



The UK's Civil Defence Service included the Air Raid Wardens, established in April 1937. The Wardens made sure blackouts were obeyed, sounded air raid sirens, reported on bomb damage, handed out gas masks, and organised air raid shelters.

Wardens were equipped with steel helmets. They were too thin for use on the front lines, and marked as such by holes drilled into the brim. Most members of the Civil Defence wore white helmets, but Wardens wore black helmets. The letter on the front indicated the wearer's speciality, for example "W" for "Warden", or "M" for "Messenger." The Civil Defence armband was dark blue, with a golden crown and arch. Same as the helmet, it helped to identify ARP warden.