

READ . . . . .  
THINK . . . . .  
TALK . . . . .  
WRITE . . . . .  
ACT!

Read this pamphlet carefully. Think about it. Then pass it to your friends. Talk about it. Get your acquaintances to buy a copy. Get others talking about it.

Write—to our local Press; to your Councillor; to your M.P. Get your friends to sign the letter too.

If you are organised, get your organisation moving. Raise the question in your Trade Union, your professional association, your Co-operative Guild, your Church group, your Labour Party, your L.N.U., your peace organisation. Organised, we can ensure our families getting real protection.

For your organisation, too, there is another important question: choosing members to join the existing A.R.P. services as *Wardens*. For the people to hold aloof "on principle" is highly dangerous. It means abandoning ourselves to the control of reactionaries. Even if you are not in any organisation, you yourself could join, with one or two friends. Use the existing A.R.P. to voice the people's demands!

Read *The Daily Worker*. Weekly articles by Professor J. B. S. Haldane—day-to-day details about A.R.P. Accurate scientific articles

Our Party Rooms are at 22 St. Alban's Terrace. Come and discuss suggestions with us. We are there to help.

TO-DAY WE CAN WIN PEACE  
AND PROTECTION—  
TO-MORROW MAY BE TOO LATE

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# A R P

a plan for the  
safety of the people  
of NOTTINGHAM 2<sup>d.</sup>



# F O R E W O R D

**T**HE Communist Party of Nottingham has sent this memorandum to the Municipal Authorities. As air raid precautions affect everyone, we are publishing it in pamphlet form so that it may have the consideration of all.

The Communist Party believes that a world war can be avoided. The world can be brought to peace again, if we, the common people, act.

The greatest danger is the policy of the present Government. They have made "gaps in our defences" bigger than any rearmament programme can ever fill. They have turned their backs on the League of Nations. They have encouraged the aggressor powers, Germany and Italy, to build war bases in Africa, in Spain, and in the Mediterranean. So that besides having prevented all collective action, they have thrown away England's chief strategical advantages in order to "appease" the dictators. So far from being appeased, the dictators have never been so brutal or so aggressive as they are to-day.

War is certain unless this policy is changed. War is certain unless England stands with Republican Spain, with Czechoslovakia, France and the U.S.S.R., in a defensive peace bloc within the League of Nations and backed by America. But the policy will not be changed, these steps will not be taken, unless the National Government is overthrown.

As a Party, we shall continue to use all our strength in the struggle to stop war; but the times are so critical that the people are entitled to insist on serious preparations being made for the protection of civilians.

The Government's scheme of Air Raid Precautions does not attempt to give protection against the real dangers of war. This pamphlet outlines a plan for Nottingham. It is not the last word; but it is a practical plan. Moreover, it is based on one principle alone: *that the safety of the people comes first.*

*Signed* C. E. MASON.

E. W. CANT.

*For the Communist Party.*



# NOTTINGHAM

FROM the point of view of aerial attack, Nottinghamshire is "Danger Area No. 1," and Nottingham itself is one of the most dangerously situated towns in Britain. It is only 54 miles (not much more than ten minutes to a bomber) from the coast. It stands midway in the chain of Midlands armaments towns stretching from Coventry to Sheffield, and is also on a direct line from the Nazi aerodromes massed in N.W. Germany to Sheffield, Manchester and Liverpool; so that even supposing Nottingham itself had not been the first object of attack, if the raiders did not reach their furthest objectives, Nottingham is the most likely place where they would empty their load of bombs on return.

But Nottingham itself is a tempting target: not only for its two important railway stations, not only for the Government gun factory planted in one of the most cruelly vulnerable working-class areas in the county, not only for Wilford Power Station, now becoming a key spot in the grid system of Central England, not only for the net-work of small factories which will be engaged on war work; but also because Nottingham is a centre. It is the centre of a ring of first-rate military objectives: Chilwell, munitions; Stanton, iron; Hucknall, aeroplanes; Spondon, chemicals and explosives; Colwick, petrol; as well as the whole surrounding coal-mining area. As these places draw many of their workers from Nottingham, one way of crippling them would be to follow the Trent and bomb Nottingham itself (which could not be missed). In any case, it is likely that many of the bombs aimed at neighbouring targets would fall on north and west Nottingham.

Moreover, the casualties among civilians from an air raid on Nottingham would be greater than those to be expected from similar raids on other important cities. Nottingham is more vulnerable *because the people live closer together*. Whereas in Sheffield the average number of people per acre is 15, in Birmingham 19, and in Coventry only 13, *in Nottingham it is 24*.

## THE OBJECT OF AERIAL ATTACK.

"Military objectives," like power stations, railway centres, aerodromes, gun factories, still remain important targets. But now-a-days an air-force can more usefully devastate *whole areas* than destroy given *points*. Canton and Barcelona make this clear. The simplest way to cripple a city's life is to terrorise and destroy its civil population by "indiscriminate bombing."

