



ARP Wardens and Rescue Services

For Preview Only





A New Service

People in Britain were worried that the Germans would start to bomb major cities. A new service was set up called Air Raid Precautions (ARP). By September 1939 there were more than 1.5 million ARP Wardens.



ARP wardens used bikes as their transport.



Calling at Homes

ARP wardens issued sandbags. These could be placed on an incendiary bomb if it landed nearby. Wardens also had to make sure that houses were properly blacked out at night. They went from house to house to check and helped people to prepare for air raids.



Air Raid Siren



Two different sirens

ARP wardens also warned people of an imminent air raid by sounding an air raid siren. The wailing noise was a signal for everyone to get to the nearest shelter. After a bombing, ARP wardens often assisted the rescue services in helping the injured.



*ARP Warden with
his equipment*

Wardens carried all this equipment:

- 1 Armlet (of standard design)
- 1 steel helmet
- 1 Civilian Duty Respirator
- Rubber boots
- Anti-gas gloves
- Anti-gas eye shields
- Anti-gas curtains
- Large book to record things
- 3 electric torches
- 3 whistles
- 2 hand rattles
- 1 hand bell
- Small first aid box



Rescue Services



Night after night the fire services fought to control the many fires caused by incendiary bombs.

As well as the firemen, there were also 60,000 volunteers in the Auxiliary Fire Service.



The firefighters were in constant danger from heat, fumes and falling buildings as well as falling bombs.

They often ran out of water because the main pipes were damaged by bombs. There was not enough fire engines to help all the cities. Often the fire services from the country came along to help.



*Ambulance transporting
the injured*

Doctors and nurses were also very busy and overworked. They gave first aid to injured people, and stretcher parties carried people to ambulances.

The dead and wounded were often trapped under rubble. Many streets were also trapped by wreckage. It was the job of the Heavy Rescue Squad to clear away the wreckage.

Bomb Disposal Squad



Dealing with an unexploded bomb

The air raids were mostly at night. During the day people worked hard to clear the wreckage.

The most dangerous job belonged to the Bomb Disposal Squad. They had to deal with the many bombs and mines which had landed without exploding.