

# Civil Defence - The Cold War and the Shadow of the Mushroom Cloud

## Amddiffyn Sifil - Y Rhyfel Oer a Chysgod y Cwmwl Madarch



In June 1945 the Civil Defence Services, such as the ARP, were stood down following victory in World War II. However in 1946 Churchill spoke of an "iron curtain" descending across Europe as relations between the West and the Soviet Union cooled. In 1949 the Soviet Union exploded its first atomic bomb and the British Government established the Civil Defence Corps, a voluntary organisation, to help in the aftermath of a nuclear attack.

Recruitment and training were very important. Recruitment was done through leaflets, posters, press advertising, film shows and training exercises. Films such as 'The Waking Point', 'The Five Stages of Rescue' and 'The Atom Bomb - Its Effects and How to Deal with Them' were shown in cinemas. However, rather than encourage recruits their graphic nature tended to put people off.

Training exercises took place around Wrexham. Exercise 'Jupiter', held in 1957, simulated that a nuclear attack had resulted in fires in coal mines at Llay, Gresford, Hafod and Bersham. In 1959 exercise 'Moonlight' simulated a nuclear blast over the steel works at Shotton causing collateral damage to the Wrexham area. In 1961 exercise 'Sardine' envisaged a two megaton ground-burst explosion on Wrexham causing maximum damage, debris and radiation. In this instance life saving activities would continue for two days, after that it would be difficult to help because of depleted strength of the Civil Defence Corps and Police services.

During the Cold War, in 1962, the RAF station at Borras became the site of the first specially designed semi-sunk Operations Headquarters which in the event of a nuclear war would have sounded the four minute warning alarm to alert the population of Wrexham to take cover from approaching radioactive fallout.

The Civil Defence Corps was disbanded in 1968.

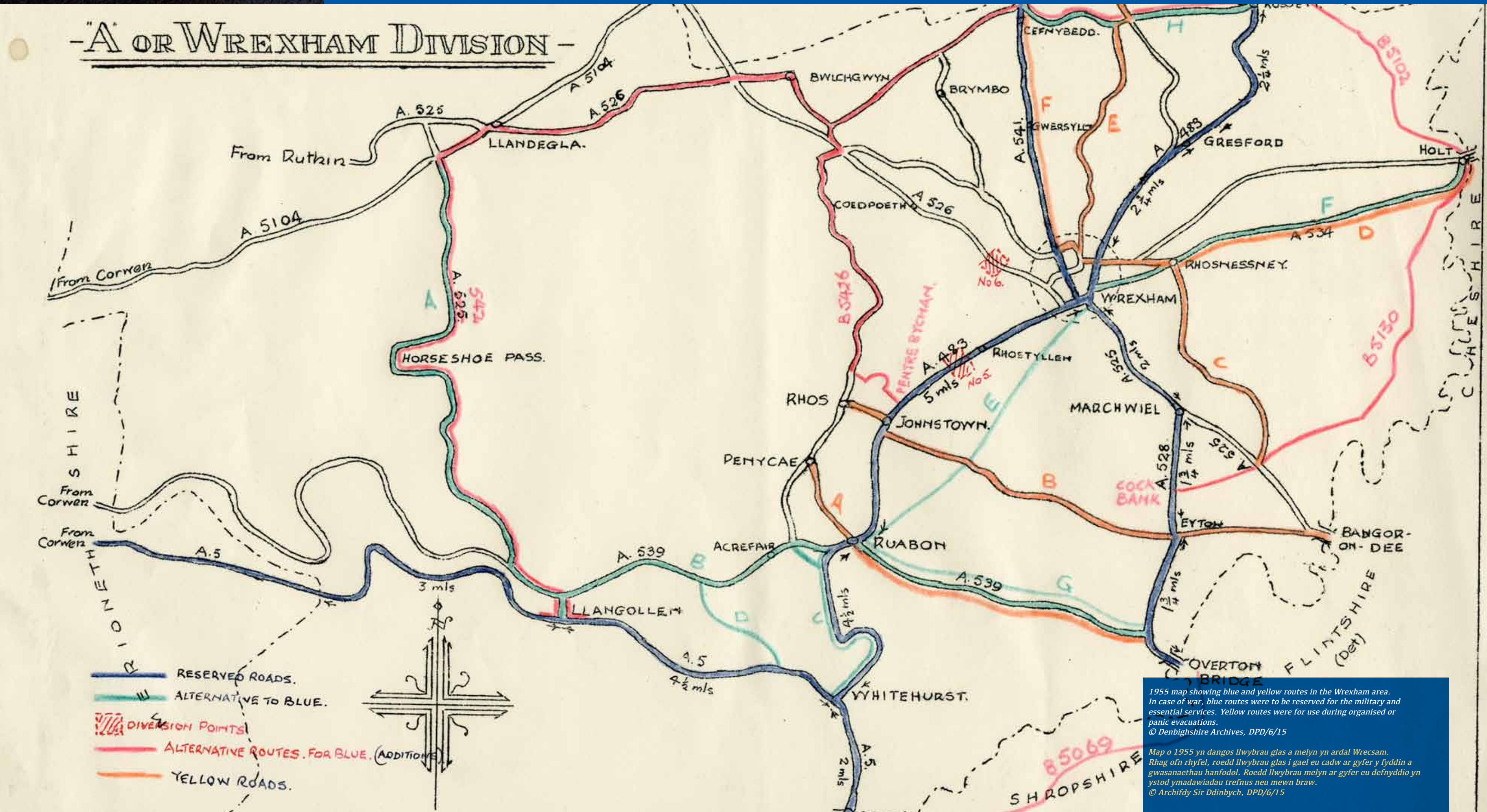
Ym mis Mehefin 1945 gorffennwyd y Gwasanaethau Amddiffyn Sifil, fel yr ARP, yn dilyn buddugoliaeth yn yr Ail Ryfel Byd. Fodd bynnag soniodd Churchill yn 1946 am "len haearn" yn dod i lawr ar draws Ewrop pan oerodd cysylltiadau rhwng y Gorllewin a'r Undeb Sofietaidd. Yn 1949 ffrwydrwyd bom atomig cyntaf yr Undeb Sofietaidd a sefydlodd Llywodraeth Prydain y Corfflu Amddiffyn Sifil, mudiad gwirfoddol, i gynorthwyo yn sgil ymosodiad niwclear.

