SECOND ARMY.

Instructions for Gas Alert and Action during a Gas Attack.

INSPECTION & DRILL. Infantry. Before going into the line an inspection of all helmets & respirators will be carried out as laid down in "Defensive Measures against Gas Attacks", para. III (1)(A). All employed Orfs. & men will attend this parade. Orfs. helmets & respirators will be inspected & a certificate rendered to Divl. H.Q. that defective helmets & respirators have been exchanged. During the tour in the trenches helmets & respirators will be inspected once a week & a certificate rendered to Bde.H.Q. that they are in good order or not.

Divl.Art., Divl. R.E., Pn.Bn., & Fd. Amb. On the 1st of every month an inspection will be held as laid down for the Inf., a certificate being rendered to Divl. H.Q. by 12 noon by C.R.A., C.R.E., O.C. Pn.Bn. & 4.D.M.S. Weekly inspections will also be held every Sunday, units reporting to the Staff of their formations. All Commanders are responsible that their men are frequently drilled in adjusting the helmet. In the case of the Inf. every man will be given 15 mins. drill at least 3 times during his tour in rest billets. The drill will be carried out from the "Wind Dangerous" position will pull equipment and pack on.
SECOND ARMY.
G. 221.

THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING THE ACTION TO BE TAKEN IN THE EVENT OF A "GAS ALERT" OR "ENEMY GAS ATTACK" ARE ISSUED AS A BASIS OF CORPS. OR DIVISIONAL ORDERS, AND WILL BE STRICTLY ADHERED TO:—

1.—"GAS ALERT."

A "GAS ALERT" will be ordered when the wind is in the dangerous quarter, e.g., N.-S.E., no matter what the strength of the wind.

The order "GAS ALERT" will be sent out to all units by corps, or, if authority has been so delegated, by divisional headquarters, but brigade headquarters or battalion commanders are empowered to order a "GAS ALERT" from the wind observations of company gas N.C.O.s, forwarded by company commanders. Such action will be reported immediately to the next higher formation.

A "GAS ALERT" will not be taken off without the authority of the divisional commander. When a "GAS ALERT" is ordered, the following arrangements will be carried out.

(i.) All helmets will be carefully inspected, and helmet inspections will be carried out daily during the "GAS ALERT."

(ii.) In the case of all ranks within 1,500 yards of the front line, the first helmet will be pinned on to the shirt through the container in the "ALERT" position, and rolled in such a manner with the container round it, that the valve is protected, and the helmet will fall the moment the coat is opened.
(a) The second helmet will be carried in the satchel attached to the belt, or slung from the left shoulder PERPENDICULARLY DOWNWARDS under the belt.

(b) Under no circumstances will anything (rifle, second helmet, etc.,) be slung across the chest so as to impede the fall of the helmet.

(iii.) The three top buttons of both jacket and greatcoat will be left undone. Men will be forbidden to wear mackintosh sheets round their shoulders.

(iv.) Coats will not be taken off within 1,500 yards of the front line.

(v.) Detached parties of men moving within 1,500 yards of the front line will strictly observe the precautions laid down in (ii.), (iii.) and (iv.) Commanding officers will be held responsible that this is done.

(vi.) All working parties will have a sentry posted to give instant warning of a gas attack.

(vii.) A sentry will be posted at each Strombos horn or similar alarm and instructed in its use.

(viii.) A sentry will be posted at every tunnel dugout, or other dugout holding more than 10 men.

(ix.) A sentry will be posted to each group of two or three small dugouts.

(x.) A sentry will be posted on each headquarters, signal office and independent body of men.

(xi.) Men sleeping in reaward lines or in works where they are allowed to take off their equipment, will sleep with their gas helmets round their necks, and must know exactly where their second helmet is to be found.

(xii.) Company Gas N.C.O.s will report to Company Headquarters, in readiness to assist the Company Commander should a gas attack occur.

(xiii.) Medical Officers will be responsible that a proper proportion of the ammonia capsules issued to them are with stretcher bearers in the front line in readiness for their immediate use after a gas attack.
REPORT BY UNIT. Units will also report by wire to the next higher formation, differentiating between rumoured and actual gas attack. Report will state the time of the attack or alarm and the position of reporting unit, e.g.,

TO - 154th Inf. Bde. GAS ATTACK, Trench 74. FROM 7. A. & S. H.

