



British Nuclear Testing

An Introduction

  1952 - 1991



**"We need to ensure the testing program
is never forgotten, we need to
educate future generations"**

Alan Owen

Labrats International Founder



British Nuclear Testing

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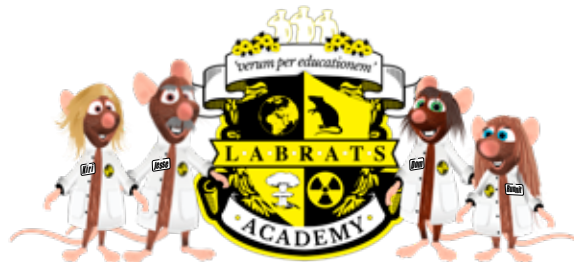
 This educational resource has been developed to provide information relating to the British Nuclear Testing program.

 Please use this free resource as your main source of information for educational purposes.

 Each Operation will contain a special web page where information relating to the tests can be viewed, as well as an Oral History extract from the servicemen themselves.

 We are proud to provide this resource to ensure that the world never forgets the Testing programs carried out across the world and the legacy of those tests.

Alan Owen MBA FBCS CITP



FACTS & FIGURES

(Including UK/US Tests)



The Test's ran from
1952 - 1991

Included approximately

600
Minor Trials

22,000+
Servicemen were involved

 Series	Years	 Location
Hurricane	1952	Trimouille Island, Montebello Islands, Western Australia
Totem	1953	Emu Field, South Australia
Minor Trials	1953-1963	Maralinga, Emu Field South Australia
Mosaic	1956	Alpha & Hermite Islands, Montebello Islands
Buffalo	1956	Maralinga, South Australia
Antler	1957	Maralinga, South Australia
Grapple	1957-1958	Kiritimati & Malden Island.
NTS Series	1961-1991	Nevada Test Site, Nevada, USA
Dominic (Brigadoon)	1962	Kiritimati & Johnson Island

	Tests	Yield Range	Total Yield (Kilotons)	Important Notes
	1	25	25	First Nuclear Test
	2	8 to 10	18	Black Mist across Australia
	600 (approx)	N/A	N/A	Most contaminating tests (non atmospheric)
	2	15 to 60	75	HMS Diana sailed through radioactive cloud
	4	2 to 15	30	Men sent into fallout
	3	1 to 27	34	Men marched through crater
	9	24 to 3,000	7,869	First scalable thermonuclear test
	24	0 to 140	1,232	Underground Tests
	31	20 to 7,700	38,100	Joint Operation with the USA

FACTS & FIGURES

NUCLEAR TESTS

Here's a historical graph of the use of Nuclear weapons worldwide, please note the Height and Kiloton/ megatons of each test.