Because of this and because human life is more important than property in any case, any scheme of precautions must be intended *first and foremost* to protect the people. Yet, speaking for the National Government last December, Sir Samuel Hoare said that it was "dangerous" that people should want purely protective measures at all.

"If air raid precautions were out of scale, a tremendous financial burden would be placed on the country, and, what was much more serious, there would be the excessive concentration on purely defensive measures and the creation of a dangerous bias in the national mind towards passive protection rather than vigorous attack."

A Government which thinks it "excessive" to concentrate on defensive measures directly helps the raiders. Such a Government is an enemy in our own country.

## THE METHODS OF AERIAL ATTACK.

The three chief methods are: gas bombing (or spraying), incendiary bombing and high-explosive bombing. Gas is our least danger, high-explosive our greatest.

(1) Gas. Though gas was perhaps the most effective weapon used in the last world war (reckoning casualties per shell), yet its use depends upon many factors. It has not yet been used in Spain, and very little in China, for fear of world opinion. In the event of world war, however, this "scruple" would no longer be obeyed. Gas would be used when suitable conditions arose. But gas needs, for its fullest effect, low flying (for spraying), low ground temperature and little wind; and it is very unlikely that it would be used except where the defences and buildings had already been reduced by high-explosive and incendiary bombs. Even National Government "experts" now agree that gas presents the least danger.

(2) Incendiary. According to Sir Samuel Hoare, one aeroplane can carry between 1000 and 2000 of these 2½-lb. bombs. About one third of the bombs dropped on an urban area will hit buildings; many less will burn. Captain Popkess, at present Chief A.R.P. Officer for Nottingham, has told the press that "a single bomber could set Nottingham ablaze from Beeston to Hucknall in three minutes." This is a panic statement; in Spain, incendiary bombs are being used less and less, because they are not effective enough. But the danger can be appreciated.

(3) High-explosive. This is the most used, because the most effective, method of attack. Not only will high-explosive bombs penetrate easily to the essential supply sources of a city—the gas, water, electricity and sewage systems—making widespread hardship and disease probable, but more important still, take a terrible toll of life by random hits in crowded areas. The Germans and Italians in Spain have also been experimenting with a small (500-lb.) high-explosive bomb which does not penetrate but explodes sideways. This bomb is designed not for military objectives *but for crowded streets*.

## WHAT IS THE CHARACTER OF THE GOVERNMENT'S "PRECAUTIONS" ?

"Fascists declare that democracy is incapable of the self-sacrifice and discipline which are the conditions of a



strong state. *The success or failure of the new A.R.P. Act should settle that question.*—Opening sentence of “Times” official A.R.P. articles, January 1938

In other words, the *political* object of A.R.P. is to produce the conditions of Fascism. The enrolment, under police control, of a huge army of “Wardens” (greater than Army, Navy and Air Force combined), charged with wide powers, including the right of entry into every household, will be the means to this end.

*Technical* criticism of the Government’s plans has come from the most eminent scientists in the country, from research workers, fire-brigade chiefs and many others. Obviously no scheme will give complete protection—if it would, why build bombers? But some schemes are better than others. Anything is better than this. The Government’s A.R.P. is inferior to all other known schemes.

Germany has spent £400,000,000 on A.R.P. in four years (more than eight times as much as the National Government’s most generous proposal). France has ready detailed evacuation plans (the order for evacuation is to be given before the order for mobilisation), and has built large and efficient shelters. Japan has built shelters for 470,000 people in Tokio alone. In Barcelona, in the midst of war, shelters have been sunk for 350,000 people—mostly 50 feet underground and with ferro-concrete roofing; and more are being made. Soviet Russia, according to the semi-official British book “Air Defence and the Civil Population,” has the most comprehensive and efficient scheme of all, notably in its provision for young children—whom the National Government has ignored.

The National Government has not yet been forced to provide shelters for the protection of the people.\* It is left to the people to fend for themselves. In our own Nottingham, Mr. Finch, the City Engineer, said (*Nottingham Journal*, 17/5/38): “Every office and business premises in the city, including factories, should have some form of protection. This is going to be our motto: we want to encourage the population to do it for themselves.” Captain Popkess’s opinion (*Nottingham Guardian*, 6/4/38) is that “the householders in this country will not depend upon public shelters so much as their ingenuity in preparing gas-proof rooms at home or digging a trench in the garden.”

\*The National Government has been forced to talk. It *talks* of evacuating three million children. The number of children in cities of over 100,000 population *alone* is twice this number. Children will need to be evacuated from all towns down to 10,000 population.

It also talks about shelters. Sir Samuel Hoare said (B.B.C., 23/5/38) that the Government was spending £40 or £50 millions for the *whole* of A.R.P. The nation’s shelters alone will cost ten times as much as this. Marylebone Borough Council proposed to build a shelter for 3000 people; the Government stopped them.

The Government talks.....

How many people in Radford have gardens at all, let alone gardens large enough to be clear of falling masonry? How many people in Sneinton? How many in Bulwell? Basford? Meadows?

