



Welcome to the Royal Museum of the Armed Forces and of Military History. All along the corona pandemic period facemasks were put centre stage. Let's now discover various masks in our extensive collections. From masks protecting against blows, cold, sparks or gas to masks supplying oxygen, enabling communication or providing camouflage: our Museum has them in abundance. The tour follows the signage put in place to respect social distancing. Let's go for a "masked" expedition!

Arms and Armour Gallery

Go to the rear of the gallery, in front of the showcase dedicated to "Tournaments and Jousts".

Q1. Armour for horses appear in the 14th century. The shaffron protects the animal's head.

A frontally placed element is supposed to deflect lance blows. What is it shaped like?

(A=1) a cube / (A=2) a pin / (A=3) a ball

14-18 Gallery

Go to the centre of the gallery, where you'll find three identical modern showcases. Position yourself in front of the first one (the leftmost one).

Q2. Animals, widely used all along the First World War, also received protection against gas. Two masks for animals (dogs and horses) are presented in this showcase. Which colours are they?

(B=3) tan and brown / (B=6) blue and black / (B=9) red and yellow

Behind the three modern showcases an older showcase to your right displays a "lunar" character.

Q3. A new weapon appears in 1915: gas. The first protective equipment is very rudimentary, but protections evolve. In 1917 a mask with a filter cartridge is developed, the ARS (appareil respiratoire spécial or special respiratory device). How many different gasmasks are presented in this showcase?

(C=8) 8 / (C=4) 4 / (C=1) 1

Locate the showcase displaying the outfit worn by tank crews, next to the Mark IV, the large tank under the red plane.

Q4. Tank crews wear masks to protect their eyes and faces against metal shards and sparks produced when the tank is hit by enemy fire. How many slits are provided at eye-level?

(D=2) 2x2 / (D=4) 2x4 / (D=6) 2x6

Check 1: A+B+C+D = 13

Aviation Hall

Follow the signage and stop in front of the area dedicated to the paratroopers (by the stairs leading to the first floor).

Q5. A paratrooper, standing in front of the airplane (a Dakota), is expertly camouflaged with his “ghillie” outfit. Two other mannequins wearing camouflage gear are presented under the aircraft’s wing. What means of transportation are they using?

(E=3) a jeep / (E=2) a motorbike / (E=1) a canoe

Go to the first floor and follow the trail to the left. Before reaching the rear of the gallery, you’ll find a showcase containing First World War flight gear.

Q6. This is the quite rudimentary protection First World War pilots had to make do with: goggles to protect the eyes and a leather helmet. Behind these two objects you’ll see an aerial map of the French coastline. Which large city is to be seen through the magnifying glass?

(F=3) Calais / (F=4) Bordeaux / (F=5) Menton

14-18 Gallery

Follow the trail in the Aviation Hall. It will guide you back to the 14-18 Gallery. Stop in front of the American showcases (in the rear of the room, just in front of the area leading to the bathrooms).

Q7. The “Vajen Bader 1029” mask protects American fire fighters against gas, smoke and debris. Which large American city was it conceived in?

(G=0) San Francisco / (G=1) Los Angeles / (G=2) Indianapolis

Inter-war era (Bordiau Gallery, 2nd floor, section “1919-1945”)

Go to the Bordiau Gallery. On top of the stairs make a right and proceed to the fourth alcove and the showcase “Belgium from 1936 onwards”.

Q8. Combat gasses were first used during the First World War. Authorities feared they would once again be used in a new conflict. They therefore supplied civilians with various forms of protection, such as gasmasks. Which type of gasmask was certified for passive civilians by the League for Aerial Protection?

(H=1) type AG.15C / (H=2) type DC. 45 SP / (H=3) type RSQ3

Check 2: E+F+G+H = 7

The Second World War (Bordiau Gallery, 2nd floor, section “1919-1945”)

Continue the tour and make a stop in the zone dedicated to the war in North Africa.

Q9. A worldwide war of course implies various operation theatres. Soldiers fight in the snow, in mud, on land, on water or even in the desert. This is a tropical Deutsches Afrikakorps uniform. What is the purpose of the perforated green cloth deposited over the helmet?

(J=2) protection against the sun

(J=4) protection against dehydration (the cloth blocks evaporation of sweat)

(J=6) protection against mosquitoes (malaria)

Proceed to the section “War at Sea”.

Q10. Royal Navy artillerymen and seamen wear a flame-retardant hood protecting them against both sparks and cold. In this showcase, another protective accessory is presented alongside the white hood.

(K=2) fireproof gloves / (K=4) fireproof socks / (K=6) a fireproof scarf

Continue your tour and stop in front of the showcases dedicated to the conquest of Europe.

Q11. As we have just seen, troop equipment varies according to the operation theatre. This meharist soldier wears head protection, shielding him from the sun, dry wind and sand storms.

What colour is the “mask” in this showcase?

(L=3) red / (L=4) yellow / (L=5) blue

Exhibition “War-Occupation-Liberation” (Bordiau Gallery, 1st floor)

Go down one floor and start the visit on the right-hand side. Locate the colourful gasmask in the showcases of the first room.

Q12. Belgium is not the only country fearing the use of gas in case of a new conflict. Great Britain also equips its citizens. Colourful masks are developed to make the quite clingy protection more attractive to children. This model is named after a famous cartoon character. Which one?

(M=2) Donald Duck / (M=4) Mickey Mouse / (M=6) Bugs Bunny

Proceed to the section dedicated to “Germany in a stranglehold”.

Q13. This German jet pilot not only wears a re-enforced hood but also an electrically heated leather flight suit developed by a very famous German company. Which one?

(N=1) Bosch / (N=2) Siemens / (N=3) Krupp

Check 3: $J+K+L+M+N = 1$

At the end of the tour, please proceed to the main lobby to have your coordinates validated. You will in that way get access to the “treasure” rewarding you for your efforts. Have fun!

$A=B=C=D=E=F=G=H=J=K=L=M=N=$

Cache = North $50^{\circ} 5(K-B).(D+E)(M-D)(F-G)$ East $4^{\circ} 2(A+H).(F+H)(C+L)(J-N)$