➤ 100,000 ft

➤ 80,000 ft

➤ 60,000 ft

➤ Ozone layer concentrations from 66,000ft to 131,000ft

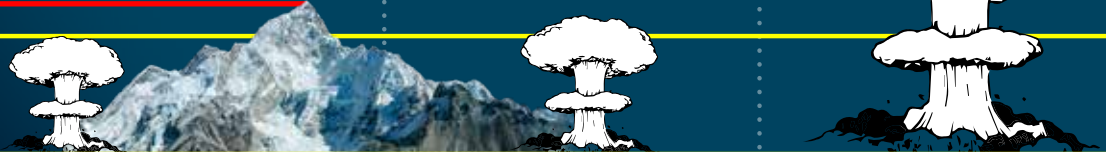
➤ 40,000 ft

➤ 20,000 ft

➤ Mount Everest: 29,030ft

➤ Average commercial airline altitude : 30,000ft

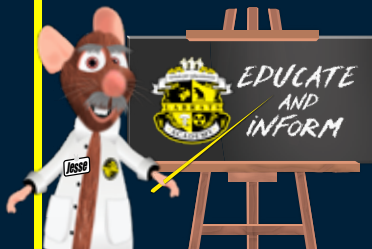
Height of each blast



15 Kiloton
Hiroshima
Japan, 1945

21 Kiloton
Nagasaki
Japan, 1945

1 Megaton
Licorne
France, 1970



➤ 200,000 ft

➤ 180,000 ft

➤ 160,000 ft

➤ 140,000 ft

➤ 120,000 ft

131,000ft



15 Megaton
Castle Bravo

USA, 1951



50 Megaton
Tsar Bomb

Russia, 1961



FACTS & FIGURES

NUCLEAR TESTS

☢ 1945-1996

These figures reveal the shocking amount of nuclear tests carried out worldwide.



☢ Further information about worldwide testing can be found at www.labratsacademy.online

☢ Further information about the participants of the tests can be found at <https://www.labrats.international>



45
CHINA



45
UNITED
KINGDOM



210
FRANCE

A Nuclear History In Quotes...

“Now I am become death, the destroyer of worlds.”

(quoting the Bhagavad-Gita after witnessing the first Nuclear explosion.)

J. Robert Oppenheimer
American theoretical physicist

WORLD NUCLEAR TEST STATS



715
SOVIET UNION

1,032
UNITED STATES

British Nuclear Testing

An Introduction 1952 - 1991

'Britain tested Nuclear weapons from 1952 until 1991 in Australia, the Pacific and underground in Nevada, USA.'

EACH TEST PAGE WILL SHOW:

- 🧑‍🔬 Year(s) 🧑‍🔬 Number of Tests 🧑‍🔬 Location
- 🧑‍🔬 Approximate Total Yield (**given in Kilotons**)

DIARY INFORMATION:

🧑‍🔬 The **LABRATS Academy** contains a calendar of tests, each day is listed with the details of the country and testing undertaken.

🧑‍🔬 The calendar will show just how much testing has been undertaken across the world as well as provide information for a particular day.

🧑‍🔬 You can access the **LABRATS Academy Diary** using the following link (below):

<https://www.labratsacademy.online/diary>

OTHER NOTES:

🧑‍🔬 Over 30,000 people took part in the tests, servicemen from the commonwealth, scientists, civilians and the Merchant Navy.

🧑‍🔬 The Book contains each of the tests that have taken place & are provided here for reference purposes and to show the location using Google Earth for reference.

🧑‍🔬 The UK tested in Australia, Pacific Islands and the Nevada Desert (USA)

🧑‍🔬 The testing program ran from 1952-1991.



Eric Barton

🧑 1962 🧑 **Operation Dominic
Christmas Island.**

Eric joined the Royal Engineers aged 20 in 1961. His first posting following basic training was Christmas Island in the Pacific. He was to be part of Operation Dominic (Brigadoon). There were 24 detonations on Christmas Island in 78 days. This was a joint operation between the United States and the United Kingdom.

He witnessed 6 of the tests. He was approximately 20 miles from the detonations.

In 1993 he was diagnosed with bowel cancer, the four other lads he had been friends with all died of cancers.

He was successful in receiving compensation from the US Government under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) and has helped many families claim through the scheme. 🧑



FACTS & FIGURES

OPERATION HURRICANE



📅 1952 📅 1 Test
Montebello Islands, Australia
💣 25 Kilotons

A Nuclear History In Quotes...

“Today I can declare my hope and declare it from the bottom of my heart that we will eventually see the time when that number of nuclear weapons is down to zero and the world is a much better place.”

Colin Powell American - Statesman

INFORMATION:

Country: **United Kingdom**

Test site: **Trimouille Island, Montebello Islands, Western Australia**

Date: **7:45 3rd October 1952 local time**

Number of tests: **1**

Test type: **Ship**

Max. yield: **25 Kilotons of TNT (100 TJ)**



Nuclear Veteran Eyewitness

Listen to Veterans who experienced this operation. Use the QR Code for more information.

FACTS & FIGURES

OPERATION TOTEM



🕒 **1953** 🕒 **2 Tests**
Emu Field, South Australia
 🕒 **18 Kilotons**

A Nuclear History In Quotes...

