



BOROUGH OF BROMLEY

CIVIL DEFENCE

LOCAL INFORMATION

May, 1939

IF BROMLEY IS BOMBED

This pamphlet has been prepared by
Mr. D. R. COLLETT-FRANKLIN, of the
Bromley and Kentish Times, by
permission of the Editor.

S. CRITCHLEY AUTY,
Town Clerk.

IF BROMLEY IS BOMBED

A PLAIN TALK TO THE MAN IN THE STREET

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

A great deal has been said and written in recent months about Air Raid Precautions, but there are two questions to which the man in the street still seems to require an answer. "What should I do in the event of an air raid?" and "What are the local Council doing to protect me?" This pamphlet is designed to provide a straightforward reply to them both.

Many hundreds of people in Bromley have volunteered for A.R.P. service, but there are still thousands of men and women who, for one reason or another, are not in a position to offer themselves for duty. In the event of an emergency they need to know what is being done for their safety and what they themselves should do.

The great enemy of public safety is panic, and the first protection against panic is knowledge.

The Borough Council has drawn up a full and comprehensive scheme, designed to deal with every eventuality but, for its fullest success, it depends upon the co-operation of you and me. This co-operation is necessary now, before an emergency arises, as well as in the event of an air raid.

SHELTERS IN THE HOME.

The Home Office have issued a pamphlet, "The Protection of Your Home Against Air Raids," which sets out fully and clearly what you can do to provide in your own house—at small cost—a refuge room which will give reasonable protection against

gas, flying splinters and debris. You should have had a copy of this; if you have not got one, apply to the Air Raid Precautions headquarters at the Municipal Buildings, or to your nearest Warden. They will also be able to give you any further advice that you may need about preparing your refuge room.

Many homes in the Borough will be provided, in due course, with the "Anderson" steel shelters which can be erected in the garden while, for the more wealthy, there are a number of reliable shelters which can be purchased through local firms of builders.

DO YOU KNOW HIM?

Do you know where your nearest Air Raid Warden lives? You should do, for it is very important.

There are 720 of them altogether in Bromley, divided into 17 groups, and every one has affixed to his gate a plate with the words "Air Raid Warden" on it. Have a look round next time you go out and you may see yours. Or apply to the nearest Head Warden, who will be pleased to give you his name and address.

The following are the Senior Head Wardens of the various districts :—

GROUP NO. 1.—MR. W. A. B. YOUNG,
9, Shawfield Park, Bromley.

GROUP NO. 2.—MR. R. GEDYE,
13, Sandringham Road, Bromley.

GROUP NO. 3.—CMDR. C. G. PITCAIRN JONES,
87, London-lane, Bromley.

GROUP NO. 4.—MR. H. J. M. MARSH,
78, College Road, Bromley.

GROUP NO. 5.—MR. A. MACKENZIE,
3, Beckenham Lane, Shortlands.

GROUP NO. 6.—MR. E. C. SHARPE,
23, Tweedy Road, Bromley.

GROUP NO. 7.—MR. J. L. VENNER,
27, Garden Road, Sundridge Park.

- GROUP NO. 8.—MR. E. V. DEPLANCHE,
29, Murray Avenue, Bromley.
- GROUP NO. 9.—MR. J. WRATHALL,
32, Glen View Road, Bromley.
- GROUP NO. 10.—MR. L. A. SMART,
Sundridge Park Hotel, Sundridge Park.
- GROUP NO. 11.—MR. C. H. VINCE,
The Retreat, Oldfield Road, Bickley.
- GROUP NO. 12.—MR. E. J. DAVIS,
139, Southborough Lane, Bickley.
- GROUP NO. 13.—MR. F. J. PARAMOR,
72, Lakeside Drive, Bromley Common.
- GROUP NO. 14.—MR. R. PROCTOR,
50, Westmoreland Road, Bromley.
- GROUP NO. 15.—MR. F. C. LEADER,
72, Bromley Common.
- GROUP NO. 16.—MR. S. C. MAJOR,
43, Whitehall Road, Bromley Common.
- GROUP NO. 17.—MR. W. G. MELVILLE,
Brocksyde, 15, Hurstdene Avenue, Hayes.

Remember that the Wardens are always ready to help you in any way they can, so do not be afraid to take your queries to them.

LISTEN FOR THESE SOUNDS.

In the event of a probable air raid, information of approaching aircraft will come through to the A.R.P. Headquarters and warnings will be issued to the public.

The first warning will come from the siren at the Police Station, which will blow a fluctuating or warbling note. This will be reinforced by the Wardens, who will patrol their areas blowing intermittent blasts on their whistles.

If you hear these sounds when you are in or near your home, go as quickly as possible to your refuge room or shelter, get your gas masks and settle down with your family to wait for the "All Clear." If, however, you are caught far away from your home, remember that trench shelters have

been provided at Martin's Hill, Whitehall Recreation Ground and New Street Hill near the Links Estate, and you can take cover there.

If a raid should occur at night, be sure to see that all lights in your house are either extinguished or completely shielded, so that not a glimmer can be seen from outside.

Above all things, keep cool and avoid panic.

