

VISIT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, CIVIL DEFENCE,
GENERAL SIR SIDNEY KIRKMAN, G.C.B., K.B.E., M.C.,
SATURDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER, 1 9 5 5.

TIMETABLE AND PROGRAMME.

- 10.30 a.m. Arrival of The Director-General, Gen. Sir Sidney Kirkman,
G.C.B., K.B.E., M.C.,
together with -
The Regional Director, Civil Defence,
Air Marshal Sir Lawrence Pendred,
K.B.E., C.B., D.F.C.,
and
The Assistant Regional Director, Civil Defence,
P.V. Collyer, Esq.,
at The Lord Mayor's Parlour, where they will be met by
The Lord Mayor, Alderman A. Lummis Gibson, J.P.,
The Lady Mayoress, The Chairman of the Civil Defence
Committee, Alderman E.E. Mole, J.P., and The Town Clerk,
J.F. Gregg, Esq., LL.M. (Controller Designate).
- 10.30 a.m. 'Bus with members of the Civil Defence Committee leaves
the Main Entrance to the Council House, for Meadow Road.
- 10.45 a.m. Arrival of members of the Civil Defence Committee at
the Civil Defence Department's Headquarters, 8, Meadow Road,
Edgbaston.
- 10.45 a.m. The Chairman and Chief Officers of the various Corporation
Departments concerned with Civil Defence and Group 1 Authority
Members and Officers, will meet in the Fire Service Control
Room and the Police Control Room, at the New Main Group
Control.
- 10.45 a.m. The Lord Mayor and his Party leave the Council House for
Meadow Road.
11. 0 a.m. Arrival of The Lord Mayor, The Director-General and Party
at The Civil Defence Department's Headquarters, 8, Meadow Road,
Edgbaston, where they meet members of the Civil Defence
Committee, and the Civil Defence Officer.
- 11.15 a.m. The Lord Mayor, The Director-General and Party, move to
the New Main Group Control Centre, and enter the Civil
Defence Control Room, where The Chairman of the Civil
Defence Committee will ask The Director-General to
transmit a message to the Home Office intimating that he
is present in the Control Room and that it is ready for
Operational purposes.
- After The Director-General has spoken and inaugurated the
Centre, The Chairman of the Civil Defence Committee will
call upon Alderman W.H. Perry - Chairman of the Civil
Defence Committee of the County Borough of Smethwick,
(which is one of the constituent authorities of the
Civil Defence Group served by this Centre) to propose a
vote of thanks to The Director-General.
- 11.40 a.m. The Lord Mayor and The Director-General and Party, will
tour the Control Centre, escorted by The Chairman of
the Civil Defence Committee, the Town Clerk and the
Civil Defence Officer.
12. 0 Noon The Lord Mayor and The Director-General accompanied by
all present at the ceremony will leave for the
Council House..

