FIRST ANZAC CORPS

DUTIES OF ANTI-GAS PERSONNEL.

and

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PROTECTION OF DUG-OUTS AGAINST GAS.

To be read in conjunction with S. S. 534.

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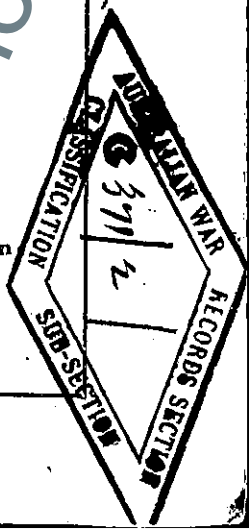

Duties of Anti-Gas Personnel.

DUTIES OF THE CORPS CHEMICAL ADVISER

1. The Corps Chemical Adviser is attached to, the general staff at corps headquarters.

2. He is a member of the Gas Directorate and deals with the Chemical Adviser, at army headquarters, on all purely technical matters concerning gas warfare.

3. Under the general staff, his duties are as follow:—

(a) To supervise the training in anti-gas measures of all troops in the corps area.

(b) To control and standardise the work of the divisional gas officers, who will refer to him on all matters previously referred to the Chemical Adviser of the army.

(c) To advise and co-operate with "Q" and Ordnance in issue and supply of all gas protective apparatus and with the collection and transmission to Central Laboratory for examination, of all kinds of enemy gas or flame appliances or projectiles.

(d) To advise the general staff and the artillery on all technical matters concerned with the characteristics of the materials used in gas warfare.

(e) To co-operate with the corps staff in collecting information from prisoners and other sources relating to the methods of gas warfare used by the enemy and to the effects of our gas attacks. Also to investigate and furnish reports, both to the general staff of the corps and the D.G.S., through the Chemical Adviser of the army, on all important cloud gas and gas shell attacks by the enemy.

(f) To advise on the use of smoke grenades and gas grenades.

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DUTIES OF DIVISIONAL GAS OFFICERS.

1. Advisory.

Under the general staff, his duties will be:—To advise the divisional general staff on all matters connected with gas or flame, and on anti-gas measures for the protection of the divisional area.

2. Operations.

1. To superintend the taking over of anti-gas trench stores. When divisions are moving into the line the divisional gas officer will be attached to the advanced headquarters of the division.

2. On relief, outgoing and incoming divisional gas officers will render a certificate to the corps chemical adviser that anti-gas trench stores and maps have been handed over to, and received by, the incoming divisional gas officer.

3. To arrange with the divisional general staff to be at once notified of any gas attack or gas shell bombardment. To investigate and render reports and samples to the corps chemical adviser.

4. To examine captured appliances dealing with gas, smoke, flame, etc., and report on same to the corps chemical adviser.

5. To supervise the production of smoke when required.

6. To be present with the O.C. Special Company, R.E. if required, or with brigade headquarters of the sector in which the special brigades are operating.

3.—Routine.

1.—To visit the divisional front and divisional artillery when the division is in the line.

2. To visit all units and inspect anti-gas appliances.

3. To ascertain that all units keep anti-gas equipment up to scale.

4. To arrange for the inspection of the divisional reserve of anti-gas equipment as required.

5. To repair defective apparatus at the divisional school in cases where return to ordnance is not considered necessary.

6. To arrange for the examination of salved anti-gas apparatus as required.

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(c) Anti-gas fans—see that they are placed in proper positions and kept in good order.
(d) Stores of fuel for clearing out dug-outs—arrange to have a supply on hand
(e) Vermorel sprayers—see that they are well protected and kept in working order.
(f) Gas sampling apparatus—have charge of vacuum bulbs and gas testing tubes, and take samples during a gas cloud attack. Keep a stock of corked bottles and tins with well fitting lids for collecting samples of earth and water after a gas shell bombardment. Carry out instructions as in S.S. 534, Appendix VII.

5. To train men in the use of anti-gas appliances.

6. To see that the men detailed to handle gas shells are wearing their small box respirator and know how to use them, and that proper precautions are taken at dumps of gas shells and grenades.

7. During frosty weather to see that frequent inspections are made of the rubber valves of small box respirators and that precautions are taken to prevent them from being closed by moisture freezing in them.

8. To make wind observations every three hours, or more frequently if the wind is in or nearing a dangerous quarter, and report any change of wind to the company commander. Reliefs of gas N.C.O.'s for this purpose should be arranged when possible.

9. To make wind vanes and keep them in order, and see that the "Wind Dangerous" area is correctly marked on them.

10. To fix "Wind Dangerous" notices in position and see that the notices are altered according to orders in regard to "Wind Dangerous" and "Wind Safe."

