AIRCRAFT WARNING

Volunteer



JANUARY, 1944

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Volunteer

Vol. I JANUARY, 1944 No. 8



THIS MONTH'S COVER

The two young observers pictured on this month's cover are Ruth Teichmann and Gertrude Hustedt, who are shown in action at the observation post at Wagner College, Staten Island, N. Y. Like hundreds of other college students throughout the Command the girls at this post have established fine records as observers and are maintaining a regular schedule of training to be ready to resume full time operation whenever the call may come.

Photograph by Laurie Vance

Editorial

Welcome to 1944! Millions of Americans joining in the great war effort that is now driving the enemy back in every quarter of the world share the feeling that the road to victory is now taking definite shape and form.

But there is one danger that the improving war situation seems to heighten. That is the danger of dropping our guard by relaxing our production efforts and defense precautions here at home.

We cannot afford to cease our vigilance or become over confident for a moment. War wise and crafty enemies still confront us ready to take full advantage of every opening we give them, of every crack in our defenses that we open up to them.

In the fore front of the fight against over confidence at home from the very beginning have stood the members of the Ground Observer Corps and the Aircraft Warning Corps. Because of their close association with the Army Air Forces the volunteers of the GOC and AWC have realized, as few other civilians, the need for constant training and vigilance to be prepared for any attack the enemy air forces might attempt to make against our home territory.

Now under the system of part time operation it becomes more important than ever to maintain a high level of training. It is gratifying to note that reports from every section of the Command confirm the fact that the AWS organization is set to go into immediate action to meet any threat that may arise.

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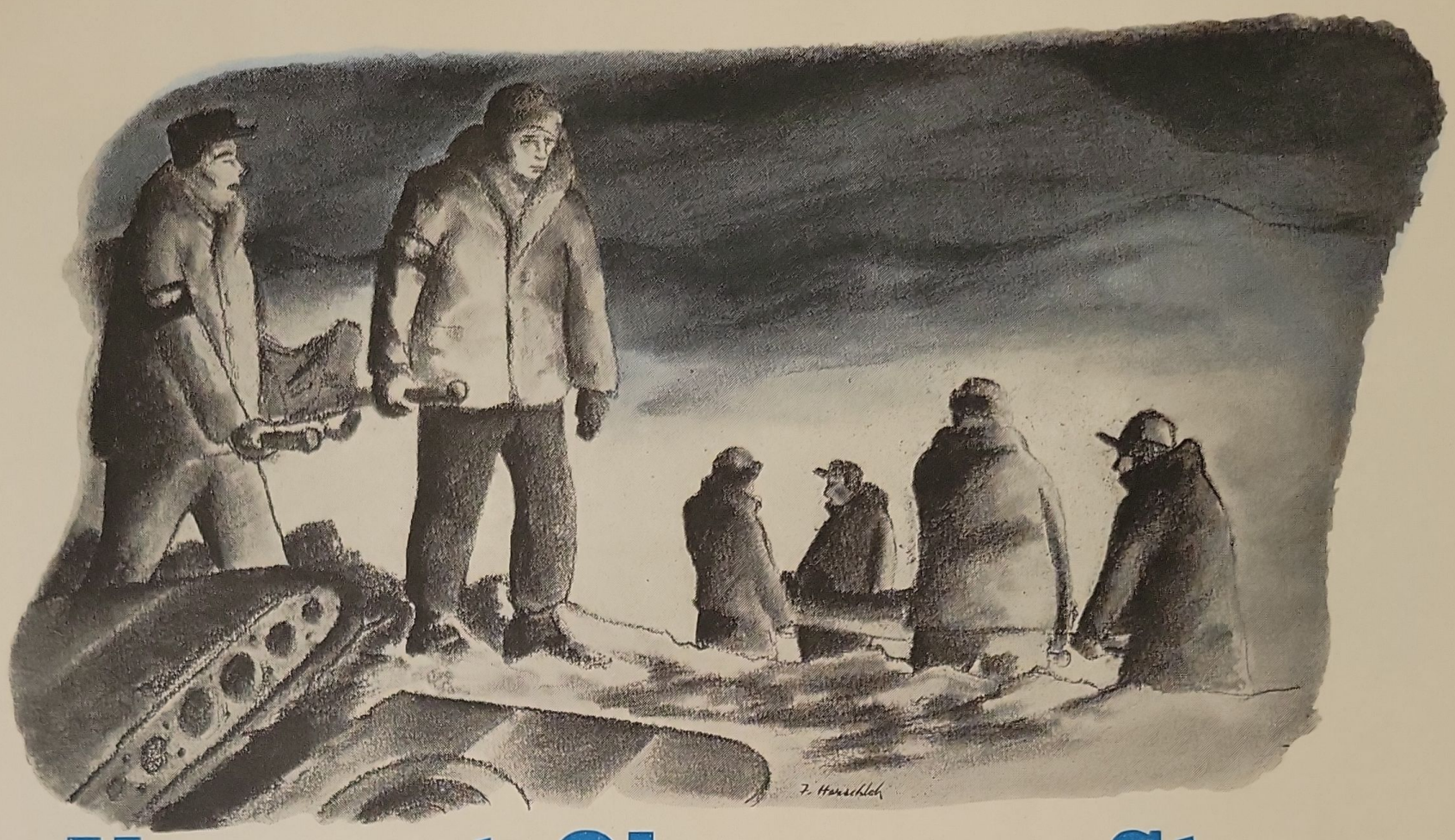
VOL. I, NO. 8 THE AIRCRAFT WARNING VOLUNTEER JANUARY, 1944