There are 4000 condemned houses in Nottingham. How many rooms in these houses, and in thousands more, could be made “gas-proof” by any “ingenuity”?

The “gas-proof” room is an invention little heard of outside Britain; and the “protection” it gives is the excuse for issuing to the public the “Civilian Respirator.” *This respirator is cheaper and worse in quality than all known European masks.* In such respects as the size of the face-piece, provision of outlet valve, anti-dimming windows and number of headbands, the British mask is inferior to those of France, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Switzerland and the U.S.S.R. As part of our scheme of protection, we must at least insist on “Civilian Duty” masks being issued to our whole population.

#### WHAT ARE REAL PRECAUTIONS?

One thing is certain. If human life is adequately protected, the question of *panic* will not arise where English people are concerned. If the methods of that protection have been grasped, Nottingham men and women will calmly play the parts required of them.

That is why the Communist Party has none of the Government’s fears over this question of the public’s co-operation. Co-operation of the whole people for the people’s safety is vital if *any* air raid precautions are to work. The Government are having difficulty in regimenting people for their scheme, because it naturally rouses suspicion. We are confident that everyone will do his utmost to make effective a plan such as ours, *because the plan itself means proper defence.*

Our plan is one primarily of evacuation and of bomb-proof shelters. Spain has proved that in towns “there is no safety outside properly constructed shelters”—(Special Correspondent in Barcelona, *Daily Telegraph and Morning Post*, 29/3/38). Spain has proved that only evacuation gives the children escape from the irreparable effects of war.

Here is the plan for Nottingham:—

#### EVACUATION.

(NOTE.—Each evacuation settlement—(see below)—will need its own medical staff. In any case, Nottingham’s existing provision for mothers and children is shocking: we have no Municipal Maternity Hospital, and only 90 beds available for normal and abnormal labour—and these would no doubt be required for war emergencies. Little wonder that Nottingham’s infant death rate is disgracefully above the average already, *and is getting higher every year.* In Nottingham, 89 babies out of every thousand die within their first year, whereas the average for the whole of Britain is 59. War conditions, unless special provision is made for them, would stunt Nottingham’s babies for a generation).



(1) People to be evacuated :

- All school children under 15 years, with enough teachers, medical staff, etc., to look after them.
- All children under school age.
- All blind persons and wholly-dependent invalids.
- All nursing and expectant mothers.

The following may also be evacuated, if they wish :

- Mothers of younger children (children aged 1-5 years).
- Old age pensioners and their wives.

(2) *Numbers.* It will be necessary to evacuate nearly 90,000 people\*—just under one third of the total population of Nottingham. This is a modest figure compared with the proportion which the French authorities propose to evacuate from Paris. There, they intend to remove 2½ million out of a total population of 4½ millions for the duration of a war ; but one third is the general figure taken in those countries where evacuation is a matter of settled policy.

(3) *Character of evacuation.* Many of the women, all the invalids and old people should be billeted in the villages. (The French official scheme provides for each village receiving about as many refugees as it has inhabitants). For the children and the staffs attending them there should be suitably camouflaged camp settlements formed of "army" huts. Householders would naturally be paid for the cost of billeting: but in the circumstances, no rent will be paid to the landowners for the camp sites. The selection of the camp site should be under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health. The camps would have their own stores of coal and other non-perishable necessities. A food service would be organised from a well-protected food storage centre for the whole evacuation area.

*School children under 15	...	...	about	38,000
Children under 5	...	...	about	20,000
Nursing and expectant mothers	...	...	about	6,000
Staff	...	...	about	3,000
Blind persons, invalids and other categories	...	...	about	20,000
				nearly 90,000

(4) *Method of evacuation.* In Paris, they plan to evacuate the 2½ million people in the first few weeks of mobilisation, without interfering either with industry or defence. British authorities are more confident (and more inactive). *The Times*, in the special "inspired" A.R.P. articles of January, 1938, says that "it is reassuring to know that London could be evacuated at the rate of a million persons a day." It should at least be possible to evacuate Nottingham's ninety thousand within a week, if the detail has been worked out beforehand.

People should be taken from the most vulnerable areas first, in the following order:—

DISTRICT	ESTIMATE OF POPULATION TO BE EVACUATED
MEADOWS WARD (all south of Castle Boulevard and west of Park Street) .. .. .	5,700
BRIDGE WARD .. .. .	5,200
TRENT WARD .. .. .	4,000
ST. MARY'S WARD (north of Lower Parliament St.)	3,200
MANVERS WARD .. .. .	5,700
FOREST WARD .. .. .	6,700
ST. ANN'S WARD and SHERWOOD WARD (all north of Gregory Boulevard) .. .. .	8,300
ROBIN HOOD WARD .. .. .	5,300
MARKET WARD and rest of ST. MARY'S WARD	6,000
WOLLATON WARD (all east of River Leen), and rest of SHERWOOD WARD .. .. .	7,700
ST. ALBAN'S WARD .. .. .	7,100
BROXTOWE WARD .. .. .	4,800
CASTLE WARD (all east of Faraday Road), and rest of MEADOWS WARD .. .. .	3,900
Rest of CASTLE WARD .. .. .	2,100
Rest of WOLLATON WARD .. .. .	2,800
BYRON WARD .. .. .	5,600
MAPPERLEY WARD .. .. .	5,900
	90,000

The evacuation should be carried out by Corporation buses, of which there are fully 200 (allowing for increases since June, 1937) now available. The seating would be removed from the lower deck of the bus, which could then be used for luggage and belongings. Thirty persons (mainly children) would travel on the upper deck. Before evacuation, 12 hours' notice would be given to the area first concerned. Other areas would have longer notice.

