



# WAR EMERGENCY

## INFORMATION AND

## INSTRUCTIONS

Read this leaflet carefully and make sure that you and all other responsible persons in your house understand its contents.

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Pay no attention to rumours. Official news will be given in the papers and over the wireless.

Listen carefully to all broadcast instructions and be ready to note them down.

### **(1) INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PUBLIC.**

Information and instructions will be given to the public by means of broadcast announcements. These announcements are of vital importance to everyone. Listen carefully and have a pencil and paper ready so that you may make a note of anything that concerns you, and inform other persons in your household who have not heard the broadcast. Announcements will be made in all News Bulletins and at special times which will be announced beforehand.

### **(2) IDENTITY LABELS.**

You should carry about with you your full name and address clearly written. This should be on an envelope, card or luggage label, *not* on some odd piece of paper easily lost. In the case of children a label should be sewn on to their clothes, in such a way that it cannot easily come off.

### **(3) AIR RAID WARNINGS.**

Warnings of air raids will be given in town and suburban areas by sirens or hooters. In some places the warning will be a series of short blasts and in other places a warbling or fluctuating signal which rises or falls every few seconds. The warning may also be given by police or air raid wardens blowing short blasts on whistles.

Directly you hear any of these sounds you should take cover if you can. Stay in your place of shelter until you hear the "Raiders Passed" signal which will be given by sounding the sirens or hooters continuously for a period of two minutes on the same note.

If poison gas has been used, you will be warned by means of hand rattles. If you hear hand rattles you must not leave your shelter until the poison gas has been cleared away. Hand bells will be used to tell you when there is no longer any danger from poison gas.

Make sure that everyone in your house understands the meanings of these signals.



#### **(4) LIGHTING RESTRICTIONS.**

All windows, skylights, glazed doors or other openings which would show a light at night must be screened with dark blinds, curtains, or blankets, or with brown paper fixed on to the glass so that no light is visible from outside. All lighted signs and advertisement lights and other outside lights must be turned out.

All street lighting will be stopped till further notice.

#### **(5) FIRE PRECAUTIONS AND METHOD OF DEALING WITH INCENDIARY BOMBS.**

Clear the top floor of all inflammable materials, lumber, etc. See that you can get easily to any attic or roof spaces.

Water is the best means of putting out a fire started by an incendiary bomb. See that water is available about the house. Have some ready in buckets, but do not draw off water if you can help it during an air raid. Be careful not to throw a bucket of water directly over a burning incendiary bomb. The bomb would explode and throw burning fragments in all directions.

You may be able to smother a small bomb with sand or dry earth.

#### **(6) CLOSING OF CINEMAS, THEATRES AND PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT.**

All cinemas, theatres, dance halls and places of public entertainment will be closed until further notice. When it is seen how the air attacks develop it may be possible to allow the re-opening of such places in some areas. They are being closed because if they were hit by a bomb, large numbers would be killed or injured. Football matches and outdoor meetings of all kinds which bring large numbers together are prohibited until further notice. Never crowd together unnecessarily.

## **(7) INSTRUCTIONS TO DRIVERS OF VEHICLES AND CYCLISTS.**

Traffic on the roads will be specially controlled and you must obey immediately any orders given you by the police or any other authorised persons.

If you are driving a vehicle when an air raid warning is sounded you must stop as soon as you have parked your vehicle so that it does not cause obstruction. If you are in a wide road you must pull in to the near side kerb. In a narrow road or congested area you may have to park the vehicle in a side street or as directed by the police or air raid warden.

You must not drive or cycle at night unless your lights are dimmed and screened in accordance with the regulations. You can get a leaflet giving details of these restrictions from any police station. No car or cycle will be allowed on the road at night until the lights have been dimmed in the way described in that leaflet.

If you have a car use it very sparingly because the supply of petrol will be rationed immediately.

## **(8) TRAVELLING BY RAIL AND ROAD.**

Do not travel unnecessarily. The railway and road passenger services will be busily engaged in the evacuation of children from the large towns and with mobilisation and troop movements. These must come first.

## **(9) TELEPHONES AND TELEGRAMS.**

Do not use the telephone except for very urgent messages. A speedy telephone service is vital for defence. You may be causing delay to very urgent calls. To meet the needs of defence operations it may be necessary to disconnect some telephones temporarily.

Do not telegraph unless it is very urgent. Telegraph offices will also be dealing with official messages and your message may delay important telegrams.



**(10) CLOSING OF SCHOOLS.**

All day schools are to be closed for instruction for one week from to-day. Subsequent re-opening will rest with the authorities of the schools and will be announced locally.

**(11) EVACUATION.**

It is the duty of everyone who has work to do to remain at his post, unless he has been told to do otherwise. The work of the nation must be carried on.