- 12.15 p.m. The arrival of The Lord Mayor, The Director-General and Party at the Council House.
- 12.15 p.m. The Chairmen of Civil Defence Committees, The Town Clerks, Clerks to the County Councils and Civil Defence Officers of other scheme-making Authorities within the Region, together with other Guests, will arrive at the Council House and proceed to the Reception Room.
- 12.30 p.m. Reception of all Guests by The Lord Mayor, Alderman A. Lummis Gibson, J.P., The Lady Mayoress, The Director-General, Civil Defence, Gen. Sir Sidney Kirkman, G.C.B., K.B.E., M.C., and The Chairman of the Civil Defence Committee, Alderman E.E. Mole, J.P.
- 12.30 p.m. Luncheon, after which The Lord Mayor will propose a toast to The Director-General, in which toast he will be supported by Alderman E.E. Mole, J.P., Chairman of the Civil Defence Committee.
The Director-General will respond.
2. 0 p.m. The Parade of vehicles at Fire Station and in Streets in near vicinity will assemble.
- 2.10 p.m. All Luncheon Guests with the exception of The Chairman of the Civil Defence Committee, The Director-General, The Town Clerk and The Regional Director, will be invited to proceed to the Fire Station by private 'bus which will be stationed outside the Main Entrance to the Council House.
- 2.15 p.m. The Chairman of the Civil Defence Committee will escort The Director-General and other members of the Official Party by car to the Central Fire Station.
NOTE: Official cars and 'buses will proceed via Corporation Street into Potter Street, where the Party will leave the vehicles for the Inspection.
- 2.30 p.m. The Director-General escorted by The Chairman of the Civil Defence Committee, The Town Clerk and the Civil Defence Officer, will inspect the Parade of vehicles.
- 3.15 p.m. The Chairman of the Civil Defence Committee, The Director-General and all Guests will leave the Parade Assembly Area and proceed to the Council House in readiness for the Drive Past of the Parade.
- 3.30 p.m. The Parade of vehicles moves off from the Assembly ground.
- 3.35 p.m. The Director-General, with The Lord Mayor, will take the "Salute", and will have in attendance at the Saluting Base, The Chairman of the Civil Defence Committee, The Town Clerk, The Regional Director, Civil Defence, The Chief Constable, The Chief Fire Officer and the Civil Defence Officer.
During the Drive Past, Guests will assemble in an enclosure on either side of the Saluting Base. The Saluting Base will be erected immediately in front of the Main Entrance to the Council House.
- 3.45 p.m. (approx)
The Lord Mayor, The Director-General, the Chairman of the Civil Defence Committee and all Guests will proceed to the Banqueting Room for tea after which The Director-General will speak in private to the assembled company and invite questions.

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C.O.I. MIDLAND REGION.
23rd November, 1955.

Britain's first combined Civil Defence Control Centre for operating all C.D. services, including fire, police and ambulance services, in atomic war, will be opened in Birmingham, the heart of the industrial Midlands of England, on Saturday 26th Nov.

Built underground in a suburb of the City, the centre will house a controlling staff of 75 men and women for several days at a time in the event of war.

It will be the control point of all services concerned with the protection and welfare of a million-and-a-half people living within a radius of 15 miles of the control point.

Heads of the Civil Defence, police and fire services, operating from inter-connecting rooms in this underground concrete bastion will direct fire fighting, rescue work, medical services, first aid, and emergency feeding services. Contact with mobile units stationed throughout the area will be maintained by telephone until it fails, short wave radio and messengers.

The centre is a 2,500 ton concrete shell, reinforced by 73 tons of three-quarter inch steel rods. The rods tie the floor, walls, and roof together, so that the blast from a nearby atomic explosion would move it but not shatter it. The claim is that only a direct hit from an atomic bomb would cause disintegration. The reinforced concrete walls and roof are 12 feet thick beneath a minimum of 3 feet of earth and provide proof against gamma rays. The whole construction is virtually an underground concrete box measuring 132 feet by 68 feet by 9 feet high. It is blast, splinter, heat flash and radiation proof. Incoming air is purified of radio-active dust, heated and circulated. A diesel generator plant provides a reserve source of electricity.

It has 23 inter-connecting rooms with all facilities for housing, sleeping and feeding 75 people. It is starkly functional. Entry is through a narrow concrete double doorway with an air lock area between the doors for removal of contaminated clothing.

Inside are separate H.Q. for all the services, signals rooms, dormitories for the staff, kitchen and stores. Stores will be kept at a level to enable the staff to stay underground for several days.

The Control Centre was designed by the C.D. Officer for Birmingham (Mr. G.L. Head). It took 20 months to build and cost £30,000, 75 per cent. of the money being contributed by the Home Office.

The biggest Civil Defence Parade to be held in Britain since the war will follow the opening ceremony. Vehicles in the parade through the streets of Birmingham will make a convoy 2½ miles long. There will be new fire fighting appliances, despatch riders, mobile control units, cable-laying units, rescue vehicles, ambulances, casualty collecting vehicles, mobile first aid units and food flying squads for feeding the homeless.

Mr. Head's telephone number is BEARWOOD 3531.

CENTRAL OFFICE OF INFORMATION



With the Compliments of

F. WATTS.

83 BAKER STREET, LONDON, W.1

Telephone: WELBECK 4420

Yours faithfully