

WHAT TO DO IN AN AIR-RAID

Ten Simple Points For All to Remember

LET me say straight away, speaking from the experience of hundreds of air raids, that a raid is not nearly as terrifying as you might expect. It would be unnatural if you were not apprehensive, especially for your children's sake, but as with many other human experiences, anticipation is worse than the experience.

I want to state ten simple points about what to do in an air raid, which should help you considerably.

First: Ascertain where are the shelters, wardens and First Aid posts nearest to your home and office, and see that all your family and office staff know their whereabouts, too.

Next: Make sure you know who the warden in your area is, for it may save your life, or your family's or friends', if you have told him where you ordinarily sleep, or intend to sleep in the

event of raids; when you are going to be absent from home; when you are going to entertain.

Third: Determine now where you are going to shelter during a raid. If you are in or moving about the city or suburbs, note where public shelters are, and how long it would take to get to shelter. If there are no public shelters handy, a modern building of reinforced steel or concrete is quite a safe spot. If you are a householder or the door-keeper of an office, offer people in the street sanctuary in your home or building. If there is nothing better available, throw yourself down in a ditch or a gutter or lie down behind a low wall. Forget your dignity, for others will be doing likewise. As for your home, decide which is the safest spot. Hallways, or internal rooms should provide good shelter, provided there is no glass about. Push your dining-room table up against the wall, protect one side with the lounge settee and the others with lounge chairs. That amateurish shelter would do me for any two-storeyed outer suburban home or single-storeyed bungalow. Make these preparations every night before you go to bed. In any case, have your furniture so arranged that you could use the shelter quickly at any time of the day. If your home has inside stairs, you could shelter under these.

Fourth: Check up on your black-out arrangements and complete them as soon as possible. You have been warned that a black-out may be imposed at short notice. If the siren goes at night, don't switch on all the lights in the house, for, remember, everything must be black as pitch. Therefore, always have a torch beside your bed.

Fifth: When you put the children to bed or go yourself, leave some warm clothing, such as overcoats, slippers, and the like, handy beside the bed. You don't want to have to be looking for these if the house is on fire.

Sixth: Make mutual arrangements with your friends in a distant suburb to stay with them should your home be

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The author of this article, taken from an Australian National talk, is the representative of the New South Wales Government who was recently recalled from London to advise on A.R.P. preparations

bombed and, in the meantime, keep a change of clothing with them.

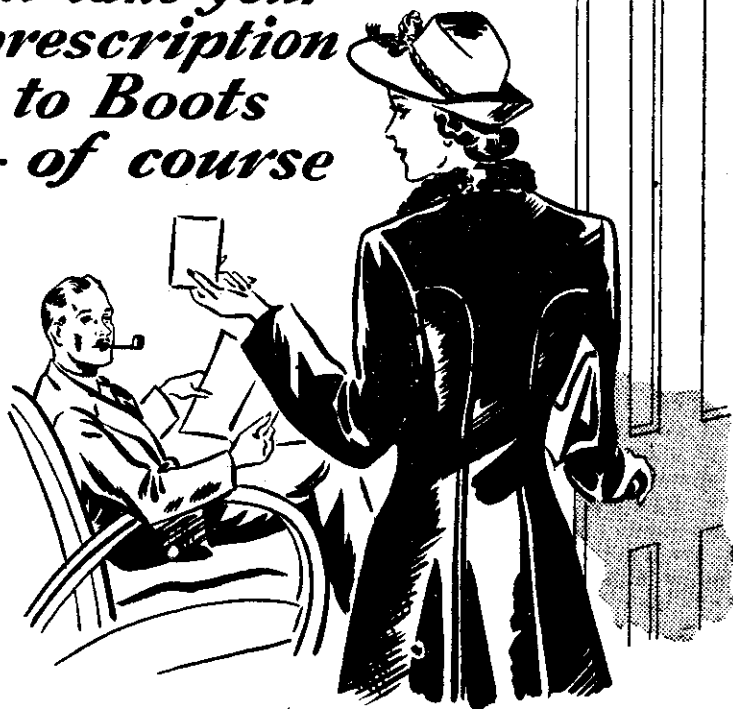
Seventh: See that there is no rubbish in attics and no long grass around your homes which might take fire. Note where the manholes in your ceilings are and have your ladders handy, for you might want to get on to or inside your roof to fight incendiary bombs. Place sand in bags or buckets where you can find them quickly. Keep water in suitable containers at the front and back of the house. Have your stirrup pump or garden hose ready, and, if you have any doubts about the way to deal with incendiary bombs, have a word with your local fireman.

Eighth: Glass fragment projected by blast are a great danger, and they will even penetrate tinned foodstuffs. All open foodstuffs should be kept in the frigidare or an ice chest, or safely away from glass windows. Butter muslin pasted on windows and overlapping the frames is the best tip that I can give for window-glass protection.

Ninth: Don't gape. Air raids and aerial dog fights are fascinating enough, but the risk of stopping a piece of shrapnel or bomb case is not worth the candle. Don't go near wreckage of planes or interfere with or touch unexploded shells or bombs—they may be very dangerous indeed. Tell your warden if you come across anything like that.

Lastly: You may get a little prior warning of a raid. So be certain you know what to do, so that if a raid comes, you will be able to act quickly but without haste. Under all circumstances, pay particular attention to official instructions and conform implicitly with the directions of wardens.

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A PLAIN WARNING: A graphic analysis of air-raid dangers, showing that shelters and buildings offer the best protection