DIAL 999
GALW 999

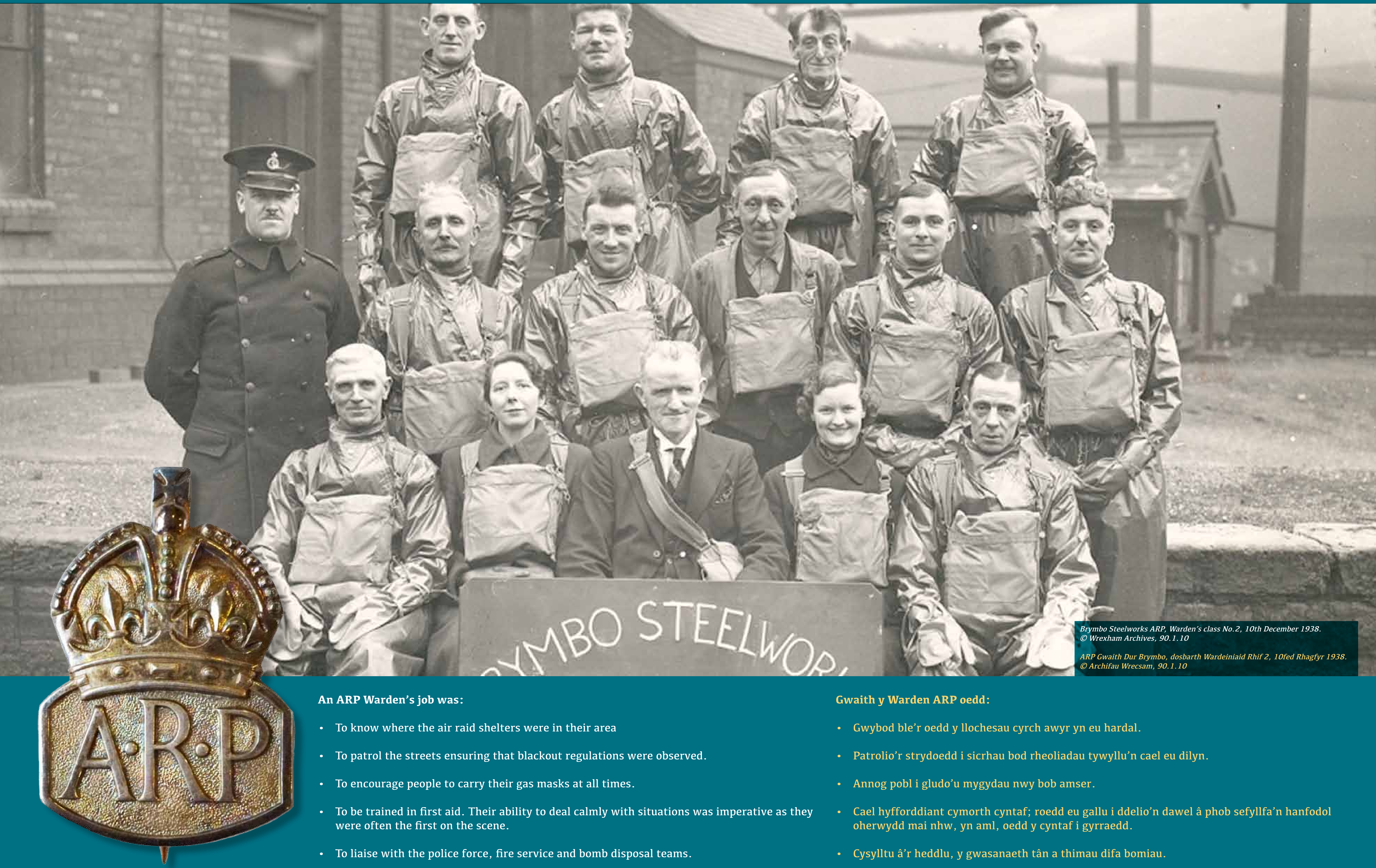
Mind That Light!! – Air Raid Precautions
Gwyliwch y Golau Yna!! – Rhagofalon Cyrchoedd Awyr

The Air-Raid Precautions 1937 Act was followed in 1938 by appeals for people to act as ARP wardens. Both men and women could volunteer. Wardens had to be 'of calm and sure temperament', 'capable of doing the right thing at the right time' and have excellent local knowledge of the area they were to police.

By July 1939 Mr P J Walters, the town clerk, was busy finalising the ARP preparations in Wrexham. The town had been divided into ten sectors, with the ARP headquarters located at Imperial Buildings on King Street. Senior and Deputy Wardens had been allocated to each sector and ARP badges had been issued. Suitable buildings for warden's posts were in the process of being selected and would be equipped with telephones where necessary. Air Raid sirens were erected at three locations around the town including one on the outside of this building.

