

POLICE ORDER No. 25

(This note has been prepared by the Special Officer with particular reference to places where there are A. R. P. organisations but will serve as a guide for the Police in other places.

Duties and responsibilities of police in Air Raids.

1. *Police and A. R. P. organisation*—The direct results of an air raid are the destruction of or damage to property by high explosive or incendiary bombs and the causing of casualties. The indirect result is panic which in its turn causes the disorganisation of normal life and confusion thus giving bad characters the opportunity to start looting. It is the normal peace time duty of the Police to prevent such occurrences and to take remedial action with respect to them. The Police are, however, a relatively small body and during an air raid many incidents may occur in quick succession which it will be beyond the resources of the ordinary Police force to manage singlehanded. Moreover duties such as rescuing trapped persons, giving first-aid and fighting fires, require specially trained personnel with proper equipment for which the peace time Police are not trained or equipped. Hence the air raid precaution services are organised, trained and equipped to carry out these functions.

This, however, does not absolve the Police of responsibility with respect to such incidents. Moreover the Police is the only service empowered to enforce law and effect arrests and so in the enforcement of A. R. P. orders the A. R. P. services will, to a great extent, rely on the co-operation of the Police to enable them to carry out their work efficiently. For this reason it is necessary that the Police should work in close liaison with the A. R. P. services and be ready to enforce orders issued by them.

2. *Police during air raids*—During an air raid, a Police officer is expected to act with courage and presence of mind. He should be the leader and helper of the people who will naturally look to him for advice and guidance. Further he has to carry out with speed, accuracy, coolness and efficiency the numerous duties necessary in connection with this essential war time job. On the conduct and efficiency of the Police and the help they give the A. R. P. services and the public, during and after an air raid will depend the prevention of panic and confusion which it is the enemy's object to create.

3. *Duties of Police in air raids*—The Police have duties to perform in all the three stages of an air raid, i. e., (A) before a raid, (B) during a raid and (C) after a raid.

(A) *Duties of Police before a raid*—(a) The Police should make themselves acquainted with the A. R. P. organisation of the town and should know the location of all warden posts first-aid post, the control centre and depots, the hospital and the fire station. They should also know where there are private telephones and where the services of doctors are available.

(b) The Police should know all public shelters and slit trenches and other buildings of strong construction where people can be directed to take shelter during a raid.

(c) The Police should enforce lighting restriction orders and take action in any cases of violation of the orders brought to notice by the A. R. P. wardens.

(d) They should learn the types and effects of high explosive and incendiary bombs and the principles of protection and during their day to day work should try to disseminate this knowledge amongst the public.

(e) If any propaganda against the A. R. P. organisation comes to notice, the fact should be immediately reported to the A. R. P. Controller through the Superintendent of Police.

(f) The Police should keep themselves acquainted with all orders passed by the A. R. P. Controller and local A. R. P. rules issued by the Government.

(B) *Duties of Police during a raid*—(a) When the air raid sirens have given the alarm signal—

(i) All Police officers should immediately report at the posts allotted to them by the Superintendent of Police and then go out for patrol in the sectors allotted to them;

(ii) The public alarm signal should be supplemented by short, sharp blasts on the Police whistles ;

- (iii) All vehicles or traffic except air raid services should be stopped and the drivers asked to pull the vehicles to one side of the road;
- (iv) Any collection of vehicles near cross roads should be prevented;
- (v) Animals should be removed from vehicles and tried to the nearest tree or lamp post or to the wheel of a carriage in such a way as not to obstruct traffic;
- (vi) During hours of darkness lights on all vehicles except those used for A. R. P. services should be put out ;
- (vii) People should be made to go into shelters. Where public shelters or buildings or sli trenches are not available the Police Officer can order any occupier of a building to admit any person wanting to take shelter during an air raid. (He should however, be careful to see that bad characters do not again admission into houses on this pretext). In case no shelter is available, people should be advised to lie flat on soft ground and cover their ears with their hands. In no case should people be allowed to move about on the roads after the alarm ;
- (viii) In these duties the Police will be assisted by the air raid warden and if he is absent the Police should bring it to the notice of the post warden;
- (ix) The Police should not expose themselves to danger unnecessarily and should seek the best available cover when bombs are actually falling.

(b) When bombs have dropped—

- (i) the Police Officer should visit the place immediately and assist the warden in every way. If no warden is present he should report the incident to the Control Centre from the nearest warden's post in proper message form. After that he will return to the spot assist any A. R. P. services arriving on his summons;
- (ii) when the A. R. P. services arrive, it will be the duty of the Police to keep the road and the surrounding clear so that the services may function without interference;
- (iii) if incendiary bombs have fallen, the information should be passed on the house fire parties so that they may come to tackle the bomb : but if the fire gets out of the control of the house fire parties, the Police Officer should inform the Fire Brigade;
- (iv) he should give whatever help he can to injured by way first-aid or advice.

(C) *Duties of Police after a raid*—(a) The Police should control traffic and manage crowds in such a way that vehicles belonging to the Fire Brigade and A. R. P. services have a clear passage.

(b) If an unexploded bomb has dropped the people from the surrounding buildings should be evacuated up to a distance of 200 yards from the crater . A report about this should be sent to the Control Centre immediately.

(c) Similar action should be taken in case of crashed air-crafts as in the case of unexploded bombs.

(d) People should be cleared out of any seriously damaged building till it is passed as safe by an engineer.

(e) *The Police should prevent looting*—This is one of the most important duties and the Police may call for the help of the wardens or the public in the performance of this duty. Most stringent measures should be taken to prevent this form of crime and also any kind of assault.

(f) The Police should arrange for the identification of and help in the disposal of dead bodies, see that all injured persons are removed, and direct homeless people to go to emergency camps.

4. *Air Raid Exercises*—Holding air raid exercises is the best way of training A. R. P. personnel and the Police in their various duties and the Police should always take part in such exercise and behave during such exercise as in actual raid were on. Usually in such exercises the Police should control the traffic, persuade the people to go into shelters and keep watch on shops and other premises which are temporarily left unguarded.

5. *Police and A. R. P. Planning*—Superintendents should prepare detailed plan for the disposition of their forces during air raids and train all ranks in their duties during such emergencies. Officers and men should be taught to act independently as, in times of trouble reference to superior officers may not always be possible. Plan should be simple so that every individual officer or man may know clearly what his duties are. A through training of all ranks in all branches of A. R. P. work should be undertaken.

6. *General*—A Policeman's duty in air raid is one of great responsibility and self-sacrifice and calls for high qualities and strong character. He should be the first to reach an incident and the last to leave it.

(Previous Police Order Reference No. 3 of 1942)