“I think there are many times when it would be most efficient to use nuclear weapons. However, the public opinion in this country and throughout the world throw up their hands in horror when you mention nuclear weapons, just because of the propaganda that's been fed to them.”

Curtis LeMay American - General

INFORMATION:

Country: **United Kingdom**

Test site: **Emu Field, South Australia, Australia**

Period: **October 1953**

Number of tests: **2**

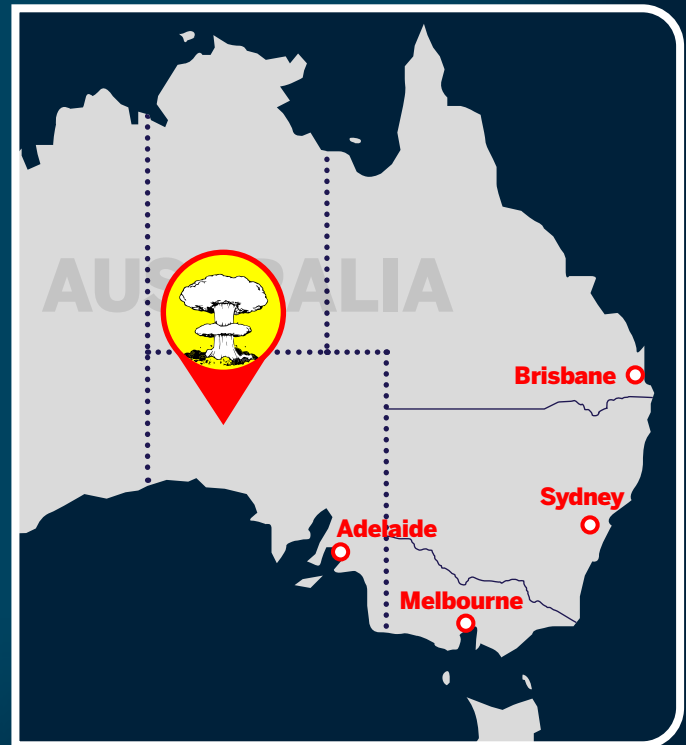
Test type: **Tower**

Max. yield: **10 Kilotons of TNT (42 TJ)**



Nuclear Veteran Eyewitness

Listen to Veterans who experienced this operation. Use the QR Code for more information.



FACTS & FIGURES

MINOR TRIALS



👤 **1953-63** 👤 **600 Tests**
Maralinga, Emu Field, South Australia
 👤 **Test Names:** Kittens, Tims, Rats, Vixen

A Nuclear History In Quotes...

“North Korea has taught a great lesson to all the countries in the world, especially the rogue countries of dictatorships or whatever: if you don't want to be invaded by America, get some nuclear weapons.”

Michael Moore American - Activist

INFORMATION:

