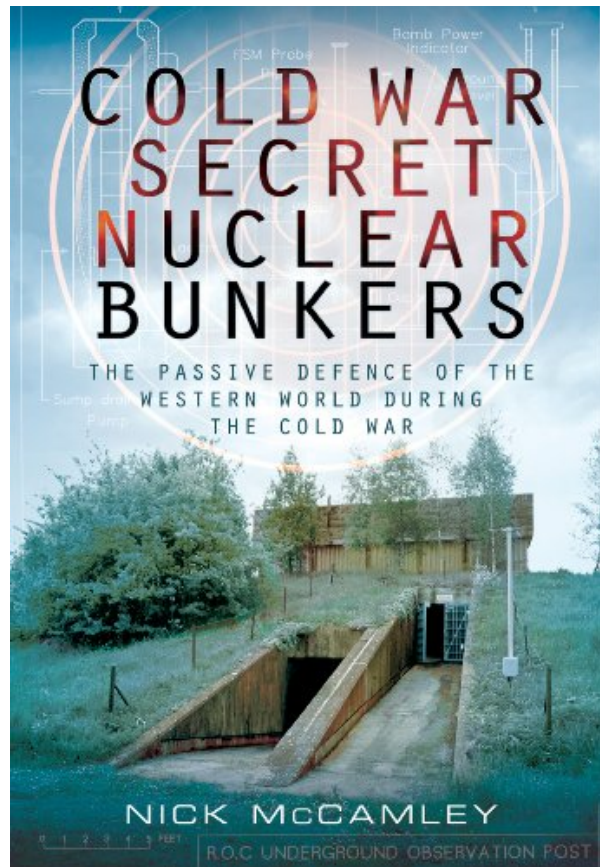


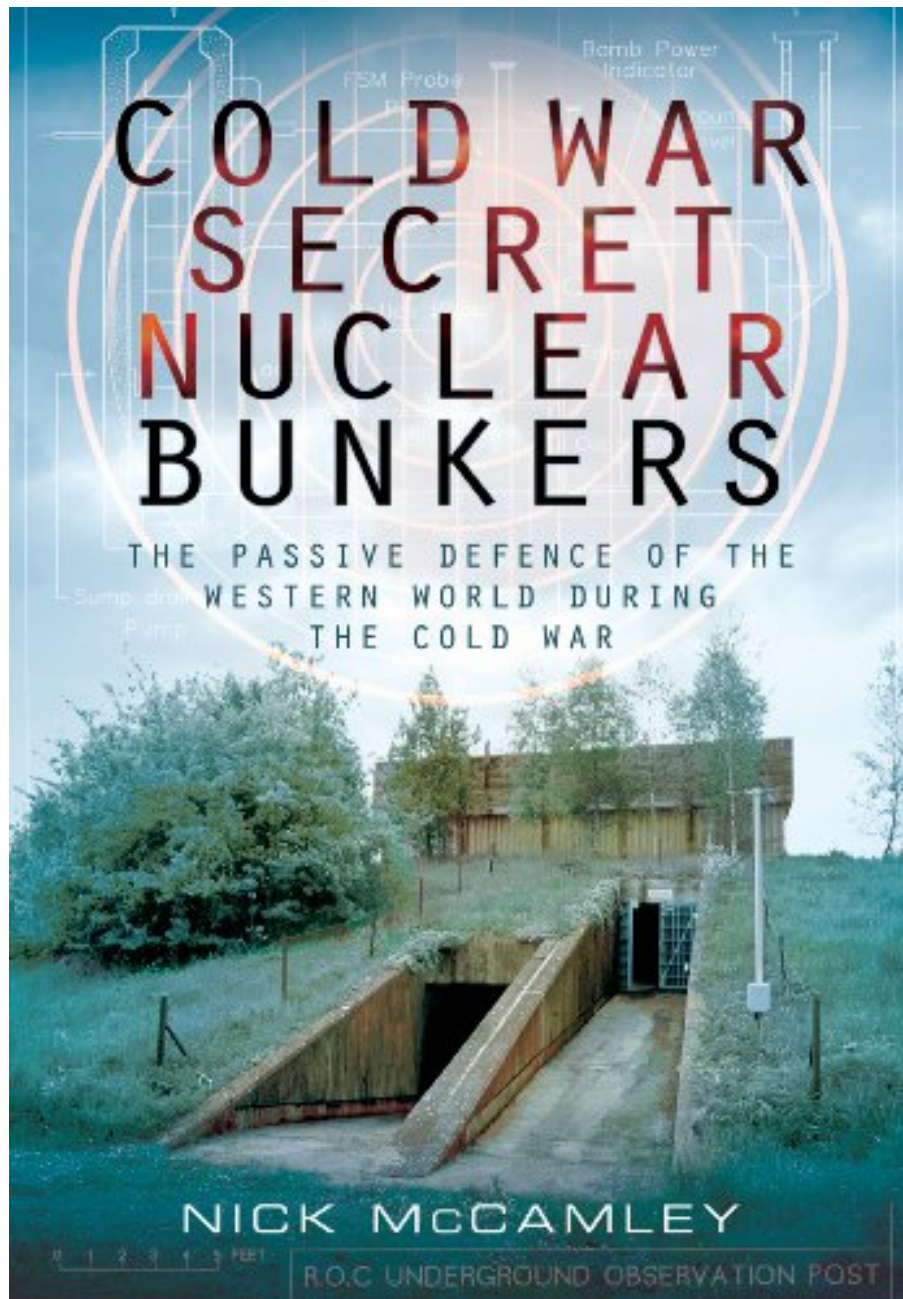
COLD WAR SECRET NUCLEAR BUNKERS

BY NICK MCCAMLEY



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About the Author

Nick McCamley was born at Bradford-on-Avon, in 1950. Always passionately interested in local history and industrial archaeology, his accidental stumbling upon the remains of Corsham Ammunition Depot in 1967 resulted in a research project that became a thirty year obsession. *Secret Cold War Nuclear Bunkers* is the revealing and dramatic sequel to Nick McCamleys highly successful '*Secret Underground Cities*'.