Edited and published by
I FIGHTER COMMAND
Mitchel Field, New York
for the
Ground Observers and Information and Filter Center Workers of the Aircraft Warning Service of this Command.
Brigadier General Glenn O. Barcus, Commanding General



Vermont Observers Stage

Dramatic Rescue

NEITHER snow nor rain nor sleet nor dark of night shall stop these observers from the swift performance of their appointed duties.

This paraphrase of the famous slogan of the United States Post Office department might well be adopted as the slogan of the I Fighter Command's Ground Observer Corps. And never has it been better exemplified than at North Troy, Vt., recently when a group of observers braved the elements to go to the rescue of the stricken crew of a Canadian training plane which had crashed nearby.

Almost a-straddle the International Boundary, the town of North Troy lies in a region where Winter comes early and stays late in the nearby mountains, some of which rise to a height of nearly 4,000 feet. During blinding blizzards, which are no rarity in the region, many of these peaks are obscured from the vision of aircraft pilots and in many cases the first warning he has of the mountain's proximity is when his plane crashes into the trees and underbrush which cover these peaks from valley floor to top.

Such a mountain is Jay Peak, some three miles south of North Troy, and an early winter snow storm enveloped it in almost night-like darkness when, shortly before noon a Canadian training plane from the RCAF Observers' school at St. John, Que., passed over the town at an altitude of approximately 3,000 feet to crash in a few moments high on the rugged and wooded slopes of the mountain. Observers in the town had noted the plane's passage and had remarked upon its dangerously low level but had been unable to hear the crash above the fury of the storm. Their first news of the wreck came almost two hours later when a member of the crew, himself injured, braved the riotous elements to reach a telephone and send an urgent plea for aid to Graham Lucier, chief observer of the post at North Troy.

Chief Lucier responded immediately and soon was en route to the scene of the mishap with a group of some thirty observers. So deep was the snow that the rescue party had to open a trail up the mountainside and so fast was the snow falling that they had to reopen the same trail as they made their way downward with the injured survivors.

At the foot of the mountain an ambulance was waiting to receive the casualties and transport them to a hospital where treatment could be administered. When the rescue party came upon the scene of the crash, after a three mile climb up the mountainside, they found one man beyond help and he succumbed

(Continued on Page 4)

Vermont Observers Stage Dramatic Rescue

(*Continued from Page 3*)

within a few minutes. Three others were suffering lesser hurts but all were nearly frozen. First aid was administered and a fire built to protect the injured airmen until they could be moved to the hospital at Newport, Vt. Rescuers learned that the plane had been dispatched from the Canadian school to search for a Liberator bomber which had been missing for some three weeks.

After the victims had been removed from the scene, Mr. Lucier and his observers established a guard around the wreckage and others of the rescue party guided Canadian officials to the scene when they arrived within a short time.

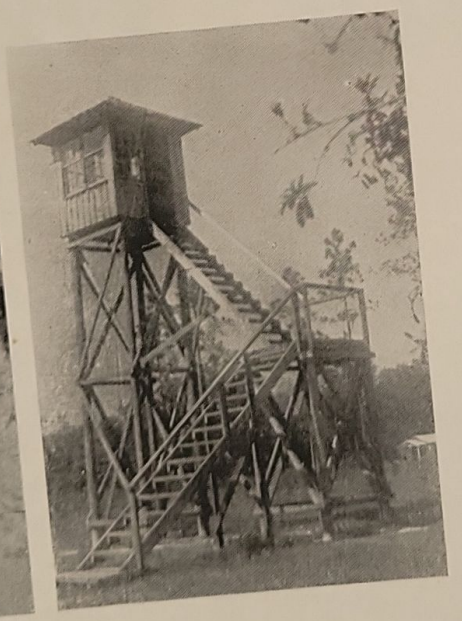
Commenting on the "excellent organization of the post," which enabled the rescuers to get the survivors to the Newport hospital before dark of the same day, Wing Commander R. J. Gray, head of the Air Observer school at St. John, pointed out that the speedy rescue lessened the seriousness of the accident. Writing to the Ground Observer Officer at Albany, Commander Gray conveyed to Chief Observer Lucier and his staff of observers his "appreciation and gratitude for the excellent cooperation and assistance they afforded RCAF personnel, and also on achieving such a high standard of organization and efficiency as is maintained at their post."

As a result of their activity, Chief Lucier and his observers also received congratulations from Brig. Gen. Glenn O. Barcus, commanding the I Fighter Command. "Please allow me to add my sincere appreciation for the excellent judgment which you used in organizing the rescue party and the way you all carried out your mission," General Barcus wrote.

Further honors are in store for the intrepid band of Vermonters for, by direction of General Barcus, the I Fighter Command "For Merit" medal has been presented to the following observers on the North Troy post who participated in the rescue effort:

Graham Lucier, Chief Observer; Carmi Bruno, Assistant Chief Observer; Royal Young, Assistant Chief Observer; Richard Lucier, Grace Lucier, Anita Bruno, Jennie M. Lewis, Ralph Lewis, Walter Lee, Donald Lee, Vern Leavitt, Vincent Rushford, Harvey Bolton, Tom Davidson, David Butterfield, Norman Henley, John Tibbetts, Robert Gardyne, Robert Taisey, Leon Bruno, George Paulette and Mrs. Leon Bruno.







O. P.'s Prepared for Winter Season





Left to right above:
Messina, N. Y.
Middleburg, Fla.
Provincetown, Mass.

Left to right below:
Lawtey, Fla.
New Haven, Vt.

Instruction Material for Recognition Fans



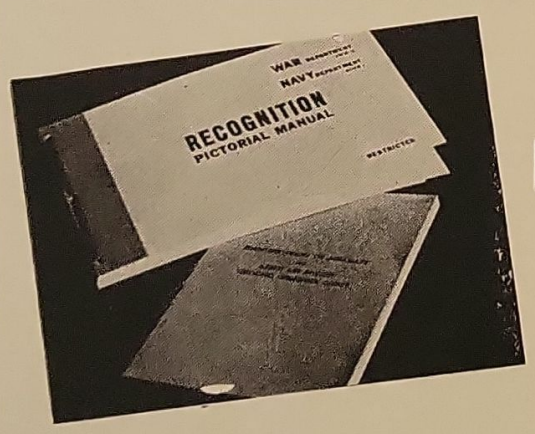
Many happy and useful hours are spent in the fascinating hobby—aircraft recognition. An outstanding aid to spotters in helping to perfect their ability to spot planes is the assembling of three dimensional silhouette models shown in the photograph above.

The latest and perhaps the most interesting aid to recognition students and hobbyists is a series of fifty different three-dimensional silhouette models pressed in black cardboard and giving the appearance, before assembly, of jig saw puzzles. These models, used officially by the Army Air Forces, may be assembled by individuals or by recognition clubs and study groups.

Copies of Recognition Manuals shown at the bottom of the page are also great aids to spotters who wish to become perfect in their fascinating, wartime hobby. In addition, large silhouette posters showing aircraft of all nations in orthographic projections, may be secured. All recognition material described here is available through the respective Wing and Region offices.



Enhanced value of working with three dimensional cardboard silhouette models is illustrated in this series of photographs showing five of the fifty models from various angles. Made exactly to scale, the assembled models may be suspended in various positions to give accurate views of aircraft as if in flight.



RECOGNITION MANUALS

Top of photograph: A copy of the new Recognition Pictorial Manual, published for official use by the War Department and the Navy Department, is being forwarded to each individual observation post. Shown underneath: An extra supply of a previous edition of the official manual entitled Identification of Aircraft is now available from Wing and Region offices for the use of spotters in cutting out pictures and silhouettes for recognition scrap books.



Appearance and construction of the assembled cardboard silhouette models is shown in the two sketches above.

Airplanes Every Volunteer Should Know

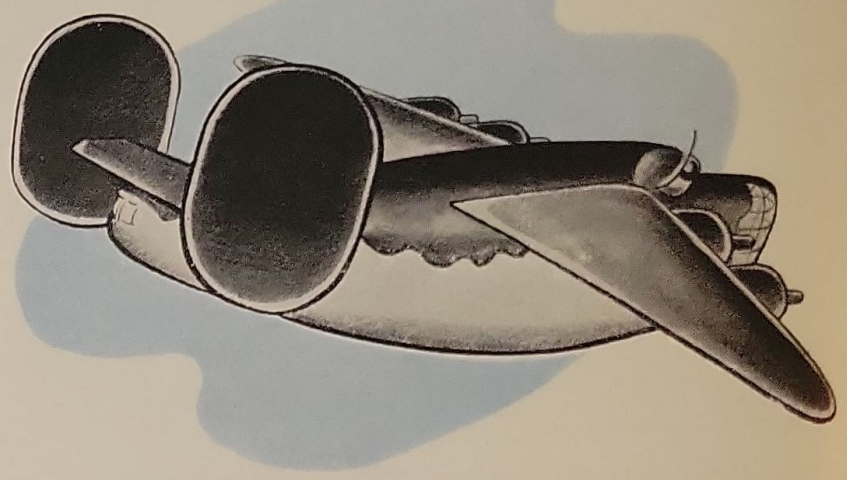
Here are four planes, an American heavy bomber, a British fighter, an American primary trainer and a German medium bomber that should be familiar to every AWS volunteer. Check your knowledge with these monthly plane reviews.

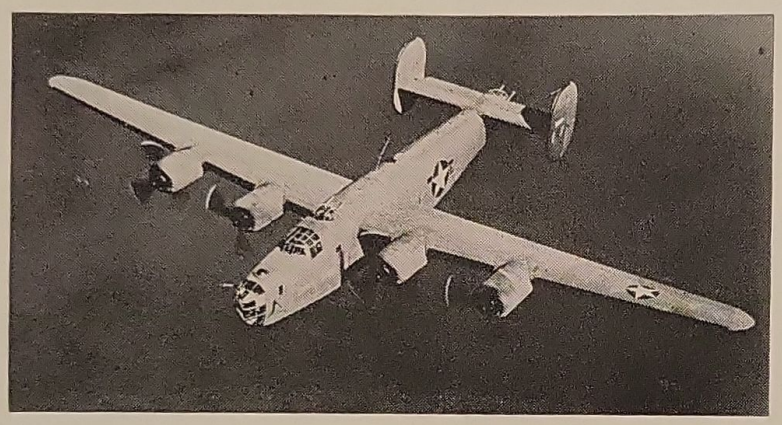
CONSOLIDATED LIBERATOR B 24

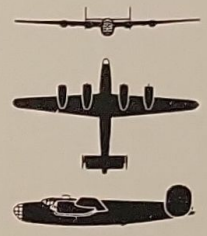
The Consolidated Liberator (B 24) is one of the two famous four-engine American bomber types that have caused so much havoc in the air campaign over Germany in recent months. It is a high mid wing monoplane with twin oval fins and rudders, wing span of 110′ and length of 66′4″.

The Liberator is in use on all the Allied fronts. It has high speed, powerful armament and is extremely maneuverable for its size thus reducing the number of fighters required for its protection. The military transport version, known as the C 87, has a non-transparent nose and a cabin under the wing in place of the bomb bay.

The B 24 has a cruising speed of 175-215 miles per hour and a range of 3500 miles using four 1100 horsepower radial engines. Armament consists of at least eight 50 calibre machine guns. Normal long range bomb load is 4000 pounds.



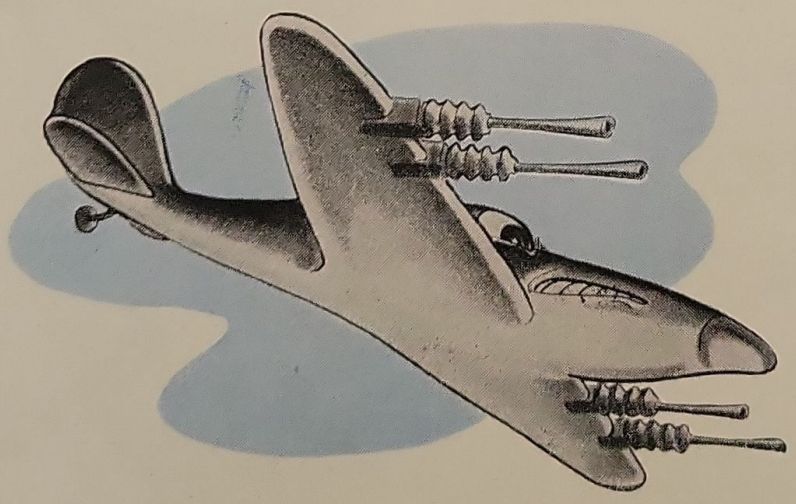




RECOGNITION FEATURES:

1. Long, thin wing, swept back and tapered.
2. Twin rudders at ends of rectangular tail plane.
3. Comparatively short deep fuselage.
4. Four motors, radial, spaced far apart.