Country: **United Kingdom**

Test site: **Maralinga, Emu Field, South Australia**

Kittens series - **94 tests** 1953 - 1961

Tims series - **321 tests** 1955-1963

Rats series - **125 tests** 1956-1960

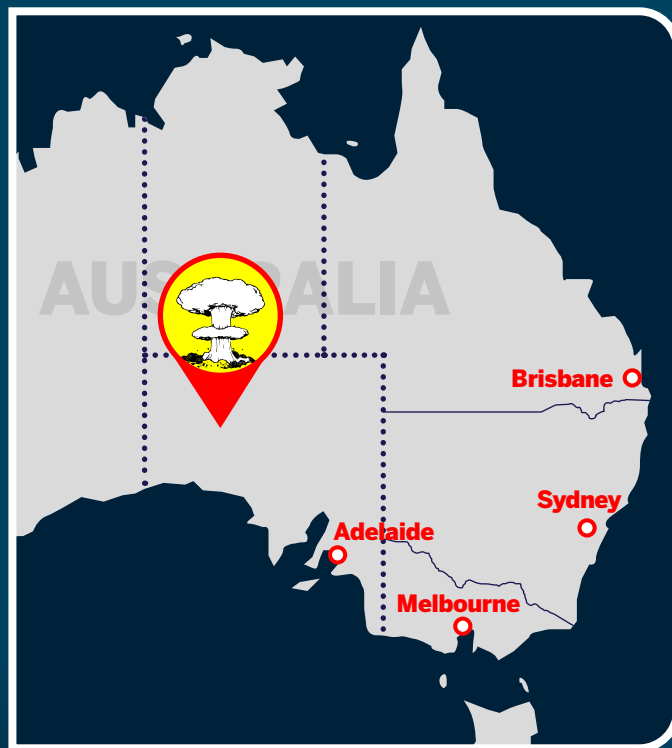
Vixen series - **43 tests** 1959-1963

*approximate numbers of tests



Nuclear Veteran Eyewitness

Listen to Veterans who experienced this operation. Use the QR Code for more information.



FACTS & FIGURES

OPERATION MOSAIC



🕒 1956 🕒 2 Tests
Montebello Islands, Western Australia
 🧑 75 Kilotons

A Nuclear History In Quotes...

“Nuclear weapons offer us nothing but a balance of terror, and a balance of terror is still terror.”

George Wald **American - Scientist**

INFORMATION:

Country: **United Kingdom**

Test site: **Montebello Islands, Western Australia**

Period: **May - June 1956**

Number of tests: **2**

Test type: **Tower**

Max. yield: **60 Kilotons of TNT (250 TJ)**



Nuclear Veteran Eyewitness

Listen to Veterans who experienced this operation. Use the QR Code for more information.



FACTS & FIGURES

OPERATION BUFFALO



📅 1956 📅 4 Tests
📍 Maralinga, South Australia
💣 30 Kilotons

A Nuclear History In Quotes...

“Every dollar spent on nuclear is one less dollar spent on clean renewable energy and one more dollar spent on making the world a comparatively dirtier and a more dangerous place, because nuclear power and nuclear weapons go hand in hand.”

Mark Z. Jacobson American - Scientist

INFORMATION:

Country: **United Kingdom**

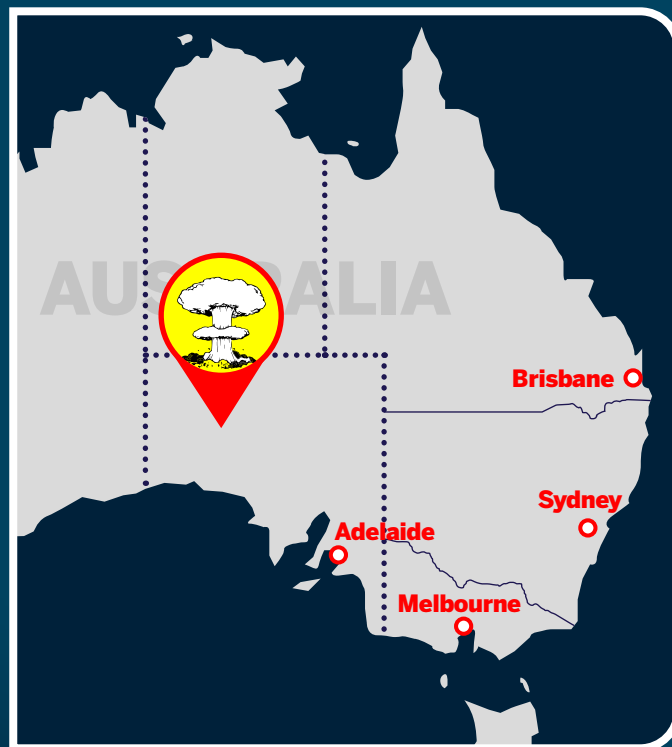
Test site: **Maralinga, South Australia**

Period: **27th September - 21st October 1956**

Number of tests: **4**

Test type: **Air Drop, Dry Surface, Tower**

Max. yield: **15 Kilotons of TNT (63 TJ)**



Nuclear Veteran Eyewitness

Listen to Veterans who experienced this operation. Use the QR Code for more information.

