bomb chars and blisters the faces of people outside, and trees burst into flame.

People all over South Yorkshire have no hope of proper medical care. No major hospitals are operating. The most seriously injured people are left to die.

**WHAT A NUCLEAR ATTACK WOULD DO TO SOUTH YORKSHIRE**

In the 1980 nuclear war exercise, "Square Leg", the Government assumed that two nuclear bombs exploded in South Yorkshire – one in Sheffield and another near R.A.F. Finningley, Doncaster. These two bombs would kill 934,000 of South Yorkshire's people and seriously injure 160,000 more.

**INSIDE ZONE C**

Tom and Vera are in their shop at Masbrough, Rotherham. Their children are at school. The blast shakes the shop violently and the walls crack. Tom and Vera are badly burned by the heat from the bomb. They make their way into the street and are buffeted by hurricane-force winds. The children stagger, panic-stricken, out of the damaged school and search for their parents. All around, fires break out and the sky is dark with smoke and dust.

The family join shocked and injured people walking towards Barnsley. They are unaware that they are heading for the area made most radioactive by fallout from the Sheffield bomb.

**INSIDE ZONE D**

Doris is elderly and lives alone in Armthorpe, Doncaster. The doors and windows of her house are blown in by the bomb at Finningley and she is badly cut by flying glass. In the garden, a tree is uprooted by the gale-force winds which follow the blast. Doris knows that broken windows and doors let in radiation, but she is unable to repair them. Within an hour, deadly radioactive fallout begins to blow into her house.

A fortnight later, her food and water have run out. Radiation has made Doris sick. Her hair has fallen out and she has diarrhoea. Bewildered by it all she sits, weak and shivering, in a corner.

**INSIDE ZONE E**

Jim is in his farmyard near Darton, Barnsley. Suddenly a brilliant flash of light temporarily blinds him. A wave of heat from the explosion scorches his face. Seconds later, he hears the explosion. Windows crack and tiles fall from the roof. Numb with shock, he feels his way back to the kitchen.

Jim wonders what is happening to his mother in Penistone. He never finds out. His phone, T V and radio no longer work. The house offers little protection against fallout. Like four out of five people in the Barnsley area, he dies of radiation sickness.

**WHO THINKS A NUCLEAR WAR IS LIKELY?**

