

**ENGLAND**

- BEDFORDSHIRE** No. 7 Group, Day's Lane, Biddenham, Bedford
- CORNWALL** No. 11 Group, Fairmantle Street, Truro
- CUMBERLAND** No. 22 Group, 10 Norfolk Road, Carlisle
- DERBYSHIRE** No. 15 Group, 'Highfields', Broadway, Derby
- DEVONSHIRE** No. 10 Group, Poltimore Park, near Exeter
- DURHAM** No. 23 Group, The Sands, Durham City
- ESSEX** No. 4 Group, Errington Lodge, 22 Lexden Road, Colchester
- GLOUCESTERSHIRE** No. 12 Group, King's Square Avenue, Bristol 2
- HAMPSHIRE** No. 14 Group, Abbots Road, Winchester
- HERTFORDSHIRE** No. 5 Group, Cassiobury Drive, Watford
- KENT** No. 1 Group, 'Dura Dene', Beckenham Park Place, Beckenham
- LANCASHIRE** No. 21 Group, Willow Lane, Lancaster  
No. 19 Group, 'Danebury', Grange Avenue, Levenshulme, Manchester 19
- NORFOLK** No. 6 Group, R.A.F. Station Old Catton, Norwich
- OXFORDSHIRE** No. 3 Group, Woodstock Road, Upper Wolvercote, Oxford
- SHROPSHIRE** No. 16 Group, London Road, Shrewsbury
- SOMERSET** No. 9 Group, 53 Southwoods, Hendford Hill, Yeovil
- SUSSEX** No. 2 Group, The Drill Hall, Denne Road, Horsham
- WARWICKSHIRE** No. 8 Group, 'Broadwater', Earlsden Avenue, Coventry
- YORKSHIRE** No. 18 Group, Grove House, Grosvenor Road, Hyde Park, Leeds 6  
No. 20 Group, Tadcaster Road, York

**SCOTLAND**

- ABERDEENSHIRE** No. 29 Group, Old Infirmary Buildings, Woolmanhill, Aberdeen
- ANGUS** No. 28 Group, Craigie Barn, Dundee
- ARGYLL** No. 27 Group, Albany Street, Oban
- AYRSHIRE** No. 25 Group, Bellrock Avenue, Prestwick
- INVERNESS** No. 30 Group, Raigmore, Inverness
- LANARKSHIRE** No. 26 Group, R.A.F. Station Bishopbriggs, near Glasgow
- MIDLOTHIAN** No. 24 Group, 14 Carlton Terrace, Edinburgh 7

**WALES**

- CAERNARVON** No. 17 Group, Northgate Street, Caernarvon
- CARMARTHEN** No. 13 Group, Parade Road, Carmarthen

**NORTHERN IRELAND**

- BELFAST** No. 31 Group, Houston Park, Orangefield, Castlereagh, Belfast

Join the  
**ROYAL  
OBSERVER  
CORPS**





# Why you are needed in the . . .

THE ROYAL OBSERVER CORPS—for many years the 'eyes and ears of the R.A.F.'—with its close network of posts scattered strategically throughout the British Isles, shares with the R.A.F. a responsibility as Britain's first line of defence. Not only does the Royal Observer Corps supply eye-witness information to Fighter Command on the movements and identification of low-flying aircraft; it has an additional and vital task of monitoring radioactive 'fall-out'. 'Fall-out' is invisible radioactive matter which is showered out from the gigantic mushroom dust-cloud created by a nuclear explosion. Information as to its whereabouts and intensity, upon which the efficiency of the fighting services and the survival of the whole population will depend, is passed by Royal Observer Corps centres to the Home Office team of scientists at the Fighter Command operations rooms to be woven into an intricate pattern for Civil Defence.

R.O.C. groups cover the whole of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The headquarters of each group has an operations room or centre, which is in contact with a network of about 50 posts, spaced at about 8-10 miles apart. This geographical distribution of R.O.C. posts makes the Royal Observer Corps ideally suited for gathering information essential for the protection of the whole nation in a nuclear war.

**It's fun working with 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 Observer posts in aircraft recognition contests, and the good comradeship of evenings spent at post meetings. All men and women of the R.O.C. can also spend a week at a summer camp as guests of a R.A.F. fighter station. At these voluntary camps a full-time entertainments officer ensures that men and women Observers combine their practical training with a real holiday atmosphere, with dances, concerts, film shows and amusing prize-winning competitions.

**What are the duties of a R.O.C. post?** There are now two types of R.O.C. post, since the Royal Observer Corps today has a dual role. The task of spotting and reporting aircraft movements, so essential to national defence, is done at posts above ground. But once there is a nuclear explosion, Observers can no longer man open posts, so specially protected underground posts are being built. These, stocked with rations, and furnished, will provide a complete cover from radiation for the men and women on duty. In these underground posts Observers use 'survey meters'—which look like miniature

portable wireless sets—to register the amount of radiation received from the radioactive dust of a nuclear explosion.