TO - 154th Inf. Bde. GAS ALARM heard 9-30 pm. on left of Bn.
FROM 7. A. & S. H. Action of Signal Service. Warning messages referring to GAS will be passed by all Signal Officers in the Div. as "Priority" messages, and will be automatically repeated until every Sig. Off. in the Div. & the Sig. Offs. of the nearest Bde. and nearest Div. of flanking Corps are warned. The Signal Co. will ensure that a list of Offices to be warned, corrected to date, & applicable to the Office concerned, is kept in every Signal Office.
(xiv.) An officer on duty will be detailed from each Company in reserve, except resting battalions.

(xv.) Commanders of units in billets within 12,000 yards of the front line trenches will organize a system of giving the alarm and rousing the men in cellars or houses.

2.—ACTION DURING ENEMY GAS ATTACK.

In the event of an enemy gas attack, the following action will be taken.

(i.) The alarm will at once be given by all means available; by telephone, gongs, Stoombos horns, and, if necessary, by orderly; and in accordance with paras. (iv.) and (v.).

(ii.) All ranks will at once adjust their tube helmets or box respirators and stand to arms. THERE SHOULD BE AS LITTLE MOVEMENT AND TALKING AS POSSIBLE. Men must be made to realize that with the gas now used by the Germans the observance of this rule is essential for their safety. Troops will man their parapets, sentries remaining at their posts. All ranks are forbidden to remain in or get into dugouts, or move to a flank or to the rear.

(iii.) On the alarm being given, all bodies of troops or transport on the move will halt, and all working parties cease work until the gas cloud has passed.

(iv.) Should the gas cloud be unaccompanied by an infantry attack, no S.O.S. signal will be sent, but the message "Gas Attack, Trench .......". The troops in the front trenches will open a slow rate of rifle and machine gun fire at once against the German trenches. All howitzers should be turned on to the enemy's trenches from which the gas is being emitted or in which the enemy infantry may be concentrating for the assault, and a light barrage by 18 pdr. put on in NO MAN'S LAND to prevent hostile patrols from following up the gas. No intense S.O.S. barrage will be employed at this stage.
(v.) Should an infantry attack develop, the normal procedure of S.O.S. will be carried out.

(vi.) Troops in the front line not affected by gas must be warned to be prepared to bring a cross fire to bear on the enemy attempting to advance against a gassed portion of the trench.

(vii.) If a relief is going on, units should stand steady as far as possible until the gas cloud has passed.

(viii.) Supports, and parties bringing up ammunition and grenades, will only be moved up if the tactical situation demands.

(ix.) The blanket doorways of protected dugouts will be properly adjusted.

(x.) Men in charge of Vermorol Sprayers and Fans will prepare to use them as soon as the gas cloud has passed, so as to admit of helmets being removed.

(xi.) Helmets will not be removed after a gas attack until permission has been given by the Company Commander, who will ascertain from Officers and N.C.O's. trained at the Divisional Gas School that it is safe to do so.

(xii.) In order to guard against the danger of a subsequent gas cloud, all ranks, as soon as the gas is clear and permission has been received to remove their helmets, will fold up their helmets carefully and insert them inside the jacket in the “ALERT” position.

A sharp look-out will be maintained as long as the wind continues in a dangerous quarter.

Similar precautions will be taken by men equipped with box respirators.

(xiii.) Dugouts will not be entered for at least four hours after a gas attack and should be ventilated freely. Ventilation (natural or by means of anti-gas fans) is the only sure method of clearing a dugout. If dugouts have to be entered owing to heavy shelling, this should be done with the utmost caution and gas helmets put on at the slightest
trace of gas. The clearing of dugouts should not be carried out by men who have been slightly affected by gas.

(xiv.) Special arrangements must be made for the protection and warning of all civilians within the Corps or Divisional area.

3.—ACTION AFTER ENEMY GAS ATTACK.

(i.) Smoking will be prohibited for a period of three hours after the gas has ceased.

(ii.) After a gas attack, troops in the front trenches will be relieved of all fatigue and carrying work for 24 hours by sending up working parties from companies in rear. Horses should not be worked for a similar period if it can be avoided.

(iii.) No man suffering from effects of gas will be permitted to walk to the dressing station.

(iv.) Rifles and machine guns should be cleaned after a gas attack; oil cleaning will prevent corrosion for 12 hours, but the first available opportunity should be taken to clean all parts in boiling water containing a little soda.

4.—ACTION DURING GAS SHELL BOMBARDMENT.

(i.) Gas helmets will be put on in the shelled area.

