

# **BAD RESPONSE TO GAS MASK CHECK UP**

## **Free offer expires in fortnight's time**

Christchurch Times Feb. 12, 1944.

DURING the months of January and February, as already announced to the public, the Civil Defence Wardens have been on duty at certain centres in the Borough for the purpose of inspecting gas masks and, where necessary, making adjustments and repairs without charge.

**In response to enquiries made by the Christchurch Times this week, the Civil Defence Controller, Councillor T. Markham, stated that the public's response to this free offer had been extremely unsatisfactory.**

Because gas masks have been "put away," or left hanging up for so long, it has been considered advisable by the Government that everyone should have his or hers overhauled, repaired and refitted without charge. For a respirator that is in any way damaged or which does not fit properly is no use whatever.

On the other hand, by taking a very simple precaution now, and availing themselves of the facilities being offered during January and February, the public can have confidence that this form of protection is perfect. No one can be assured that the enemy will not resort to gas attacks. It is such a simple matter to have the mask tested that the way the public has so far responded is evidence of a disgraceful apathy.

Up to the present time two centres have been opened in the Borough, one in Christchurch and one at Highcliffe.

**In order to make it yet more convenient to the public, no less than six more centres are to be opened up to the end of February. The eight centres are spread over all parts of the Borough and one or other of them will be opened on every day of the week including Saturdays and Sundays and at practically all hours of the day until 9 p.m.**

Henceforward and during the remaining 18 days of the present month, the public can have no excuse whatever for continuing to remain satisfied with their indolence and apathy. If day-time is inconvenient, you can go at night. If you can't manage night-time, you can choose day-time. If you can't manage a week-day go during the week-end.

The following are the times and places at which the work of inspection and repair is being carried out:

### **Priory House.**

Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sundays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Every other day of the week, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

### **Square House.**

7.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. every night of the week.

### **Village Room, Stanpit.**

7.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. every night of the week.

### **Wardens Post, CIF.**

(opposite Ponchauds, Grocers, Barrack Road).

7.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. every night of the week.

### **Wardens Post C2A.**

(44, Grove Road East). 7.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. every night of the week.

### **Wardens Post C1C.**

(Back of St. Catherine's Parade, Fairmile Road).

7.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. every night of the week.

### **Sea Corner Stores, Highcliffe.**

10 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. and 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

### **Globe Hotel, Highcliffe.**

(Cleansing Station).

7.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. every night of the week.

The Controller has particularly stressed the responsibility borne by parents and guardians to see that the arrangements for babies and pre-school aged children are checked-up. School children have their gas masks properly inspected at school; but with younger children, whose faces and heads grow and change most rapidly, the responsibility rests with the head of the household.

Invalids and those who are unable for adequate reason to go to one of the centres should send word to the Wardens Organisation when the necessary service will be carried out by wardens at their own homes.

**IN THE RURAL DISTRICT.**

The public have been advised to contact their wardens, who will make all necessary arrangements for fitting and replacement.

**Bransgore.**

Mr. Whitfield, Ringwood Road. 2.30 to 5.30 p.m. on Saturday. 12th February.

Thorney Hill School, 2.30 to 5.30 p.m. on Saturday, 19th February (school children of above locality will be fitted at the schools).

**Ringwood.**

Lake House, Christchurch Road. Wednesdays and Fridays, 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon and 2.30 to 4 p.m.

Public Offices, Christchurch Road, Tuesdays and Fridays, 7 till 9 p.m.