Six thousand persons would be taken on each journey. To evacuate the 90,000 would take 15 journeys. It should easily be possible to make two complete journeys in a day, as no settlement area is more than 18 miles from Nottingham. During the period of evacuation, the factory buses would be replaced by buses taken off the country routes.

(5) *Position and formation of evacuation camps :*

The sites chosen must be :

- (a) Outside the likely range of offensive or defensive action. (The areas given are at least 5 miles from any urban area or known military objective).
- (b) Scattered, and in places which afford some concealment.
- (c) Within reach of water.
- (d) Easily accessible by road from Nottingham and preferably near a village.



On these grounds, the following areas are suggested (see map) :—

AREA	CAMPS AND BILLETING	ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION	BEST ROUTE FROM NOTTINGHAM
I	COLSTON BASSETT, STATHERN, CROXTON PARK	Harby, Hose, Eaton, etc.	Radcliffe and Melton Roads
II	WHATTON MANOR, BELVOIR, KNIPTON, STAUNTON-IN-THE-VALE	Redmile, Barkston, etc.	Radcliffe Road
III	FLINTHAM, EAST STOKE	Hoveringham, E. Bridgford, etc.	Radcliffe Road and Fosse Way
IV	LOWDHAM, THURGARTON, SOUTHWELL	Rolleston, Halloughton, etc.	Carlton Road
V	OXTON, EPPERSTONE	Calverton, Woodborough, etc.	Ollerton Road

Food storage centre; BINGHAM (accessible by road and rail from Nottingham, as well as from the south; and by road from camp areas).

NOTE :

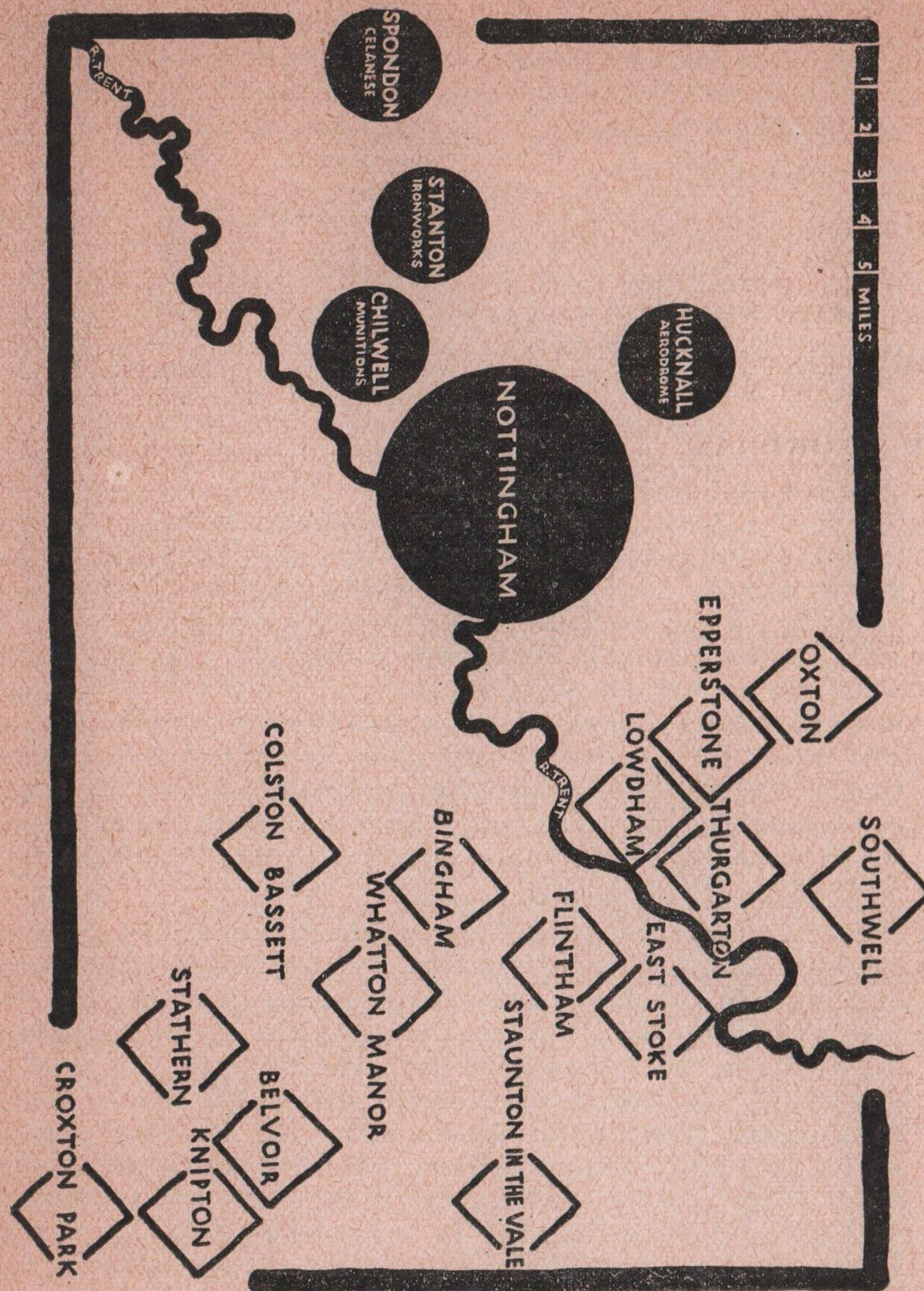
- (1) Should factories, aerodromes, etc., be built in or near these areas, other sites will of course have to be chosen (e.g., Sherwood Forest).
- (2) About 120 camp settlements will be needed each housing 500 children. A medical staff of 5 and a teaching and supervising staff of 20 will be attached to each settlement.

