

# ROYAL OBSERVER CORPS MONITORING POST

The Royal Observer Corps (ROC) was formed in 1925. It was a key part of the warning system for the defence of the UK through a network of aircraft observation posts. These posts were situated approximately 15 miles apart and covered the whole country.

In response to the nuclear threat in the 1960s, the ROC became part of the United Kingdom Warning and Monitoring Organisation (UKWMO) and posts were relocated underground in concrete shelters similar to, but slightly larger than the one recreated in this room. The display here incorporates an almost complete set of equipment from a typical ROC post, immediately prior to stand-down of the Corps in 1991.

Much of the monitoring equipment relates to the detection of a nuclear attack, including the measurement of bomb blast and radioactive fallout. Communication equipment was also important as the team had to report the results of their findings to area headquarters to feed into the national situation and to receive any alerts of bombs elsewhere.

Each underground post required a full complement of ten observers and was staffed operationally by three observers at any one time. Observers were mostly civilian volunteers. Locally, there were underground posts in Alford, Kildrummy and Strathdon – all part of the Aberdeen 29 Group.

Items in this collection were removed from the Alford and other ROC posts after their closure in 1991 by the late Harold Fraser, long serving Observer with the Alford ROC, founder member of Alford and Donside Heritage Association and first manager of this museum. This room is dedicated to his memory.



ROC1 Interior of Alford ROC underground post



ROC3 Observer Harold Fraser



ROC2 Alford ROC post as seen from above ground