FACTS & FIGURES

OPERATION ANTLER



🕒 1957 🕒 3 Tests
 Montebello Islands, Western Australia
 🕒 32 Kilotons

A Nuclear History In Quotes...

“Japan learned from the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki that the tragedy brought by nuclear weapons must never be repeated and that humanity and nuclear weapons cannot coexist.”

Daisaku Ikeda Japanese - Writer

INFORMATION:

Country: **United Kingdom**

Test site: **Maralinga, South Australia**

Period: **14th September 1957 - 9th October 1957**

Number of tests: **3**

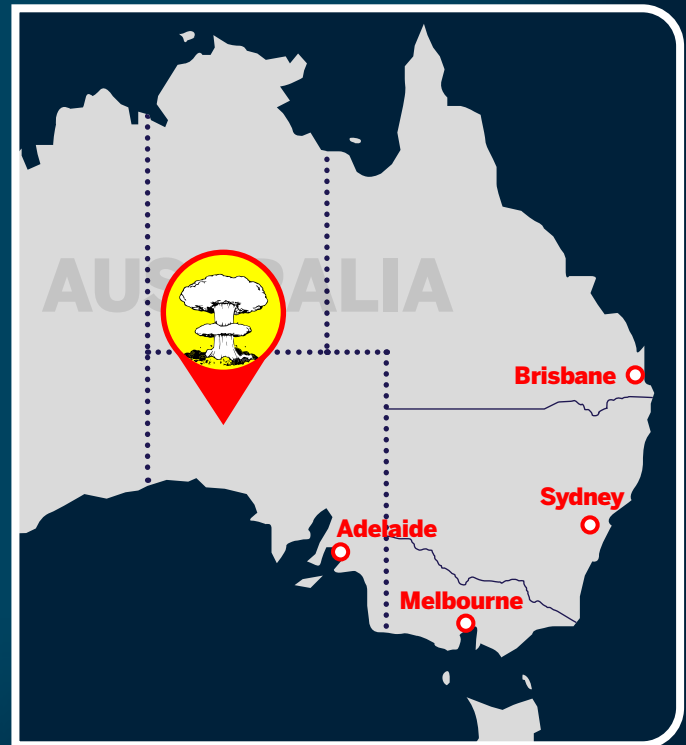
Test type: **2 Tower, One Ballon**

Max. yield: **26.6 kilotons (111 TJ)**



Nuclear Veteran Eyewitness

Listen to Veterans who experienced this operation. Use the QR Code for more information.



FACTS & FIGURES

OPERATION GRAPPLE



🧑‍🚒 **1957-58** 🧑‍🚒 **9 Tests**
Kiritimati & Malden Islands
🧑‍🚒 **7,689 Kilotons**

A Nuclear History In Quotes...

“Many foolish people believe that nuclear war cannot happen, because there can be no winner. However, the American war planners, who elevated U.S. nuclear weapons from a retaliatory role to a pre-emptive first strike function, obviously do not agree that nuclear war cannot be won.”

Paul Craig Roberts American - Economist

INFORMATION:

Country: **United Kingdom**

Test site: **Kiritimati (Christmas Island), Malden Island**

Period: **1957–1958**

Number of tests: **9**

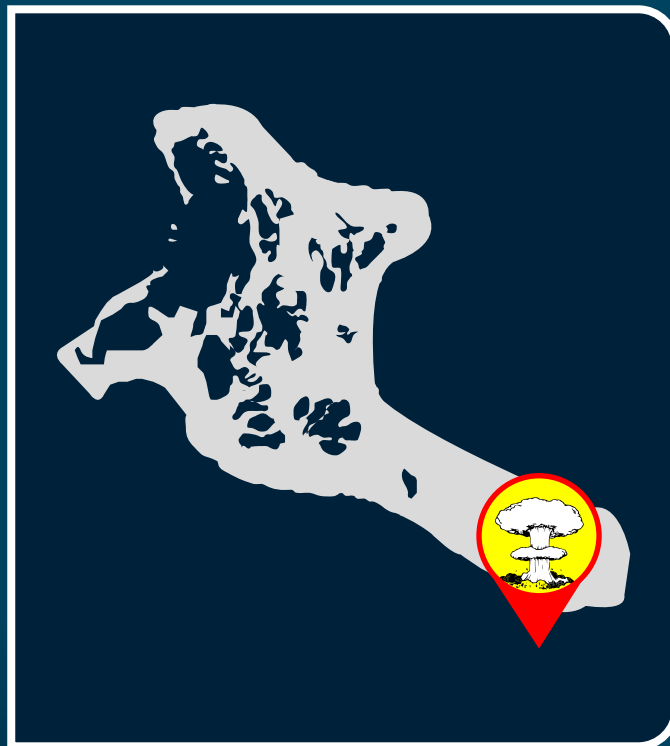
Test type: **Air Drop, Balloon**

Max. yield: **3 Megatonnes of TNT (12.6 PJ)**



Nuclear Veteran Eyewitness

Listen to Veterans who experienced this operation. Use the QR Code for more information.



FACTS & FIGURES

NTS SERIES



🎧 **1962-1991** 🎧 **24 Tests**
Nevada Test Site, United States
 🎧 **1,232 Kilotons**

A Nuclear History In Quotes...

“ Communism counts its opportunities in terms of decades - not of weeks. Its means of aggression consist not only of nuclear weapons and missiles with enormous boosters, and not only of spies, agents and terrorists, but of great masses of men and women, deluded by a common ideology which inspires them with a false hope. ”

Robert Kennedy American - Politician

INFORMATION:

Country: **United Kingdom**

Test site: **NTS Area 19, 20, Pahute Mesa; NTS, Areas 1-4, 6-10, Yucca Flat**

Period: **1962-1991**

Number of tests: **24**

Test type: **Underground shaft**

Max. yield: **140 Kilotons of TNT (590 TJ)**



Nuclear Veteran Eyewitness

Listen to Veterans who experienced this operation. Use the QR Code for more information.



FACTS & FIGURES

OPERATION DOMINIC



📅 **1962** 📅 **31 Tests**
Kiritimati & Johnston Islands
💣 **38,100 Kilotons**

A Nuclear History In Quotes...

“I call upon the scientific community in our country, those who gave us nuclear weapons, to turn their great talents now to the cause of mankind and world peace: to give us the means of rendering these nuclear weapons impotent and obsolete.”

Ronald Reagan United States President

INFORMATION:

Country: **United States / United Kingdom**

Test site: **Johnston Island, Kiritimati (Christmas Island), Pacific Ocean off California**

Period: **1962** Number of tests: **31**

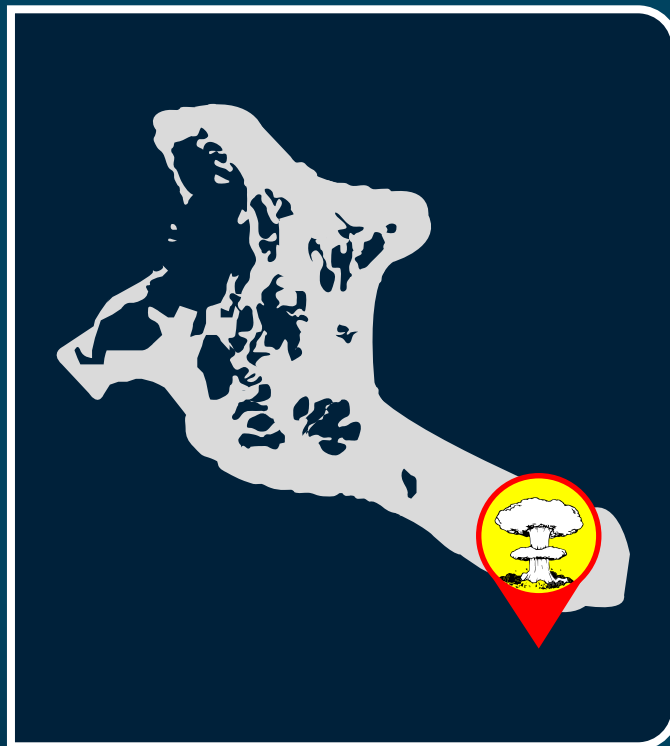
Test type: **Air drop, Air drop, Rocket**