The people remaining in the City will require the following measures of protection :—

(1) *Warning of raids.* Mr. Langdon Davies, describing the "technique of silent approach" (gliding with engines shut off) which raiders have used with such horrible effect on Spanish coastal towns, judges that it could probably be countered in a few weeks. This should now be the first concern of Government technicians, so that adequate warning of raids can be given. "Muddling through" may mean the loss of many lives.

(2) *Aircraft protection.* Far too much of what the Government is spending on aircraft (such of it as does not go straight into the pockets of the manufacturers and the Stock Exchange) goes to building bombing planes, and far too little to defensive planes (fighters). Bomber squadrons are not intended for defence; and to know that men, women and children in the "enemy" countries are being put through the same agony as ourselves will be no substitute for protection. Moreover, the Government plans to take away even that small proportion of the R.A.F. which is actually designed for defence *and use it for attack.* Sir Samuel Hoare said in the November, 1937, debates :

"Inevitably, if there is no effective ground organisation (of A.R.P.), when an air attack takes place, there will be





such an outcry from the various centres of population for local defence that the air force will be *tied down* to this or that centre of industry or population."

The "outcry" must take place *now*; it will be too late when an air attack takes place.

(3) *Anti-aircraft units.* The high ground from Daybrook to Carlton affords excellent sites within the City for anti-aircraft batteries. The Corporation should demand that these and other sites should be utilised to the full, and that, to meet returning aircraft, outlying sites should be chosen outside the City boundary to the west, e.g., Catstone Hill (Strelley), Misk Hill (Hucknall), etc.

#### SHELTERS.

Shelters should be provided:—

- (a) At all factories, multiple stores, cinemas, railway stations, hospitals, and municipal service centres (gas and water works, power stations, etc.) Wherever possible, arrangements should be made for normal work to be carried on underground.
- (b) At accessible points in the streets of the City. (In particular, attention should be given to the caves under Nottingham, but only where they run deep enough to be of possible service. The excuse for inaction already given in some A.R.P. classes, that the caves "are on private property," should be taken at its proper value. The people of Nottingham should decide which is the more important—private property or human life.)

(1) *Kinds of shelter needed:*—

- (a) Heavy bomb-proof, protecting against direct hits by one-ton bombs. Where it is practicable, tunnel shelters should be excavated in dry earth, at a depth greater than 60 feet, the roof shored up with timbers, and air-locks at the entrances. Apart from the rather doubtful possibility of gas sinking downward and passing the air-lock, this is the nearest thing to complete protection. Cost: about £8 for each person to be sheltered. (Some shelters will have to be reinforced much more heavily, and estimates for these are sometimes as high as £30 per head). In water-bearing strata (Canal Street area, for example) the walls of the above shelter should be lined with cast iron, and the shelter fitted with filtered air-ventilating plant. Cost per head: about £18.
- (b) Light bomb-proof, protecting against direct hits by bombs of up to a few cwt. Since these shelters are less deep underground, the cost will be proportionately less.
- (c) Blast and splinter-proof, not protecting against a direct hit, but protecting against flying splinters and falling masonry. The danger from the blast of high-explosive bombs is the most likely and general of all air raid dangers. Duncan Sandys, (Member of Conservative Parliamentary A.R.P. Committee) writes (*Daily Telegraph and Morning Post*, 8/4/38, that in Barcelona one bomb not exceeding 650-lb. com-

pletely demolished a building whose total frontage was 200 feet. This is the scale of the danger. The National Government suggests that the windows of an ordinary house should be covered with paste and paper, and that a blanket should be hung over the door.