11. To salvage anti-gas equipment in area and hand it over to the battalion gas N.C.O.

12. To assist in smoke operations if required.

13. On relief to accompany the advance party and take over anti-gas trench stores (by daylight if possible) and to obtain or give a receipt for them.

14 The company or battery gas N.C.O. is not avrilable for other duties if they interfere with the anti-gas duties laid down.

15. The duties of gas N.C.O.'s of other units will be modified to suit their organisation.

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PROTECTION OF DUG-OUTS AGAINST GAS.

Arrangements must be made for closing all openings, ventilators, etc., in the event of a gas attack. Special attention must be paid to the entrances of dug-outs. These must be be closed in such a manner as to allow passage in and out during a gas attack without allowing gas to enter.

Gas-proof Doors for Dug-outs.

1. Each entrance should be fitted with two doors which should be fixed as far apart as circumstances will permit. They should be not less than three feet apart.

2. The doors should be made of blankets which should be shrunk before being used as they will always be kept wet with solution afterwards.

3. A complete frame of 6in. by 1in. timber (at least 4in. by 1in.) padded with double thickness of blanket so that the gas joint will be blanket to blanket, *not* blanket to wood, should be fitted in the opening.

4. The side frames should have a slope of at least 1 in 6 and the frames of both doors should slope into the porch at the top.

5. Care should be taken to make gas proof joints between the door frame and the top, sides, and the floor of the porch or passage.

6. The blanket used for the door should not be cut to fit the outside of the frame, but the sides should be folded over outwards and roughly stitched to the required size.

7. The blanket should be secured to the frame at the top with a wooden batten to prevent tearing. It should extend at least 3 inches beyond the bottom of the frame so as to form a gas tight check with the ground.

8. An iron or a heavy wooden bar should be attached horizontally to the blanket to keep it in position.

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This bar should be at least 3 inches clear of the ground and will rest against the bottom frame or sill when the door is closed.

Its weight should be carefully adjusted so that it will not drag the blanket away from the side frames near the top edge of the bar.

9. A light wooden batten should be fixed horizontally to the blanket door, about halfway up to prevent the edges sagging inwards.

10. A wooden shelf should be fixed to the top frame of the door so that when the blanket door is rolled up it will lie on the shelf without any fixing.

11. The bottom frame or sill should be protected by a box step or a sheath made of tin which can be removed quickly when necessary.

12. The sentry posted at the door of a gas proof dug-out during a gas attack will assist men to pass in or out, and will see that only one door is opened at a time.

13. Diagrams showing detail of gas-proof doors for dugouts are attached.

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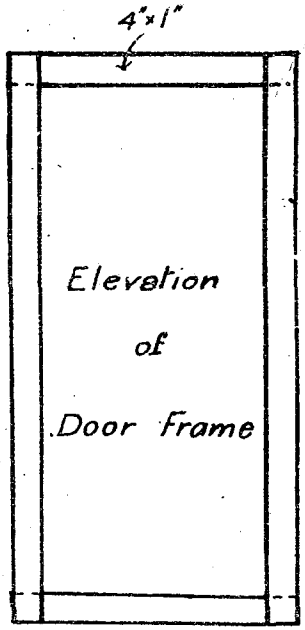
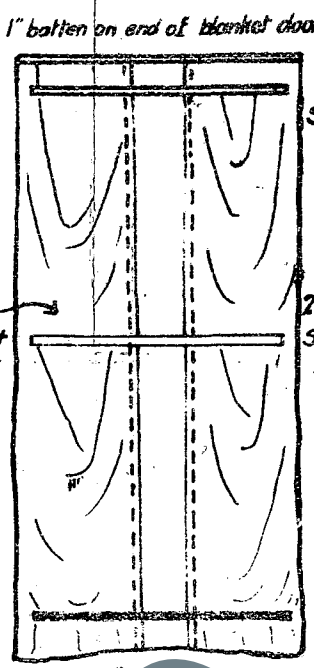
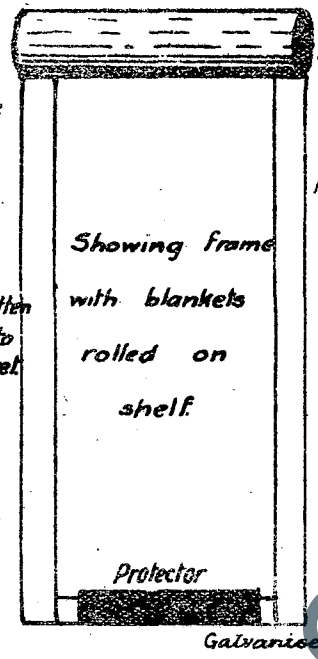
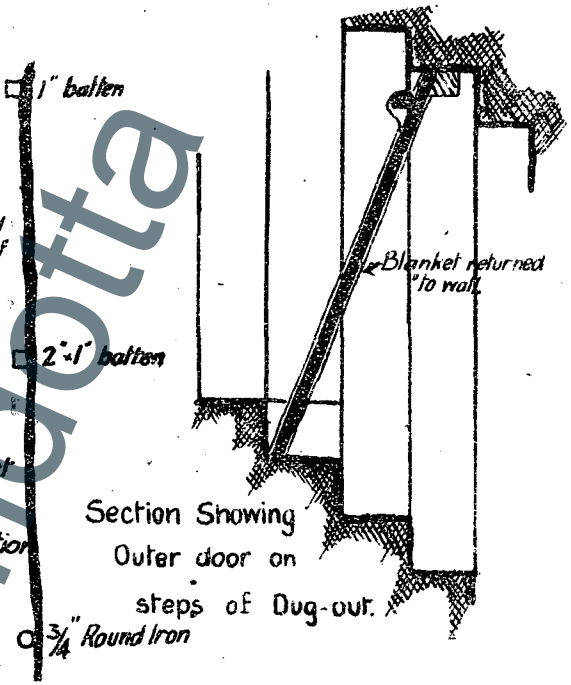
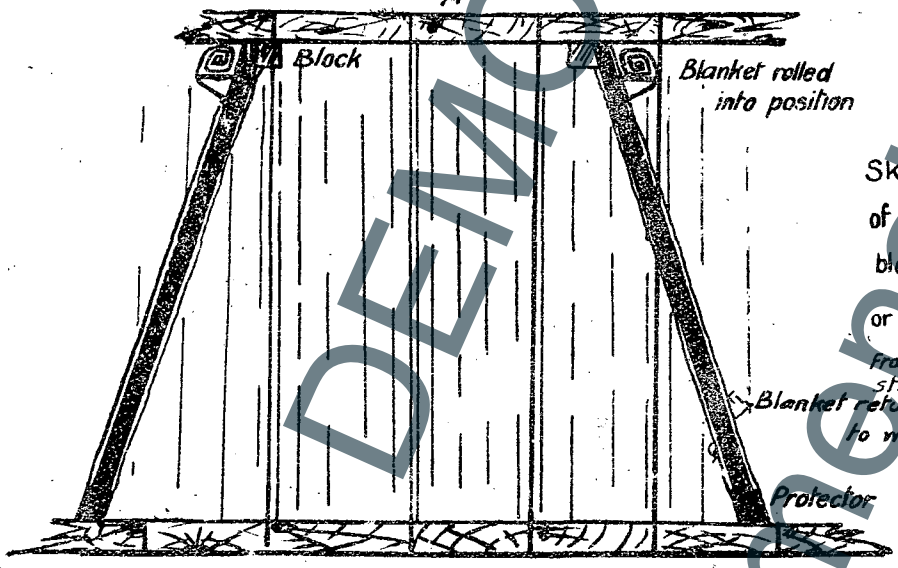
Sketches showing detail of Gas-tight door for Dug-outs





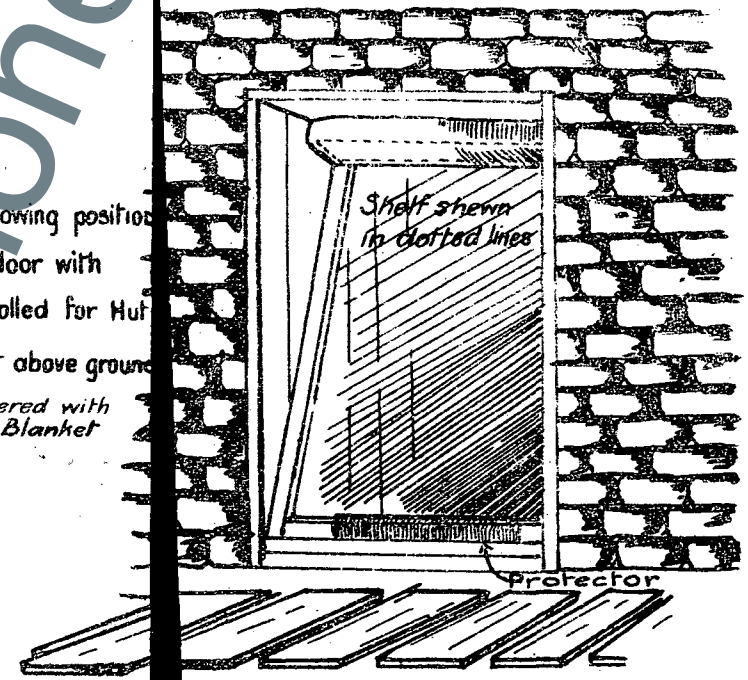






Section shewing position of doors in Dugouts without landing

Sketch showing position of outer door with blanket rolled for Hut or Dug-out above ground



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