

HEADQUARTERS PORTLAND REGION
IV FIGHTER COMMAND
PORTLAND, OREGON.

R E S T R I C T E D

June 19, 1942.

FOR GROUND OBSERVERS IN THE A. W. S. ONLY.
PORTLAND REGION BULLETIN

FOR WHAT ARE WE SPENDING OUR TIME AT THE OBSERVATION POST ?

You Mr. and Mrs. American Citizen have often asked that question. You ask ~~at~~ when you go to watch; you ask it when you are leaving your watch; "What are we doing this for"?

We will attempt to bring home to you the importance of watching. To do this, first picture a huge net-work crisscrossing every few miles. Make it as long as the Pacific Coast and as wide as the distance between the Ocean and the peaks of the Rockies. There you have it as pictured by those higher in authority. No chance for the enemy to get through! That is what every conscientious citizen wants. Some of your neighbors may think they don't have to watch, and they will shirk their duty until the first bombs fall, and have laid death and peril at your door. It is these same neighbors who are shortsighted of the fact that there now exists in the hands of our enemies, planes (hundreds of them) that are capable of making trans-oceanic flights with Bomb loads great enough to throw Seattle, and Portland, or even San Francisco into an inferno of fire. If it was possible for one carrier load of planes to get within range to fly into our coast cities, and return to their carrier it would rest with you observers to spot this enemy, and tell the information center, so that we could send up our fighters planes, and down the enemy in defense of our cities. Rest assured that those same neighbors are the ones that will be the first to denounce home defense too, when the first raid does come, because they will try to point out that they would have been able to stop the raid if they had been on the Observation Post.

Let us inform you now of some of the facts that exist: to undermine our system of Air Craft Warning. Some of these facts you have heard hundreds of times over. They go something like this: The Observation Posts and the Air Craft Warning Service are a lot of hooley! The Air Craft Warning System is falling down and doesn't work! All of the Observation Posts are quitting all around you! Some of the Observation Posts are getting pay, but you are not! If the Army wants this thing set up why don't they put soldiers on the Observation Posts?

We know you have heard this, and a thousand other personal beliefs about the Air Craft Warning Service being a farce! Now let us put you straight. First the Air Craft Warning Service is not a lot of hooley. It is a system that works. It has proven its value in England. It is the only thing that did save the Nation of Great Britain from destruction. This system is the only way a track can be kept on an enemy plane. It is the only system that covers all of the coastal area at once. It is a means whereby one fighter plane can do the work of sixteen planes here-to-fore; reasons are that a plane can be kept in readiness and full of gasoline. With air patrols, usually before an enemy is sighted the planes are so near empty of fuel that they can not combat against the odds. There is no one being paid for Observing. The right construing of this information is that some people who are already Forest Rangers, or Guards on different vital points, are also observing planes and reporting to the nearest Information Center. But no one is paid for observing. This is a volunteer Organization, and the pay recieved is in knowing that when you are sleeping your Good Buddy is on guard against the enemy.

OVER

The reason Soldiers are not put on the Observation Posts is the fact that it would take at least 2 men for every Observation Post. It is a known fact that for every man on the front line it takes ten to a dozen to keep him there. Therefore multiply the number of Observation Posts that we have and you will see that it would require an Army of nearly 50,000 men to keep the system going that you people are already doing. You surely would not want to tie up 50,000 men to do a job that you can do so easily, and take them away from strategic points along our borders? Would you?

So the next thing to remember is that you will hear every kind of rumor about Observation Posts being useless, and if you believe them you are helping shed the blood of your own flesh, because that is the way the enemy tries to undermine our system.

When you are telling us where the planes are from your Observation Posts we know whether the plane is friendly or enemy, because we have an record where every United States plane is or should be at any given time, therefore if we have no knowledge that we should have planes where you reported them as being, then we know it is an enemy! Immediately United States Fighter planes are on the way from nearest bases.

It is this accurate system that has kept Enemy Bombers from this Coast because the enemy knows he would lose too many planes before he reached his objective, and would probably lose all of them before they could return to their carrier. That is the reason and the only reason that we feel safe in saying, "NO BOMBS FOR US."

We don't have to remind Observers along the Ocean shores to keep and eye peeled for Submarines, because they have all been close to seeing crippled ships or even the daring monsters come rising out of the sea; almost within shouting distance. It has been the Observers reports that have kept the Submarines from Oregon and Washington shores to the extent that people inland seldom hear of them. It's ventured that there would have been several attempts on our home shores similar to the Santa Barbara incident, if the Submarines had not been reported by the Observer when they were seen, but it is this quick report that keep the Sea Monster, and the Enemy Bombers from getting close enough to strike.

That proves that this system does work! The only Observation Posts quitting are the ones authorized to do so by the IV Fighter Command. If you hear any one say that such an Observation Post is quitting we'll lay you two to one the person that started that rumor is hoping to see you bombed, he is hoping to see your fields and forests burned to ashes by incendiaries dropped from the enemies that got through, because you believed every-one else was quitting. Let us tell you, there is no one quitting at any time, unless authorized to do so by the IV Fighter Command. A person who carries and exaggerates a rumor is helping the subversive activities, and if you have any such person in your midst this office will welcome hearing from you in regards to it.

Why do we have so many Observation Posts, when just a few on the coast would tell us that the Enemy was coming? The answer is that it is true we do expect the enemy to come from the Pacific Ocean, but if we only have Observation Posts along the Coast how are we going to know in which direction they are going after they get inland!

This Headquarters of the IV Fighter Command and the men in the service hold dear to themselves all that is in this United States of America, and we are going to fight to the finish to prevent even the first bombing, any hamlet or any Forest, Field, or any Home. The Observation Post will beat the Jap on the home front.

SUGGESTIONS FROM OTHER OBSERVATION POSTS

1. Have Fire precaution in your Observation Post. Keep the Observation Post Non-combustible.
2. If you can place the phone so that it can be used on the outside it may help in giving the exact location of the plane at the time of phoning.
3. Have you recieved a LOG BOOK?
4. Telephone for official use only.