Under the Government evacuation scheme school children, younger children accompanied by their mothers or other responsible persons, expectant mothers, and adult blind persons will be evacuated from the following places :—

- (a) London, which includes the Administrative County of London, the County Boroughs of West Ham, and East Ham; the Boroughs of Walthamstow, Leyton, Ilford and Barking in Essex; the Boroughs of Tottenham, Hornsey, Willesden, Acton and Edmonton in Middlesex.
- (b) The Medway towns of Chatham, Gillingham and Rochester.
- (c) Portsmouth, Gosport and Southampton.
- (d) Birmingham and Smethwick.
- (e) Liverpool, Bootle, Birkenhead and Wallasey.
- (f) Manchester and Salford.
- (g) Sheffield, Leeds, Bradford and Hull.
- (h) Newcastle and Gateshead.
- (i) Edinburgh, Rosyth, Glasgow, Clydebank and Dundee.

In some of these places only certain areas will be evacuated, as you have already been told. Evacuation may also be effected from a few other places, besides those above mentioned, of which you have been, or will immediately be, informed.

*School Children*

If you live in one of these areas and have a child or children of school age who you wish to be evacuated you

should send them to school on the day which will be notified to you. Each child should have a handbag or case containing the child's gas mask, a change of under-clothing, night clothes, house shoes or plimsolls, spare stockings or socks, a toothbrush, a comb, towel, soap and face cloth, handkerchiefs: and, if possible, a warm coat or mackintosh. Each child should bring a packet of food for the day. School children will be taken by their teachers to homes in safer districts where they will be housed by people who have already offered to receive them and look after them. Parents of school children living in these areas are strongly urged to let their children go. Parents will be told where the children are as soon as they reach their new homes. The cost of the journey will be paid by the Government.

Parents who are in an evacuable area but do not wish their children to be evacuated should not send them to school until they are told to do so.

#### *Children under five*

Children below school age can only be evacuated if their mother or some other responsible person can go with them and look after them in the place to which they are sent, unless arrangements have already been made to send them with a nursery school or day nursery.

Posters will be exhibited at the schools showing the times when mothers with children below school age should assemble at the schools, unless they have been notified in some other way. Mothers and other persons in charge of children below school age should take hand-luggage with the same equipment for themselves and their children as for school children. The names of the children should be written on a label or strong paper and sewn on to their clothes.

#### *Private arrangements*

If you have made private arrangements to send your children to friends or relatives, send them away immediately.

Persons not engaged in work and not falling within the scope of the Government evacuation plans will not be prevented from leaving evacuable areas. While the Government evacuation scheme is in progress ordinary rail and road services will be drastically reduced. You should do nothing to



impede the working of the Government plans. Otherwise you may seriously endanger a scheme intended to safeguard young persons whose lives and health are vital to the future of the nation.

Persons who make their own arrangements to move from one part of the country to another should take food sufficient for one or two days with them. This is to prevent a sudden new demand being made upon local shops before steps can be taken through ordinary channels to increase their supplies.

#### **(12) FOOD SUPPLIES.**

Stocks of foodstuffs in the country are sufficient. In order to ensure that stocks are distributed fairly and to the best advantage the Government are bringing into operation the plans for the organisation of food supplies which have already been prepared in collaboration with the food trades. Steps have been taken to prevent any sudden rise in the price, or the holding up of supplies. For the time being you should continue to obtain supplies from your usual shops. You should limit your purchases to the quantities which you normally require.

#### **(13) PAYMENT OF PENSIONS, SEPARATION ALLOWANCES, ETC.**

All pensioners (including Old Age, Widows, Orphans, Great War Disability, etc.) and all persons in receipt of Navy, Army and Air Force marriage allowance or allotment who are paid by means of pension and allowance order books and all persons who are in receipt of any other payment from Government funds should note that if they have to leave home, they should be sure to take their pension or allowance order book or other papers relating to their allowance with them, otherwise they must not expect to be able to obtain further payment except after considerable delay. If they have their books in their possession they will be able to cash the orders in them on the proper dates at a Post Office in their new district.

**(14) NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE.**

If you are insured under National Health Insurance you should, if you leave home, take with you your current contribution card and your medical card.

If you require medical attention in the place to which you go, you will be able to get it from an insurance doctor there. If you need sickness, disablement or maternity benefit, you should write to your Approved Society or go to their local agent.

**(15) GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS.**

Carry your gas mask with you always.

Do not allow your children to run about the streets.

Avoid waste of any kind whether of food, water, electricity or gas.

Obey promptly any instructions given you by the police, the special constables, the air raid wardens, or any other authorised persons and be ready to give them any assistance for which they ask you.

**DO NOT TAKE TOO MUCH NOTICE OF NOISE IN AN AIR RAID. MUCH OF IT WILL BE THE NOISE OF OUR OWN GUNS DEALING WITH THE RAIDERS.**

**KEEP A GOOD HEART: WE ARE GOING TO WIN THROUGH.**