(ii.) In the event of a sudden and intense bombardment with gas shell, a local alarm will be given which will consist of blasts from French shunters' horns, which are shortly being issued for this purpose.

(iii.) All dugouts in the vicinity will be visited, and any sleeping men roused.

(Signed), C. H. Harington, M.G.G.S.
Second Army.
S.S. 127 and S.S. 535
"Gas Defence Card"
are cancelled.

[S.S. 620.]
40/W.O./5796.

BOX RESPIRATOR DRILL
AND INSPECTION.

(Issued by the General Staff, January, 1918.)

Your life will often depend upon your respirator.

You have nothing to fear from gas, if

1. Your respirator is kept in good order.
2. You have learnt your drill thoroughly.
3. You know how to recognise gas shell and cloud gas.

Always be ready for gas. The enemy hopes to surprise you.

When gas is noticed:—

Keep quite calm.
Hold your breath and put on your respirator.
Give the alarm.
DRILL.

1. SLUNG POSITION.

Respirator with sling over right shoulder, haversack hanging on left side with press buttons closed and next to the body.

2. To bring the respirator to the ALERT POSITION from the SLUNG POSITION.

On the command GAS ALERT, if the rifle is not slung place it between the knees. Slip the left arm through the sling and bring the haversack round so that it hangs in front of the body. Seize the leather tab with the right hand, slide the left hand up the sling, grasp the brass button, bring it down and fasten it to the leather tab. Undo the press buttons. Withdraw the length of whipcord from the right-hand compartment, pass it through the brass "D" on the right of the haversack, carry it round the waist and fasten it to the "D" on the left. The press buttons will be left undone, but the flap will be tucked between the body and the haversack to protect the respirator from wet.

NOTE — When it is found that pressure of the sling on the back of the neck causes discomfort the haversack may be supported in the Alert Position by the following alternative method: —

The respirator is raised to the chest and the slack of the sling allowed to fall down the back. The whipcord is passed through the right hand "D" of the haversack and through the sling behind the back and fastened to the left hand "D," after adjusting the respirator to the proper height on the chest.

3. Drill by numbers to adjust the respirator from the ALERT POSITION.

On the word ONE.

If the rifle is not slung, place it between the knees. Insert the thumbs between the haversack and the body and open the haversack flap. Seize the mask with the right hand, metal elbow tube in the palm of the hand, the thumb and first finger grasping the wire frame of the noseclip, at the same time knock off the steel helmet from behind with the left hand.

On the word TWO.

Bring the mask smartly out of the haversack, hold it in both hands with all fingers outside, round the binding, and thumbs inside, pointing upwards under the elastic bands. Throw the chin well forward ready to enter the mask opposite the noseclip.

On the word THREE.

Bring the mask towards the face, dig the chin into it and bring the elastic bands back with the thumbs over the crown of the head to the full extent of the retaining tape.

On the word FOUR.

Seize the metal elbow tube outside the mask with the right hand, thumb on the right, fingers on the left, pointing towards the face. Push the rubber mouthpiece well into the mouth and pull it forward until the rim of the mouthpiece is between the teeth and the lips. Hold the two rubber grips with the teeth.

On the word FIVE.

Adjust the noseclip, using the thumb and first three fingers of the right hand.

On the word SIX.

Run the fingers round the mask to make sure the edges are not folded over and correct any faults in adjustment.

After the mask has been adjusted it should be cleared as in 7.

NOTE — As soon as men have been thoroughly instructed in drill by numbers, practice in rapid adjustment should be carried out as follows: The squad should, while standing easy, be given the word GAS without warning, whereupon every man must hold his breath, adjust his respirator
as rapidly as possible and when the adjustment is complete take a pace forward and come to attention. This practice should also be carried out on the march. On the word GAS the squad halts and carries on as above.

4. To adjust the respirator from the SLUNG POSITION.

If the rifle is not slung, place it between the knees, knock off the steel helmet from behind with the left hand. Bring the haversack round so that it hangs in front of the body. Undo the press buttons and adjust the mask as in 3, allowing the haversack to hang by the rubber tube. As soon as protection is obtained adjust the haversack in the Alert Position.

5. To clean eyepieces.

On the command CLEAN RIGHT EYEPIECE, grip the right eyepiece between the thumb and first finger of the left hand. Insert the first finger of the right hand into the fold of the mask behind the right eyepiece and clean it with a gentle circular motion.

The right eyepiece is cleaned in a similar way, with the forefinger of the left hand, the eyepiece being held with the right hand.