Get back to your home if it is at all possible and remember that the best hope of safety for the greatest number lies in a policy of dispersal. Avoid collecting in crowds, particularly in the centre of the town.

There will be no special siren warning to indicate that gas has been dropped. If there is gas about the Wardens will give the alarm in their own areas with noisy hand rattles, and, if you hear that sound, keep under cover until you hear the ringing of handbells, which will be a sign that the danger is over.

The "All Clear" will be sounded by a continuous note on the siren and by the Wardens' handbells.

STEPS YOU CAN TAKE.

It is quite possible that you may discover casualties, or fires, or property damaged by fire. If this should occur, do not rush to the telephone with the news. There is certain to be considerable congestion of the lines with official messages and delay would ensue. What you can do is to go as quickly as possible to your nearest Warden or to the Head Warden's Post in your district and give in your information there. The organisation is such that the news will be passed on to the proper quarter with the least possible delay.

WHAT THE CORPORATION DOES.

The Corporation of Bromley have an organisation fully competent to deal with every phase of a possible emergency.

In addition to the Wardens there is a highly efficient system to cope with casualties, whether fatal or otherwise, fires, damage, contamination by gas, breakdown of public services and the re-housing of people whose homes are destroyed. The whole is linked up by a direct method of communications.

The main report centre at the Municipal Buildings, staffed by trained officials, can get into immediate touch with four subsidiary report centres, each in charge of a Sub-Control Officer, or with the Police and Fire Headquarters, the Waldo Road Depot and the four main First Aid Posts.

Fire Alarm points, Head Wardens' posts, Wardens' posts, Police call boxes and public telephone kiosks are all linked up with the Subsidiary Report Centres so that immediate notification can be given of anything that may occur.

Decontamination, rescue and repair services are centred at the Corporation's Waldo Road Depot, with auxiliary parties at Burnt Ash Lane and at Hayes, and full arrangements have been made with the Borough Electrical Department, the South Suburban Gas Company, the Metropolitan Water Board and the West Kent Main Sewerage Board as to the steps to be taken if their services are interfered with.

TO DEAL WITH EMERGENCIES.

In addition to the four main First Aid Posts, which will be clearing houses for casualties, there are nine First Aid (Stretcher) Party Depôts, at various points in the Borough, each of which is manned by trained attendants and equipped with trailer ambulances and stretchers.

To augment the Borough's Fire Brigade, there is the Auxiliary Fire Service, manned by enthusiastic volunteers and fully equipped with modern apparatus to deal with outbreaks of fire.

The whole of the personnel in these various services have been trained and know exactly what to do in the event of an emergency, while practical exercises have enabled the Corporation officials to

detect and strengthen any weak links in the organisation.

HOMES FOR THE HOMELESS.

Two local schools will be used as temporary accommodation for people whose homes are destroyed and here there will be an ample supply of clothing, bedding and food for their use until the existing voluntary committee can put into practice their scheme for removing the "refugees" to private houses which remain undamaged. This part of the work has been as carefully planned as the rest and hardships will be reduced to a minimum.

The possibility of fatal casualties has also to be faced and a comprehensive plan has been prepared, not merely for the disposal of bodies but also for relatives or friends to be enabled to identify them and, if they wish, make special arrangements for their burial.

St. Luke's Cemetery, at Magpie Hall Lane, Bromley Common—which should be well clear of the danger zone—will be the official mortuary, and suitable vehicles, with drivers and attendants, will be in readiness to recover the dead and remove them there.

These are, in brief, the Corporation's arrangements for dealing with the results of a possible air raid. It will be seen that nothing has been left to chance or to last-minute organisation. The whole of the machinery can be set in motion at a moment's notice and will work with complete smoothness. But it does not need much thought to realise that its working will be greatly helped if you and I and the thousands of other residents in this great Borough understand and appreciate what is being done and are prepared to co-operate with it.

Let our motto, then, be that of the Boy Scouts—"Be Prepared"—so that we, too, shall not be taken unawares and unprotected if, in spite of all our hopes, the dread calamity of a war should come upon us.

APPENDIX.

KEEP THIS BY YOU.

The following is a summary of the principal centres of the Municipal A.R.P. services in Bromley. Keep it somewhere handy, so that you can refer to it in case of need.

Main Report Centre :

Municipal Offices.

Sub Report Centres :

1. Express Dairy Company, Plaistow Lane.
2. Sargeant & Collins' Garage, Bickley Rd.
3. Boys' County School, Hayes Lane.
4. Hayes Old Rectory.

Fire Appliance Posts :

At the Report Centres. In addition there are posts at the L.P.T.B. Garage, Bromley Common, and, when further appliances are received, at Keston Post Office.

First Aid Posts :

The present posts are at the North Clinic, Station Road; the Princes Plain School Clinic; the County School for Girls, Nightingale Lane; and the Church Schools, Hayes. Permanent posts are to be erected at Milk Street (Burnt Ash Lane) and Whitehall Recreation Ground.

First Aid (Stretcher) Party Depôts :

In addition to those at the Report Centres, there will be depôts at the Central Hall, London Road; The Mark Inn, Keston Mark; the Crooked Billet, Southborough Lane; and Burnt Ash School.

Emergency Respirator Depôt :

2, Southlands Road.

