

WHEN INCENDIARY BOMBS SHOULD BE FOUGHT

All incendiary bombs falling in circumstances likely to cause fires must be fought at once.

This is the effect of instructions which have just been issued to the local authorities by the Ministry of Home Security and the Scottish Home Department. It is stated that some people appear to have interpreted previous instructions as meaning that incendiary bombs should not be approached until after an interval of seven minutes.

"This is a complete misconception" says the new circular. "The intention is that fire guards should attack all incendiary bombs liable to cause a fire resolutely and at once but that in doing so they should realise the importance of taking such cover as is available." If the bomb has not exploded after the lapse of seven minutes it may be safely approached without cover.

Local authorities are asked to take immediate steps to ensure that the instructions are at once brought to the notice of all persons engaged in the training of Fire Guards.

Following are the main points of the instructions:-

- (1) The new German incendiary bomb has a more powerful explosive charge than that previously used in the 1 kilo magnesium incendiary bomb and in future fire guards and others will need to take special precautions in attacking it.
- (2) Bombs falling where they may start a fire should be attacked resolutely and at once.
- (3) Any person attacking an incendiary bomb must make the best use of such cover as is available. Safe cover is given by a 3" brick wall or a 3" breeze block wall plastered on both sides. Failing such cover the best possible use should be made of any substantial objects between the fire fighter and the bomb, as little as possible of the body being exposed in the direction of the bomb.
- (4) The bomb is liable to explode any time up to seven minutes after it has fallen.
- (5) Bombs falling where they can do no appreciable harm should be left alone.