Yn 1938 dilynwyd Deddf Rhagofalon Cyrchoedd Awyr 1937 gan apeliadau at bobl i weithredu fel wardeiniaid ARP. Gallai dynion a merched fel ei gilydd wirfoddoli. Roedd wardeiniaid yn gorfod bod 'o anian dawel a sicr', 'yn gallu gwneud y peth cywir ar yr adeg iawn' a bod â gwybodaeth leol ragorol o'r ardal yr oeddent i'w phlismona.

Erbyn mis Gorffennaf 1939 roedd Mr P J Walters, clerc y dref, yn brysur yn terfynu paratoadau'r ARP yn Wrecsam. Rhannwyd y dref yn ddeg sector, gyda phencadlys yr ARP yn Imperial Buildings ar Stryt y Brenin. Neilltuwyd Wardeiniaid Uwch a Dirprwy Wardeiniaid i bob sector a chyhoeddwyd bathodynnau ARP. Roedd adeiladau addas ar gyfer safleoedd y wardeiniaid wrthi'n cael eu dewis a byddent yn cael teleffonau lle bo angen. Codwyd seirenau cyrch awyr mewn tri lle o gwmpas y dref, gan gynnwys un ar du allan yr adeilad hwn.



Brymbo Steelworks ARP, Warden's class No.2, 10th December 1938.
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ARP Gwaith Dur Brymbo, dosbarth Wardeiniaid Rhif 2, 10fed Rhagfyr 1938.
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An ARP Warden's job was:

- To know where the air raid shelters were in their area
- To patrol the streets ensuring that blackout regulations were observed.
- To encourage people to carry their gas masks at all times.
- To be trained in first aid. Their ability to deal calmly with situations was imperative as they were often the first on the scene.
- To liaise with the police force, fire service and bomb disposal teams.
- To report at once if gas is detected and to sound the alarm.
- To assist the occupants of damaged buildings and to help them find new accommodation.
- To guide rescue parties to the scene of damage.
- To help householders and fire post personnel to fight incipient fires

Wardens were advised not to put themselves in dangerous situations because it was important for them to be able to send reports to appropriate services.

In August 1940 bombs fell on homes in Rhosllanerchrugog, Penycae and Gresford. Rose Bonsall, ARP warden for Gresford, and Reginald Evans of the St John Ambulance Brigade were among eight people killed when a delayed action bomb exploded in Gresford following a night-time air raid.

Gwaith y Warden ARP oedd:

- Gwybod ble'r oedd y llochesau cyrch awyr yn eu hardal.
- Patrolio'r strydoedd i sicrhau bod rheoliadau tywyllu'n cael eu dilyn.
- Annog pobl i gludo'u mygydau nwy bob amser.
- Cael hyfforddiant cymorth cyntaf; roedd eu gallu i ddelio'n dawel â phob sefyllfa'n hanfodol oherwydd mai nhw, yn aml, oedd y cyntaf i gyrraedd.
- Cysylltu â'r heddlu, y gwasanaeth tân a thimau difa bomiau.
- Hysbysu ar unwaith os oedd nwy'n cael ei ganfod a seinio'r larwm.
- Cynorthwyo preswylwyr adeiladau a ddifrodwyd a helpu iddynt gael hyd i lety newydd.
- Tywys criwiau achub i safle'r difrod.
- Helpu deiliaid tai a phersonél safleoedd tân ymladd tanau dechreuol.

Cynghorwyd wardeiniaid i beidio â rhoi eu hunain mewn sefyllfaoedd peryglus am ei bod yn bwysig iddynt allu anfon adroddiadau at y gwasanaethau priodol.

Ym mis Awst 1940 disgynnodd bomiau ar gartrefi yn Rhosllannerchrugog, Penycae a Gresffordd. Ymysg wyth o bobl a laddwyd pan ffrwydrodd bom hwyrweithredol yng Ngresffordd yn dilyn cyrch awyr liw nos oedd Rose Bonsall, warden ARP Gresffordd, a Reginald Evans o Frigâd Ambiwlans Sant Ioan.

Local Mobile Cleansing Unit. The unit would undertake decontamination work following any bombing raid that involved chemical weapons.
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Uned Lanhau Symudol Leol. Byddai'r uned yn gwneud gwaith dadlygru yn dilyn unrhyw gyrch bomio oedd yn cynnwys arfau cemegol.
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