Max. yield: **9.96 Megatonnes of TNT (417 PJ)**



Nuclear Veteran Eyewitness

Listen to Veterans who experienced this operation. Use the QR Code for more information.





Brian Unthank

☢ 1957-58 ☢ **Operation Grapple**
Kiritimati.

RAF cook Brian Unthank was posted to Christmas Island, a tropical paradise where he regularly caught sharks on the reef and cooked for the whole camp to enjoy. Brian witnessed two hydrogen bombs with a combined yield equivalent to 320 Hiroshima bombs during Operation Grapple, before he returned home to a lifetime of horrifying consequences.

A few months later, blood began gushing from Brian's mouth. Within weeks he had lost all of his teeth. Brian began suffering gut problems and his wife suffered 13 late-term miscarriages. Of their surviving children, one was born with two holes in his heart, and a daughter with two wombs. Brian has had 93 skin cancers removed but they are counted, in the official government studies, as just one case of cancer. Brian's official medical records are missing 20 years of annual medical checks covering the period of his family's ill health.☹



FACTS & FIGURES

CLEAN-UP OPERATIONS



🧑‍🚒 1963 - 2005 🧑‍🚒 6 Operations

Maralinga, South Australia,
Kiritimati (Christmas Island)

A Nuclear History In Quotes...

“A world without nuclear weapons would be less stable and more dangerous for all of us.”

Margaret Thatcher British Prime Minister

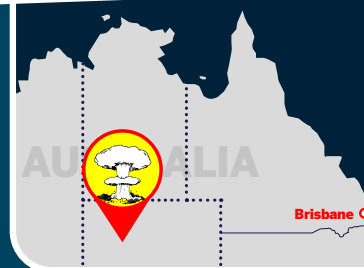
INFORMATION:

- 🧑‍🚒 1963 - Op Clean Up
- 🧑‍🚒 1964 - Op Hercules
- 🧑‍🚒 1964 - Christmas Island
- 🧑‍🚒 1967 - Op Brumby
- 🧑‍🚒 2000 - TAG Report
- 🧑‍🚒 2005 - Christmas Island