A R.O.C. Observer has a most interesting job manning a post. It is for him to assess the height, direction and type of every aircraft that passes. It may be an aircraft he already knows, or a new experimental jet aircraft unknown to the public. The R.O.C. is proud to have spotted the first enemy V.1 in 1944 and to have correctly reported it as a pilotless missile.

**What you do in a R.O.C. centre.** Centres are the link in the chain between the various posts within the group and the Fighter Command control and reporting organisation.

The focal point of the R.O.C. group is the operations room. This consists of a large plotting table round three sides of which is a balcony, and on the fourth wall there is a vertically mounted table known as the long range plotting board. Working in the operations room are 'plotters' and 'tellers', who may be either men or women. 'Plotters' sit round the main table and each of them is linked by telephone to a cluster of posts. When aircraft movements are reported special counters are used to indicate on the plotting table the number, height, speed and direction of any formation. This information can be seen at a glance by the 'tellers' sitting on the surrounding balcony and they communicate the details to Fighter Command and the adjacent R.O.C. groups. Another set of counters is used for plotting the whereabouts and intensity of radioactive fall-out and this is passed to a Home Office scientific team who are at work with Fighter Command.

Meanwhile other 'plotters' are recording on the long range plotting board reports of aircraft movements in adjoining R.O.C. groups—as well as reports of radioactive danger zones. In this way the duty controller of the centre knows not only all aircraft movements and radioactive danger zones in his own group but also of activities within a radius of 100 miles.

*An invaluable instrument, to be carried like a fountain-pen, is the 'Dosimeter'. This will tell each Observer the amount of radiation which he personally has received so that he can take precautions before the safety limit is exceeded. It is here being set by the charging unit to bring the reading back to zero.*



## . . . ROYAL OBSERVER CORPS



# JOIN A CENTRE OR POST of the ROYAL O

## Who is eligible?

Men and women who are British subjects are eligible to serve in the Royal Observer Corps.

It must be noted, however, that certain restrictions are in force concerning the recruitment of some classes of reservists.

## What are the age limits?

The lower age limit is 15 for men and 16 for women. At Centres the upper age limit is 50 and at Posts it is 55.

## 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 when you have served for six months at a Post or nine months at a Centre you will be required to 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 aircraft recognition expert.



*How high is it flying? What is its speed? Perhaps one of these girls will make the lucky guess and win a prize.*

## 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* £6 0s. 0d.

*Leading Observer* £4 10s. 0d.

*Observer* £3 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 15s. each year in which you pass the Intermediate test and an extra £1 10s. when you also pass the Master test.

## What about uniform?

Observers are required to wear the approved uniform when attending for R.O.C. duty or training. All uniform is supplied free of charge.

## What would my position be in a national emergency?

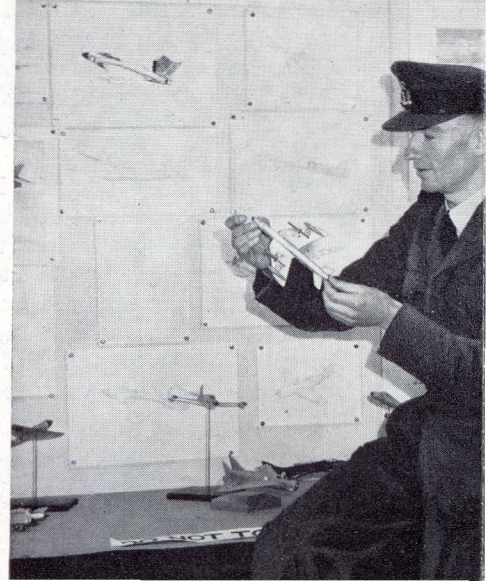
Subject to liability for service in the armed forces, an Observer must undertake to devote not less than 12 hours weekly to R.O.C. duties during a period of national emergency.

## Do I get a travelling allowance?

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



## Weekly Drawing and Model Competition





# OBSERVER CORPS

**HOW CAN I JOIN?**  
By applying personally to the Commandant of your local Group, whose address you will find on the back cover, or fill in this coupon and an enrolment form will be sent to you.



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

Please forward an enrolment form to:

Name (BLOCK CAPITALS) .....

Address .....

.....

.....



*LEFT: Coffee time—a break in a busy evening!*

*RIGHT: The duty controller in an Operations room sits with his 'tellers' on a balcony surrounding the plotting table. Information seen on the table is passed by them direct to Fighter Command and the various R.O.C. Groups concerned.*



*LEFT: Drawing and modelling aircraft is a fascinating step towards their recognition in the sky.*



## HIGHLIGHTS IN R.O.C. HISTORY

- 1925** Two Observer Corps Groups of Posts and Centres 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 'stood-to'.
- 1940** First big trial came with the Battle of Britain. In recognition of the Corps' excellent work King George VI granted the title 'Royal' in 1941.
- 1941** Women joined the R.O.C. for the first time.
- 1942** The Group H.Q. system, officer ranks, Post training and the Basic Test introduced. Standard Layouts for Operations Rooms and Long Range Plotting Boards also introduced.
- 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.
- 1945** The R.O.C. 'stood-down'.
- 1947** Post-war recruiting started.
- 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 additional role of reporting radioactive fall-out.