Blast and splinter-proof shelters can be made by shoring up the ceilings of cellars in buildings which have them; but where possible (notably in the ring of parks on the west side of Nottingham), 7-foot trenches should be dug, covered with corrugated iron or sandbags, with air-locks at the entrances but without ventilation plant. Cost per head: about £5.

(Shelters of all types should be proof against gas and fire. Lighting, sanitary and first-aid supplies, excavation tools, and in some cases water and food, should be provided).

The cost of adapting existing buildings varies too much for a general estimate to be given. The above cost estimates are reckoned according to Trade Union rates; but no account is taken of the value of the sites. This is not an occasion to enrich the landowners.

(2) *Areas in which shelters are needed, and accommodation required.*

Area I: *Heavy bomb-proof shelters.*—(See map).

*Boundaries:*—

Trent Lane (west), Gregory Street, Lenton & Radford Boulevards, Gregory Boulevard, Redcliffe Road, Sycamore Road, Hungerhill Road.

St. Bartholomew's Road, south to Carlton Road, then south-east across Sneinton Dale to Highcliffe Road, then due south across Colwick Road to Whittier Road and Trent Lane (east).

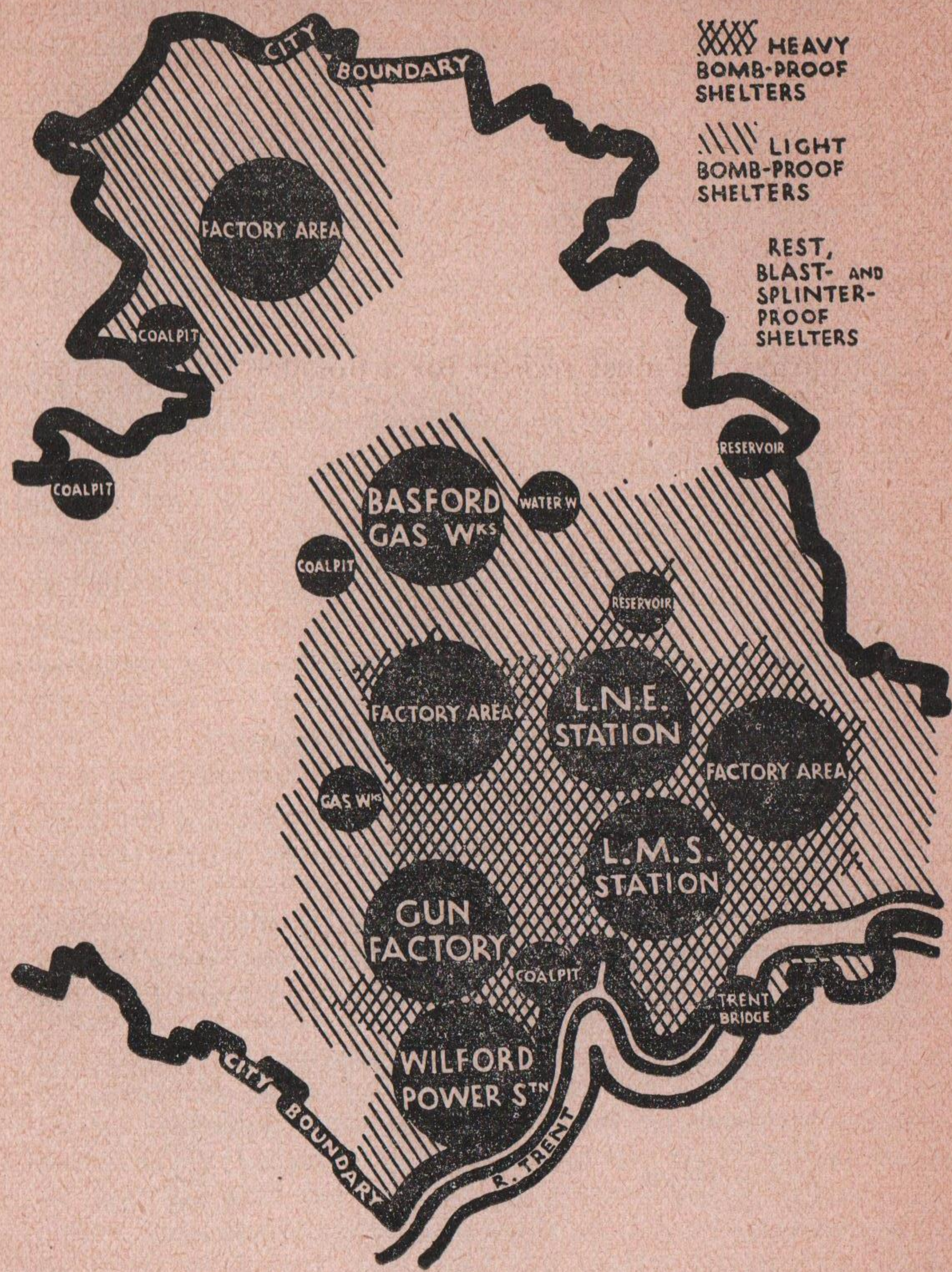
*Area covered:*—

WARDS (whole)	RESIDENT POPULATION (after evacuation)
Meadows . . . . .	13,500
Market . . . . .	11,200
Robin Hood . . . . .	11,400
St. Mary's . . . . .	8,400
Bridge . . . . .	10,800
(part)	
Castle . . . . .	3,800
Wollaton . . . . .	4,100
Sherwood . . . . .	8,000
St. Ann's . . . . .	11,600
Manvers . . . . .	6,000
Trent . . . . .	6,400
	95,200

