

DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD

17.1 In order to set up an efficient organisation for the disposal of the dead it is necessary to consider-

- (a) the probable situation that will have to be met;
- (b) the existing law and procedure for disposing of dead bodies;
- (c) What adaptation or expansion of (b) is necessary.

17.2 Dead bodies will fall into two main categories (i) those which will be disposed of privately and (ii) those which will have to be disposed of by the Corpse Disposal Organisation. Category (ii) will consist of both identified and unidentified bodies, which may be lying in streets, in damaged or undamaged buildings, under debris, in first aid post or in hospitals. It will therefore, be necessary to make arrangements for notifying the location of bodies which need disposal by the organisation. On receipt of news of bodies requiring disposal, arrangements must be made to collect and remove them, either to a local mortuary temporarily and hence for disposal, or straight to burial or cremation grounds. The maximum number of dead bodies likely to need disposal after a raid must be estimated; arrangements must be such as to be able to deal with this number in a very short space of time. These arrangements should include the disposal of civilian corpses in military, railway and port areas and on ships in port or putting into port. Provision is necessary for taking possession of valuables found on unclaimed corpses. Provision must be made for sending information of all deaths in both categories (i) and (ii) to the Civil Defence Information Office.

Figures of casualties and extent of damage are however NOT to be supplied to any person after any raid or series of raids. This information will be issued only by Government. This caution applies to all branches of Civil Defence Services in an area.

17.3 **Corpse Disposal Organisation-** The Corpse Disposal Organisation should be under the control of a responsible officer of the Health Department of the Municipality or Corporation, as the case may be. He will be assisted by such staff as may be necessary. A minimum of one Corpse Disposal Squad should be sanctioned for all cities having a population upto two lakh. For every additional two lakh population, one more squad may be added. For every squad one vehicle should be provided. Each squad should consist of one leader, one driver and four attendants. Some of the local voluntary organisations may be persuaded to join the Corpse Disposal Organisation or alternatively to arrange for some squads to be placed at the disposal of the Corpse Disposal Organisation for disposing of unclaimed

bodies. For removing the dead bodies the equipment required such as spades, stretchers, ropes, and disinfectants, rubber gloves, Phenyle, soap, towel, nose pads and tarpaulin, should also be provided in each vehicle and the driver should be made responsible for the proper maintenance of these articles. Each member of the Corpse Disposal Squad should be given 1 steel helmet and each squad should have 1 electric torch.

17.4 During an emergency it will be the responsibility of the public to report all deaths occurring due to air raids to the police who will make necessary enquiries under section 174 (Cr. P.C.) and permit the disposal of dead bodies. Claimed dead bodies will be given to the relatives or friends and unclaimed dead bodies will then be disposed of by the organisation for the disposal of the dead. Dead bodies of Defence personnel should be handed over to the military authorities. Arrangements should be made for keeping the dead bodies at some convenient place for some time so that they can be identified by their relatives. In any case it is desirable to have them photographed before their final disposal. Particulars regarding the dead must be supplied to the Information Offices concerned. The Information Offices will compile the information and will keep the C.D. Controller informed from time to time.

17.5 Identity Discs

To facilitate the task of identifying dead bodies, the concerned authorities may advise the public to carry identity discs in their own interests. Such discs may show the name of the wearer and his permanent address.