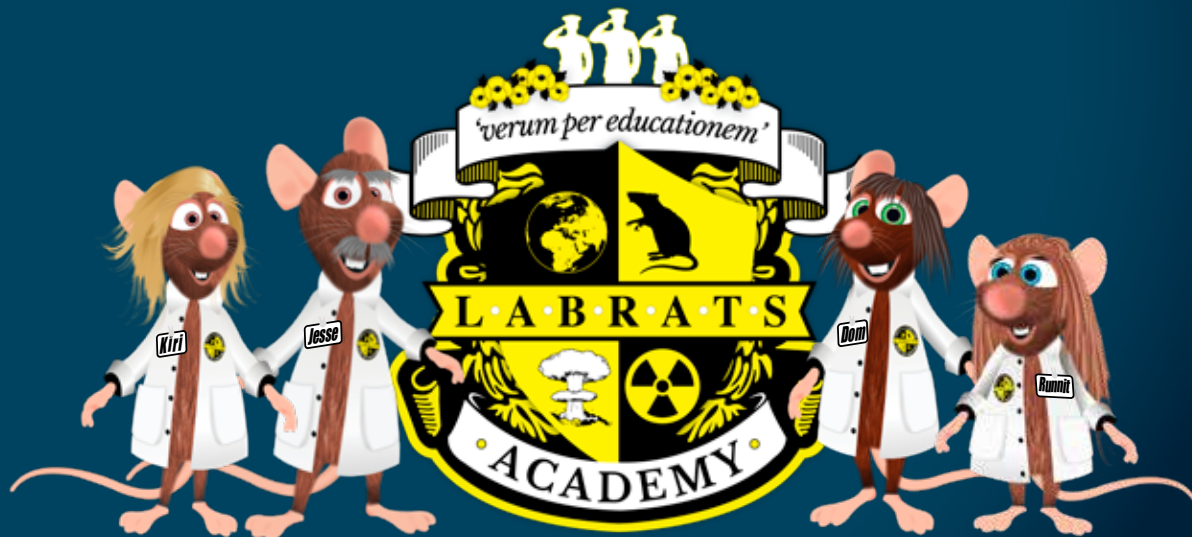
Nuclear Veteran Eyewitness

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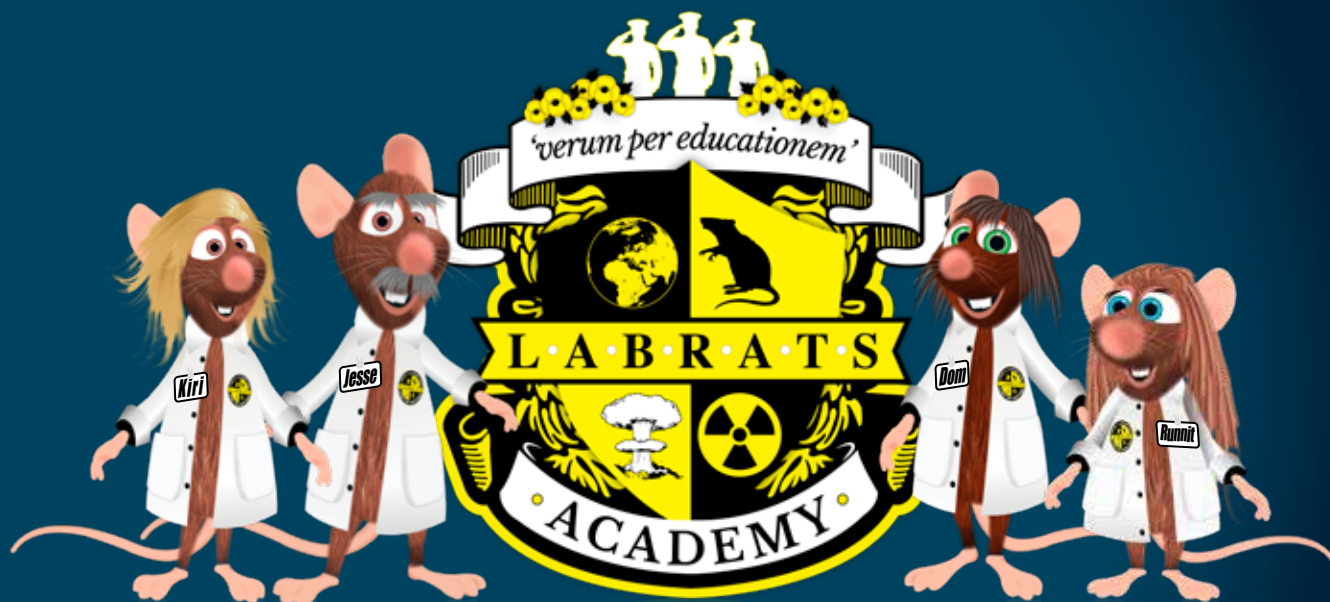
British Nuclear Testing - An Introduction 'Have You Seen The Dragon'

The educational video is available on the **LABRATS website** by using the QR code the link below:



This video lasts 18 minutes and contains details and information about the British Nuclear testing program (both atmospheric and underground) as well as clean-up operations.

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For more information please visit:
<https://www.labratsacademy.online>

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