In addition, we must reckon on another 15 to 20 thousand people who may be in the area at some time, at work, travelling through, shopping, etc.; thus bringing the total shelter accommodation required for this area to about 115,000.



# CITY OF NOTTINGHAM



HEAVY BOMB-PROOF SHELTERS  
 LIGHT BOMB-PROOF SHELTERS  
 REST, BLAST- AND SPLINTER-PROOF SHELTERS

## Area II: Light bomb-proof shelters.

Boundaries:—

Area II comprises two separate sections: Bulwell (St. Alban's Ward boundary), and a ring round the central Area I. The outer boundaries of this section are as follows:— Middleton and Western Boulevards to Nottingham Road, Haydn Road, Mapperley Street, Morley Avenue; then follow the City Boundary to the Trent.

## Area covered:—

WARDS (whole)	RESIDENT POPULATION (after evacuation)
St. Alban's .. .. .	14,900
Forest .. .. .	13,800
(part)	
Castle .. .. .	3,800
Wollaton .. .. .	4,000
Sherwood .. .. .	6,000
Mapperley .. .. .	7,500
St. Ann's and Manvers .. .. .	5,900
Trent .. .. .	2,000
	<hr/>
	57,900

In addition, we must reckon for a possible additional population of perhaps 15,000; thus bringing the total shelter accommodation required to about 72,000.

## Area III: Blast and splinter-proof shelters.

These shelters are needed for the whole of the rest of Nottingham's population. The resident population (outside Areas I and II) after evacuation has taken place is about 35,000; and the total shelter accommodation wanted for this area will be about 40,000.

## CONTROL OF THE SCHEME.

They think . . . .

“The official view is that A.R.P. organisation will be a permanent part of local administration. . . . It has been necessary to model it, more or less, on military lines. It is designed, therefore, after the style of an Army division.”—*Nottingham Guardian Trade Review*, 4/1/38.

Accordingly, the local Police Chief has been selected as A.R.P. Officer. Under him is a “Directorate,” largely independent of the City Council, mainly consisting of permanent Corporation officials. Here is a very powerful body, having authority over every man, woman and child in Nottingham. “In this grim but necessary task, Nottingham sets an example to the country.”

It is now “officially” thought “necessary” that a “more or less military” authority should be “a permanent part of local administration.”

We insist—

- (1) That control of A.R.P. must in the last resort be *in the hands of the people* through the City Council, whom they elected. The City Council must exercise full control over the “Directorate.”
- (2) That the direction of the scheme must not lie only with the police and the Corporation officials. The Directorate must at once be enlarged to include representatives from the people's familiar organisations: Trades Council delegates, Ministers of Religion, leaders of Scouts, Guides and other youth organisations, Co-operators, doctors and teachers—since these will speak for those who will actually undertake much of the



work. Representatives of the Notts. County Council should also be included.

- (3) That the Wardens should be appointed by the choice of the people rather than of the Police. Wardens are the most important feature of A.R.P. administration. They are the link between the mass of the people and the directing authority. If they are to command confidence and respect, *they must be approved by the people of their district*. Yet so far the people of their district have no say in the matter—the police decide. The excuse now being given in local A.R.P. classes for police selection is that “criminals would volunteer.” There is a better way of preventing that.

Every person who volunteers for Warden's duty must be first accepted at a meeting of his own area (his own street, or about 50 houses). Similarly, those Wardens already trained *must have their appointment endorsed* by such a meeting. There will then be no further excuse for police interference.

#### PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE SCHEME.

A draft plan in full detail must be drawn up for the Council, covering the following points:—

- (1) *Surveying, planning and building of shelters, service centres, casualty-clearing stations, etc.*

The survey at present being undertaken for the Home Office must be widened in accordance with Nottingham's actual requirements. (*Note*: the work of surveying and directing the construction of Nottingham's shelters, etc. will be the responsibility of the Works & Ways Department (now known as the General Works and Highways). At the moment, specialists from this Department are actually moving over to a narrower A.R.P. organisation under police control. This is unnecessary. The specialists would obviously need the technical co-operation of representatives of the relevant Trade Unions, the Water, Gas, and Electricity Departments, and the Post Office Telephone Service, but (with this addition) the Department is admirably fitted to carry out the work).

