

able opportunity should be taken to dismantle the gun and clean the parts in boiling water containing a little washing soda. If this is not done, corrosion continues slowly even after the oil cleaning, and may ultimately put the gun out of action.

Battery Commanders should be reminded that aiming posts are liable to be obscured by the gas cloud, and that arrangements should be made in every battery to meet this eventuality by providing gun pits with means to check the line of fire, if necessary, without depending on the use of aiming posts.

6. Fires as a protection against gas.

No reliance is now placed by the Germans on the use of lines of flame as a means of "raising" and dissipating the gas cloud. Careful experiments have proved that this method is without any real value as a defensive measure against gas attacks.

III. TECHNICAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES.

1. Tube Helmets.

The tube helmet is the main defence against a gas attack, and great care must be taken by officers to ensure that the helmets are in good order, and that the men have been trained in their use. The main point to impress on them is that the chemically-treated material acts as a filter, and that all air breathed into the lungs must pass through the flannelette. The helmet is, therefore, useless unless properly tucked in under the tunic. During its passage through the material of the helmet, all poisonous gas is absorbed by the chemicals. These chemicals, however, would be gradually destroyed by the breath or by undue exposure to the air, and the helmet is therefore provided with a valve to breathe out through. The helmet in possession of the man should be exposed as little as possible to the air, and must not be used for practice.

Both tube helmets issued to officers and other ranks are invariably to be on the individual. This refers not only to units in the trenches, but to all units and individuals when within 2 miles of the front line. They will be carried in satchels slung outside equipment and greatcoats, when these are worn, so that they can readily be got at and detached for wearing. They must be kept from exposure and wet, and only removed from their containers for inspection.