

To be included  
in Training  
Directives

177 (AIR 2)

AIR RAID 26/7

## ON THE SELECTION OF AIR RAID WARDENS

The matter of selection of Air Raid Wardens is extremely important.

The institution of Air Raid Warden is a brand new phase in American life; it is a position of trust and leadership that demands superior qualities and nothing less than a man's best effort.

Careful selection of Air Raid Wardens is of the utmost importance, because they must obtain voluntary wholehearted cooperation of all persons in their sectors. It takes a most exceptional person to be able to tell a housewife that the trash in her attic constitutes an air raid hazard, and to tell her in such a manner that she likes it. It takes a remarkable person to find out such things as when the babies are due (yet, such information a Warden should know) without leaving the impression that he is meddling. It takes a person with a high code of honor and judgment not to betray the various confidences which, of necessity must pass between an Air Raid Warden and the families of his sector. There are a few persons that have the desired qualities for this very important mission. They have been largely unused in the past, but they will surely come into their own during this emergency. Some such men exist in every community. If you wish to know how to locate them, go to the local barroom, go to the local clergymen, ask Tom, Dick and Harry of the particular sector in question. The persons you are after will probably be recommended by all of these. They should be known, respected, and liked by all their neighbors. They need not be persons of considerable economic success, social status, political position, or educational attainments; they can be just plain, good, kind, honest, substantial persons, with some qualities of leadership, who inspire trust in their neighbors, who will have courage and presence of mind in an emergency. Only such persons will inspire whole-hearted cooperation on the part of their friends and neighbors.

The Air Raid Warden occupies a unique position in American community life. He is neither policeman, nor fireman, nor medical man, nor preacher, but he may have to perform some of the functions of each. In short, the Air Raid Warden is a GRAND DADDY in his sector. Very rarely in his twenties, most probably older, for the qualities required in general are developed only through years of character building.

The Air Raid Warden should do everything possible to protect and safeguard the homes and citizens of his sector from enemy hazards by air or otherwise. He should know his sector as well as a person knows his own home. He should become well acquainted with the people of his sector. He should gain their confidence; he must become to these people the personification of all Civilian Protection. Thereby, in the emergency, he may more easily calm and reassure them, thus averting panic. As he becomes better acquainted, he will learn upon whom to call for temporary help in a crisis. He will learn what his people can do. He will become acquainted with the kind hearted, lovable, motherly woman to whom he can turn for help in comforting some shattered family, some member of which has been blasted to kingdom come. He will learn who was a practical nurse before she married, who is exceptionally capable in handling children, who is the amateur radio operator, who is the man with cellar well equipped with tools for household repairs, who is the woman with organizing ability and qualities of leadership. He will become acquainted with the modest, retiring little lady, who comes into her own when there is a call for group feedings; who can, on short notice, turn out delicious coffee by the gallon and doughnuts by the hundred. All these and others will contribute efficiently to ease the situation in a crisis.

The fulfillment of the responsibilities of an Air Raid Warden is possible, not alone through sheer will power to do one's best; it also involves to some extent, inborn traits, and to a marked degree a high development of character, attainable only over a period of years.

Let us give most careful consideration in the selection of the personnel for this extremely important phase of our Civilian Protection Organization: