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Showing postings 1 - 8 of 8 in the thread: Aircraft Warning Service 1942-1945.

Posting:	Aircraft Warning Service 1942-1945	Posting 1
Poster:	Semper -Veritas	
Date:	1 August 2005 6:28 AM	
<p>Many of our younger chatters are unaware of the variety of wartime activities carried on by citizen volunteers during the period of 1942-1945. Among these was the Aircraft Warning Service which was comprised of volunteers manning high observation towers in all of our local towns. These towers were manned 24 hours a day and were connected by radio communications to a central coordinating headquarters. The purpose of the spotters was to locate , identify, and report all aircraft flying through a particular area... Some of the more notable towers were located on Willington Hill, Spring Hill in Mansfield, Kick Hill , and Chestnut Hill in Lebanon. One of the best situated sat high atop of Franklin Hill. Collectors accumulate memorabilia from this group, the most common being a felt armband made of blue felt , bearing a large embroidered set of yellow wings with the letters AWS and the word OBSERVER. There are several small pinthat were worn by the group..... The most notable being a shield shaped medallion with chain suspensions added for each 500 hours of service... A memory of bygone days, when America was truly united and stood behind the Commander in Chief 100%.</p>		
Posting:	Re: Aircraft Warning Service 1942-1945	Posting 2
Poster:	H. Walker	
Date:	1 August 2005 9:38 AM	
<p>Growing up in So. Ca., I remember my Sister serving in the Civil Air Patrol. This must have been about 1952. She would go up in a tower on top of the police station and look for enemy aircraft. How strange.</p>		
Posting:	Re: Aircraft Warning Service 1942-1945	Posting 3
Poster:	Janice	
Date:	1 August 2005 10:13 AM	
<p>I believe that my dad served in this capacity.</p>		
Posting:	Re: Aircraft Warning Service 1942-1945	Posting 4
Poster:	Willi Native	
Date:	1 August 2005 12:10 AM	
<p>How many of you remember air raid warnings in the 1950's? At a certain time, ususally pre-announced, a siren would be sounded in Willimantic and everyone was to go indoors until the all clear signal was given. How about the air raid drills in school, where the students had to crouch under their desks for a few minutes? Remember back yard bomb shelters of the late 50's and early 60's? Do any of them still exist in the area? During World War II,(before my time), I believe that there were blackout drills, where all lights had to be turned off and all curtains drawn. I heard that the General Cable plant on West Main Street was a Pratt &amp; Whitney defense plant during the war and the roof was constructed so that it could be flooded, giving the appearance of being a body of water in the moonlight when seen from above. Can anybody confirm that? Certainly security in the U.S. and the rest of the world has been heightend since September 11, 2001, but Americans have been taking homeland security very seriously for a long time.</p>		
Posting:	Re: Aircraft Warning Service 1942-1945	Posting 5
Poster:	Ada	
Date:	1 August 2005 4:30 PM	
<p>I remember the air raid drills when I was at Natchaug Grammar School in the early to mid-50's. Sometimes we went into the corridor and sat in a line along the walls.</p>		
Posting:	Re: Aircraft Warning Service 1942-1945	Posting 6
Poster:	John B	
Date:	1 August 2005 9:11 PM	
<p>" How many of you remember air raid warnings in the 1950's? At a certain time, ususally pre-announced, a siren would be sounded in Willimantic and everyone was to go indoors until the all clear signal "</p> <p>I was born in '52 , and lived at 195/197 Jackson St. from '56-64 . I remember the air raid warnings like they happened yesterday . Kind of scary when you are a little kid . I remember my friend Dick Theriault and I were playing in the woods up above what was a huge dug out sandpit down on Moulton Court , and the air raid warning siren went off . We hid , not knowing if this were a drill or the real thing ! Just then we heard the drone of an airplane's engine approaching from over Bricktop way . We imagined it was an enemy bomber coming to blow up the town ! Hehehe...</p>		
Posting:	Re: Aircraft Warning Service 1942-1945	Posting 7
Poster:	John B	

Date: 2 August 2005 7:22 PM

My Mom was an aircraft " lookout " as a kid on eastern Long Island , and she has told stories to us ( her kids ) about how life was during the war , so I have a modicum of knowledge . ;)

Growing up in the boom post-war years was wonderful in most respects , but of course there was the Cold War always hanging over our heads like a big , glossy spider . I'll never forget seeing Sputnik passing overhead one fall night as my family and I stood in the dark in our backyard at 195 Jackson , and my father saying something to the effect that soon the Ruskies would be dropping bombs on us from space . Scary stuff when you are a wee lad ...

Posting: Re: Aircraft Warning Service 1942-1945

Posting 8

Poster: William Brainard

Date: 7 July 2006 7:22 PM

There was a "lookout" shack near my aunt's house on Babcock Hill Rd. in South Coventry. It was still standing in the early 1970s but has since fallen into the earth. My mother worked at the Pratt & Whitney plant on West Main Street when she and my dad lived in Ashford.