6. To speak while wearing the mask.

The noseclip must not be removed when speaking. Before each sentence a long breath must be taken and then the mouthpiece removed from the mouth by turning the metal elbow tube to one side. The mouthpiece must be replaced whenever breath is taken.

The squad should be numbered off, extended, and orders passed along the line.

7. To clear gas from mask.

On the command CLEAR MASKS, press the mask close to the face with the hands, forcing out the enclosed air at the sides. Refill the mask with air by blowing out round the mouthpiece, keeping the fingers on the noseclip to prevent its being displaced.

8. To test for gas.

Insert the fingers of the right hand between the mask and the right cheek, thus allowing outside air to enter. Loosen the noseclip and sniff gently. If gas is smelt replace noseclip and withdraw fingers of right hand, the mask then being cleared as in 7.

9. To remove mask.

On the command REMOVE MASKS, insert the fingers of the right hand under the mask at the chin, bend the head forward and remove the mask with an upward motion of the right hand, taking care not to strain the facepiece or the elastic bands.

NOTE.—After use the mask must be wiped dry and folded so that the insides of the eyepieces come together (no part of the mask being tucked inwards). The elastic bands should be folded against the outside of the facepiece on one side.

When the mask is replaced in the haversack care must be taken that the eyepieces are pushed down to the bottom of the compartment and that the outlet valve is not crumpled.

10. Practice in wearing the respirator.

Men should be made to double at least 200 yards while wearing the mask.

Practice in performing duties while wearing the mask should be given first in daylight and later in the dark. Infantry should practice movement, use of weapons, digging and carrying. Specialists and men of other arms
must be taught to perform their duties in the dark while wearing respirators. Officers and N.C.O.s. should practice giving orders while wearing the mask.

Practice in defence against surprise and in prolonged wearing of the respirator should be combined with other training.

INSPECTION.

Respirators will be inspected daily in the ALERT ZONE, and at least once weekly in the READY and PRECAUTIONARY zones. They must always be inspected before proceeding into the ALERT ZONE.

The respirator must be removed from the haversack for inspection and the parts examined in the following order, seeing that:

SAFETY PIN is present.

ELASTIC BANDS and RETAINING TAPE are sound and firmly sewn to mask.

MASK FABRIC is not perished. Examine for small holes, particularly around eyepieces and noseclip. These may be repaired by applying pieces of adhesive plaster both inside and outside, but masks so repaired must be exchanged as soon as possible.

EYEPieces are securely bound to mask and not bent or broken.

NOSECLIP is effective and firmly attached to mask fabric.

MOUTHPIECE is not split, loose, or at wrong angle, and that metal liner is ¼ inch from opening.

METAL ELBOW TUBE makes gas-tight joint with mask, and is not damaged.

OUTLET VALVE is not perished or punctured, and is securely attached.

VALVE GUARD is firmly attached to elbow tube and free from sharp edges.

RUBBER TUBE is sound and firmly attached at both ends. If the container is attached at the wrong angle the rubber tube may become twisted or kinked.

CONTAINER is without holes or signs of rusting. Look for rust on inlet valve and, if damage by wet is suspected, remove valve and examine interior. See that attachment of neck is secure.

INLET VALVE rubber disc is in position.

Test valves as follows:

(a) INLET VALVE.—Close the outlet valve by pinching and attempt to blow through mouthpiece. If air escapes it is a sign of a defective inlet valve, or leak in tube or container. Defective inlet valves may often be made good by reversing the rubber disc.

See that air can be drawn in freely through the container.

(b) OUTLET VALVE.—Place the palm of the hand over the inlet valve and test for leakage by attempting to breathe in through mouthpiece. See that it is possible to breathe out through the valve. If the latter be stuck owing to saliva drying in it, this can be remedied by rubbing the valve between the fingers.

Care must be taken that the container is replaced in the haversack so that the mask can be adjusted without twisting the tube.

Examine HAVERSACK, seeing that there are no holes in the canvas and that it is complete with sling, brass button, leather tab, press buttons, whipcord, "D's," and metal platform for supporting container. See that Record Card and Anti-Dimming Composition are present and that the former is correctly entered up. Check the name on the haversack to ensure that the man has his own respirator.

After inspection men should be ordered to put on their masks so that it can be seen whether all containers have been correctly replaced.

NOTE.—In order to avoid unnecessary wastage of Box Respirators, when the container or the haversack is found to be defective and the respirator is otherwise serviceable, the complete respirator will not be condemned and returned to Ordnance, but the defective container or haversack will be replaced.