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CIVIL DEFENCE H.Q.

Birmingham Civil Defence force parades past the Director-General of Civil Defence, General Sir Sidney Kirkman. The occasion is the opening of their new headquarters, which the Mayor of Birmingham is now inspecting. This is Britain's first combined control centre for operating all C.D. services, including fire, police, and ambulance, in an atomic war.

This underground nerve centre is a 2,500-ton concrete shell, reinforced by 75 tons of steel. It took 20 months to build, and cost £30,000. Seventy-five people can work and live there, protected from radio-activity by a special air filtering plant.

General Kirkman inspects the mobile forces which the new centre has at its disposal. If atomic warfare came to Britain, these are the men and women who would have to fight its results. They hope that time will never come; but if it should, they are ready.