

1. This is a request, approved by the Surgeon General, for authority to proceed with the manufacture of gas masks.

2. On November 16, 1917, the Judge Advocate General approved the memorandum which held that the Surgeon General, through the Gas-Defense Service, was authorized to manufacture gas masks needed by the Army.

3. Pursuant to the memorandum you approved of the leasing of the Stewart Building for this purpose.

4. Attached hereto is a memorandum authorizing the Surgeon General's Department, through the Gas-Defense Service, to proceed with the manufacture of gas masks.

The Secretary of War immediately authorized the establishment of the Government-operated plant for the manufacture of gas masks in line with the plan submitted.<sup>19</sup>

This plant, at the time of the peak of production, had 4,691 civilian employees. From the time of the organization of the service by the Medical Department to the end of June, 1918, when it relinquished control, the following total production was accomplished: <sup>20</sup>

Tons of bleaching powder.....	112
Specially impregnated suits.....	262
Pairs of oiled gloves.....	354
Oxygen inhalators.....	1, 906
Trench fans.....	11, 103
Tubes sag paste.....	120, 000
Horse masks.....	154, 094
Extra canisters for masks.....	502, 898
Gas masks.....	1, 718, 632