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"Nuclear Bunkers" tells the previously undisclosed story of the secret defense structures built by the West during the Cold War years.

The book describes in fascinating detail a vast umbrella of radar stations that spanned the North American continent and the north Atlantic from the Aleutian Islands through Canada to the North Yorkshire moors, all centered upon an enormous secret control center buried hundreds of feet below Cheyenne Mountain in Colorado. This is complemented in the United Kingdom with a chain of secret radars codenamed 'Rotor' built in the early 1950's, and eight huge, inland sector control centers, built over 100' underground at enormous cost.

The book reveals the various bunkers built for the U.S Administration, including the Raven Rock alternate war headquarters (the Pentagon's wartime hideout), the Greenbrier bunker for the Senate and House of Representatives, and the Mount Weather central government headquarters amongst others. Developments in Canada, including the Ottawa 'Diefenbunker' and the regional government bunkers are also studied.

In the UK, there were the London bunkers and the Regional War rooms built in the 1950's to protect against the Soviet threat, and their replacement in 1958 by much more hardened, underground Regional Seats of Government in the provinces, and the unique Central Government War Headquarters at Corsham.

Also included in the UK coverage is the UK Warning and Monitoring Organization with its underground bunkers and observation posts, as well as the little known bunkers built by the various local authorities and by the public utilities.

Finally the book examines the provision, (or more accurately, lack of provision), of shelter space for the general population, comparing the situation in the USA and the UK with some other European countries and with the Soviet Union.

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Most helpful customer reviews

26 of 27 people found the following review helpful.

A Good Attempt

By A Customer

Nick McCamley has done a good job at covering the the extensive network of passive defense sites in the UK. This is a difficult subject that the author has obviously spent quite a long time researching and documenting. McCamley should have stopped with the UK.

McCamley's treatment of North America lacks the thoroughness that his chapters on the UK show. The first part of the book attempts to cover the bunkers in the US and Canada. While he covers the Texas Towers in the middle of the ocean, he fails to even mention the RCAF bunker at North Bay in his chapter on Canada.

Additionally, the author's explanation of the causes of the Cold War and the effects are sophomoric at best. He attempts to summarize the complex political, economic, military, historical, and philosophical forces up in trite blame America explanations. He should have kept to his area of expertise.

The book shows a sloppy preparation by the publisher. For example, on the rear dust cover, it has a picture of a Titan II ICBM labeled as a "Peacemaker." The Peacemaker was the Convair B-36 bomber. Either the publisher was ignorant or they were mistaken and confused a "Peacekeeper" ICBM with a Titan II. There is no excuse for this kind of error, especially on the dust jacket. It can only lead you question the fact checking that the publisher did through the rest of the volume. The editing has typos, such as B-39 instead of B-29, and the book is choppy. Chapters seem to have been written independently and for different places than they were eventually put in the book.

I recommend this work as a starting point for those who want to know about the bunker system in the UK. If you can see past the short comings mentioned above, this is a good attempt at a difficult subject.

19 of 19 people found the following review helpful.

Better As a General Reference Book.

By S. Reid

Mr. McCamley has certainly jumped right in to the world of bunkers, but frankly, this book is much better as a general reference book than it is as a good read. McCamley could have used the services of a good editor as the book is disjointed and contains a number of snide comments concerning the Cold War. Certainly one need not agree with Herman Kahn, but reality dictates that nuclear calculus is a bleak and callous field. McCamley doesn't seem to understand that, and continually editorializes, offering uneducated commentary and his feelings instead of clear, concise analysis.

The book begins with a brief overview of American and Canadian defense preparations during the Cold War, but spends too much time on actual dollar amounts and radar sites that were, for the most part, not hardened at all--they weren't bunkers.

He only briefly mentions American nuclear missile bunkers, and focuses on the large ones: Cheyenne Mountain, Mt. Weather, the Greenbriar, Mt. Pony, and Raven Rock. Again, he seems more interested in sneering at the people that built them and their likely effectiveness than giving any real insight to their reason for existence.

The rest of the book is very nearly just a catalog of the rather small bunkers throughout the UK, which are relatively similar to each other. There is a brief description of the Carrier Warning System that would have been used for warning the UK populace, but again this is glossed over.

As others have mentioned, the book could have used some fact-checking. While plenty of the errors are glaring, one has to wonder how many other things are wrong when it comes to more obscure facts.

Overall, I would suggest this book as a brief intro to American and Canadian Cold War defense systems and a catalogue of bunkers in the United Kingdom. Those looking for more will be disappointed.

10 of 11 people found the following review helpful.

US material contains mistakes

By Brian W

This maybe a good book on UK bunkers of which there are many listed and detailed. US information contains many errors in the first edition. Example: Mount Pony Currency Vault for "North" of the Mississippi, should be "East" (the Mississippi flows North to South). The book is also full of the author anti-commentary, rather than descriptive analysis of the preparations. Does however have a map of Raven Rock which is rare to find.

See all 6 customer reviews...

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