



GAS Why did the government prepare for gas attacks?

Source 1

May 4/41

WAR GAS

OFFICIAL INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF HOME SECURITY

IF THE GAS RATTLES SOUND



Put on mask, holding your breath until mask is in position. Turn up collar. Put on gloves or keep hands in pockets. Take cover in nearest building quickly. Put up umbrellas if you have one.

IF YOU GET GASSED

by Vapour Gases

1. Keep your mask on even if you feel discomfort.
2. If discomfort continues, go to First Aid Post.

by Liquid or Blister Gas

1. Dab, but don't rub the splash with your handkerchief. Then destroy the handkerchief.
2. Rub No. 2 Ointment well into place (buy a 6d. jar now from any chemist). In an emergency, chemists will supply Bleach Cream free.
3. If you can't get the Ointment or Cream within 5 minutes, wash the affected place with soap and warm water.
4. Take off *at once* any garment splashed with gas.

HOW TO PUT ON YOUR MASK

1. Hold your breath.
2. Hold mask in front of face, thumbs inside straps.
3. Thrust chin well forward into mask. Pull straps as far over head as they will go.
4. Run finger round face-piece taking care head-straps are not twisted.

MAKE SURE IT FITS

See that the rubber fits snugly at sides of jaw and under chin. The head straps should be adjusted to hold the mask firmly. To test for fit, hold a piece of paper to end of mask and breathe in. The paper should stick.



Always breathe gently avoiding particular attention

**ALWAYS HAVE
YOUR GAS MASK
WITH YOU - DAY AND NIGHT.
LEARN TO PUT IT ON QUICKLY**

ready

Instructions on what to do in a Gas attack. This information was placed in Sunday newspapers. May 1941.



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Source 2

Gas Raid Quiz No. 19



**WHAT CAN YOU DO
IF YOU GET
MUSTARD GAS
ON YOUR BARE HAND?**

ANSWER: YOU MUST ACT AT ONCE. DAB OFF THE LIQUID WITH A RAG AND RUB NO. 2 OINTMENT WELL INTO THE PLACE. GET A POT (PRICE 6d.) FROM YOUR CHEMIST NOW—IT WILL KEEP. IF YOU WAIT TILL EVERYONE ELSE IS BUYING IT, SUPPLIES MAY RUN SHORT.



IF YOU HAVE FALSE TEETH, SHOULD YOU WEAR YOUR DENTURES WHEN YOU PUT ON YOUR MASK?

YES! IF YOU DON'T YOUR MASK MAY NOT FIT PROPERLY, AND A PERFECT FIT IS ESSENTIAL.

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Gas Raid quiz to be placed in newspapers by the government.



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Source 3

ANTI-GAS CAMPAIGN

Preliminary Memorandum

THE PROBLEM

The Ministry of Home Security have asked General Production Division of the Ministry of Information to submit a Plan for the following objective:

- (a) To instruct the public in
 - i. - How to behave if a gas warning is given
 - ii. - How to act if gassed
 - iii. - How to put on gas masks quickly
- (b) To persuade the public to keep their gas masks with them always.

METHODS

Several discussions have taken place between representatives of Home Security and G.P.D. and the following methods have been approved by both sides.

Press Advertising

A series of 4 advertisements to appear in all the Sunday newspapers, with the exception of the Glasgow Sunday Post. In Northern Ireland, which has no Sunday newspaper, the Belfast Evening Telegraph will be used.

The reason for choosing the Sunday papers is that a very large readership is achieved, the total circulation being about 15½ millions, and that the announcements are generally read in favourable circumstances, i.e. in the home.

Anti-Gas campaign, government planning document. 1941.



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GAS.

P.M/66

1. A report has been received from an observation station near Deal that last week two white German seaplanes marked with a red cross cruised slowly backwards and forwards within a very close distance of the coast.
One was shot down by the R.A.F. the other was circled by our fighters but was allowed to get away unmolested.
2. From Intelligence reports we are threatened by large concentrations of gas.
3. There appears to be only two methods by which gas could be satisfactorily released:-
 - (a). By boats and ships from the sea.
 - (b). From Aeroplanes.
4. The first method is feasible, ships, barges, and craft of all kinds could be used, and given suitable weather, could be sailed over during the night and left stranded on our shores emitting gas.
5. The German success with a gas cloud in 1918 may well influence them.
6. The idea of putting gas and gas emitting apparatus in Red Cross Ships or aeroplanes would also be in keeping with their sense of humour.
7. It is believed that the above may be an imminent menace.
8. To be forewarned would be to be forearmed and it is suggested that if a gas cloud was experienced on our shores here at the present moment the result might be serious. If troops and civilians were warned at once of this possibility the surprise element would be countered and the defeat of the ruse possible.
9. It is however submitted that gas proof rooms (not necessarily in bomb proof shelters) should as far as possible be at once constructed in any area where such an attack is possible.
10. If there is a fear of such German attack it is of course essential that all ships or aeroplanes, hospitals or otherwise should be sunk as far as possible from these shores.

18-7-40.

C. M. Hutchinson

Lt. Colonel, R.A.
Commanding 56th. Heavy Regiment, R.A.

Report on German planes potentially carrying gas. 1940.