When the sites have been chosen and building begun, a detailed plan must be prepared for the City's inhabitants, so that each person may know the appropriate shelter for him at various times of a routine day.

- (2) *Evacuation.*

- (a) Camp sites in the areas mentioned should immediately be chosen by the medical authorities with the help of the County Council, technical arrangements made and the putting up of hut settlements begun.
- (b) Schedules must be prepared for each City area, for all bus depots, and for Wardens, showing where those to be evacuated from each area are to be picked up, how many are going

and in what order; and giving their respective destinations. A list of requirements, and of belongings allowed should also be given.

- (c) The technical staff—doctors, teachers, supervisors—must also be given details of their scheme.
- (d) As far as possible (without of course taking people out of the City), the scheme should be rehearsed so that it would work smoothly in emergency.

- (3) *Maintenance of services and supplies.*

(a) *Food supplies.* To deal with this problem, and to arrange for emergency storage and canteens, a special Department should be set up, on which should be represented the Nottingham Co-operative Society, the Retail Traders' Association, the Chamber of Commerce and the Distributive Workers' and Shop Assistants' Unions.

(b) *Essential Services.* The Sewage, Water, Gas and Electricity Departments, and the Post Office Telephone Service should all organise their staffs to deal with the dislocation of their services in emergency. For these, as for the medical bodies, additional staff must be recruited and carefully trained to work in war conditions.

- (4) *A.R.P. Service Centres.*

The City should be served by 20 A.R.P. Service Centres, distributed generally according to the City Wards. These centres should consist of *heavy bomb-proof* and gas-proof shelters *in all areas*, to hold the administrative office for the district, and to house all service workers and their equipment. Each centre should have its warning siren, and a self-contained electric generator for emergency use. On the warning being given, all service workers (except the medical) would report to their centre for duty. From these centres would be organised:—

- (a) Rescue and salvage squads.  
(b) Fire-fighting squads.\*  
(c) Decontamination squads.  
(d) Patrols.

In addition, to each service centre there should be, generally, a casualty-clearing station, similarly protected, to which the medical staff would report on the raid warning. Round these, first-aid posts would be organised.

When the draft plan is completed, it must be given the widest publicity, so that:

- (1) Everyone knows what to do in the emergency.  
(2) The plan itself may be fully criticised, and its faults corrected.

\*(NOTE.—The German and French Governments dress their fire-fighters in one-piece heat-resisting suits. The National Government proposes to dress our fire-fighters in seven-piece *inflammable* suits. They also propose to keep them on the streets while the bombs are falling.—*News Chronicle*, 4/5/38.

We insist on equipment and precautions as good as those of the rest of Europe).



## COST.

Our scheme will cost £3,000,000. According to the 1937 A.R.P. Act, the Government must provide up to 85% of the sum, namely £2,550,000—leaving Nottingham to find £450,000.

The cost is high, *but the value of human life is higher*. This £450,000 will spell safety for our wives, our children and ourselves. This £450,000 will mean that whatever happens Nottingham will not see the horrors which have come to Madrid and Shanghai, where people had little but their houses to protect them. In war-time adequate precautions would have to be taken, but they would not then be in time to prevent tremendous loss of life. Raising £450,000 *now* means that we will not *then* be mourning our innocent dead.

The people who must find this £450,000 are those who can afford to pay it. It would be out of the question to expect the common people to bear the brunt. The common people have already had their rates put up. The common people are already buying armaments through the high prices of their bread and butter, their milk and their tea. Here are our suggestions:—

(a) The Corporation should give every support to other local authorities which are trying to make the Government pay the *whole* cost. For a start, the Government could impose a crippling tax on the armament profiteers, who have already (in spite of National Defence Contributions) trebled their incomes; or it could pocket the royalties of the country's coalowners.

(b) A Municipal Income Tax (Parliament would have to sanction it) levied only on incomes over £350 a year.

(c) A *Local* Defence Contribution from profits on work carried out and premises registered in the City. With local dividends so high (Raleigh, Ericsson's, Boots, Rockley's, at 25%, 25%, 29%, 62% respectively), the results would be considerable. The profits of nine leading Nottingham firms last year amounted to £2,000,000. A levy of one quarter of these super-profits would pay the whole sum.

We should remember too:

- (1) That firms should pay for the shelters they will have to build, and count the payment as capital expenditure.
- (2) That for work on A.R.P. the Corporation should employ labour direct, so that no contractor can make any profit from it.
- (3) That many unemployed men would be removed from the live register because of this work (in Nottingham now, one able-bodied man in eight is unemployed), and that the Government could be made to allow the Corporation the money saved from unemployment benefit.

Above all, we must never forget the bill we are paying for armaments. On weapons of attack, the Government originally proposed spending £1,500,000,000: *more than fifty times as much* as it thought of for A.R.P. This year's war estimates were up 25%. Even at this rate the five-year total will be not £1,500,000,000 but £2,300,000,000.

OUR £450,000 IS FOR DEFENCE.