Roedd denu a hyfforddi pobl yn bwysig iawn. Denwyd trwy daflenni, posteri, hysbyseb yn y wasg, sioeau ffilmiau ac ymarferion hyfforddi. Dangoswyd ffilmiau fel 'The Waking Point', 'The Five Stages of Rescue' a 'The Atom Bomb - Its Effects and How to Deal with Them' mewn sinemâu. Fodd bynnag, yn hytrach na denu pobl i ymuno, roedd eu natur fanwl yn tueddu i'w troi rhag gwneud hynny.

Cynhaliwyd ymarferion hyfforddi o gwmpas Wrecsam. Yn ymarfer 'Jupiter', a gynhaliwyd yn 1957, dychmygwyd bod ymosodiad niwclear wedi arwain at danau ym mhyllau glo Llai, Gresford, yr Hafod a'r Bers. Yn 1959 efelychodd ymarfer 'Moonlight' ffrwydrad niwclear dros waith dur Shotton gan achosi difrod ystlysol yn ardal Wrecsam. Yn 1961 dychmygodd ymarfer 'Sardine' ffrwydrad dau megaton wrth daro'r ddaear ger Wrecsam gan achosi'r difrod, malurion ac ymbelydredd mwyaf. Yn yr achos hwn byddai gweithgareddau achub bywydau'n parhau am ddau ddiwrnod ond, wedyn, byddai'n anodd cynorthwyo oherwydd disbyddu nerth y Corfflu Amddiffyn Sifil a gwasanaethau'r Heddlu.

Yn ystod y Rhyfel Oer, yn 1962, daeth gorsaf y RAF yn Borras yn safle'r Pencadlys Gweithrediadau lled-suddedig cyntaf a ddyluniwyd yn arbennig. Pe digwyddai rhyfel niwclear byddai wedi swnio'r rhybudd pedwar munud fel bod poblogaeth Wrecsam yn gwybod fod llwch ymbelydrol yn dyesu.

Chwalwyd y Corfflu Amddiffyn Sifil yn 1968.



1955 map showing blue and yellow routes in the Wrexham area. In case of war, blue routes were to be reserved for the military and essential services. Yellow routes were for use during organised or panic evacuations.  
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Map o 1955 yn dangos llwybrau glas a melyn yn ardal Wrecsam. Rhag ofn rhyfel, roedd llwybrau glas i gael eu cadw ar gyfer y fyddin a gwasanaethau hanfodol. Roedd llwybrau melyn ar gyfer eu defnyddio yn ystod ymadawiadau trefnus neu mewn braw.  
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Local Civil Defence team practice  
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Ymarfer tim lleol Amddiffyn Sifil  
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