HAWKER HURRICANE



RECOGNITION FEATURES:

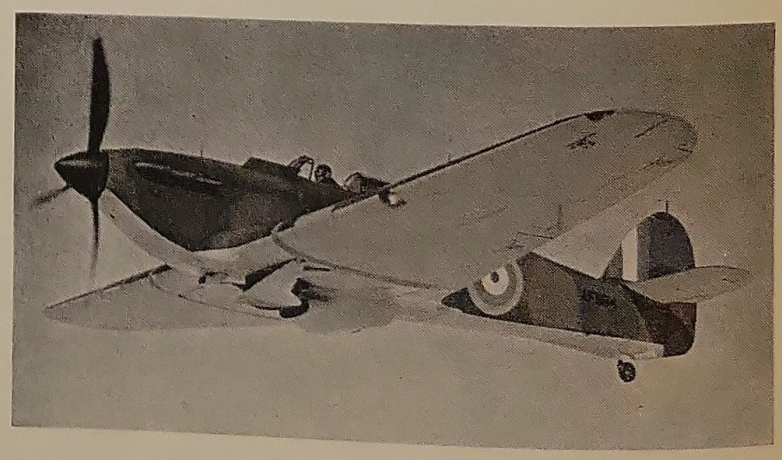
1. Large central radiator.
2. Fuselage has hump backed effect.
3. Large rounded fin and rudder.
4. Pointed nose, air scoop beneath cockpit.



The Hurricane, along with the Spitfire, played an outstanding part in the Battle of Britain. It is a single engine low wing monoplane with a single fin and rudder, wing span of 40′ and length of 31′6″.

One of the most versatile planes the war has produced, the Hurricane has served as interceptor, low level bomber, dive bomber, night fighter and also in protecting convoy routes as a carrier based and catapult launched fighter.

The Hurricane has a cruising speed of 170-260 miles per hour with a range of 1000 miles. Some versions carry as many as 12 machine guns while others mount four 20 mm. cannon. When used as a fighter bomber the normal bomb load is 500 pounds.



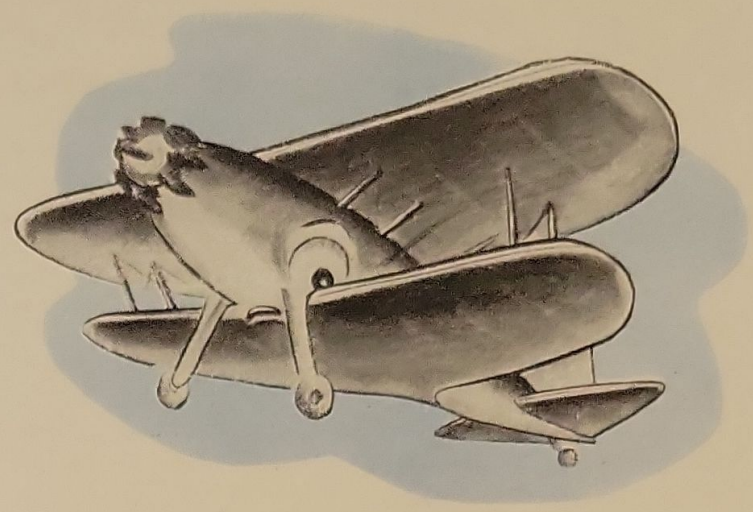
CADET PT 17

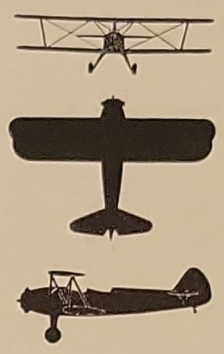
The Cadet is a single engine biplane with single fin and rudder and "fixed" landing gear. It has a wing span of 32′2″ and a length of 25′.

The PT 17 is the plane which has introduced thousands of fledgling pilots to the mysteries of flying. It is the first plane in which an aviation cadet leaves the ground. Its tandem open cockpits are equipped with complete dual controls.

The cadet has a 220 horsepower engine which gives it an approximate top speed of 125 miles per hour.



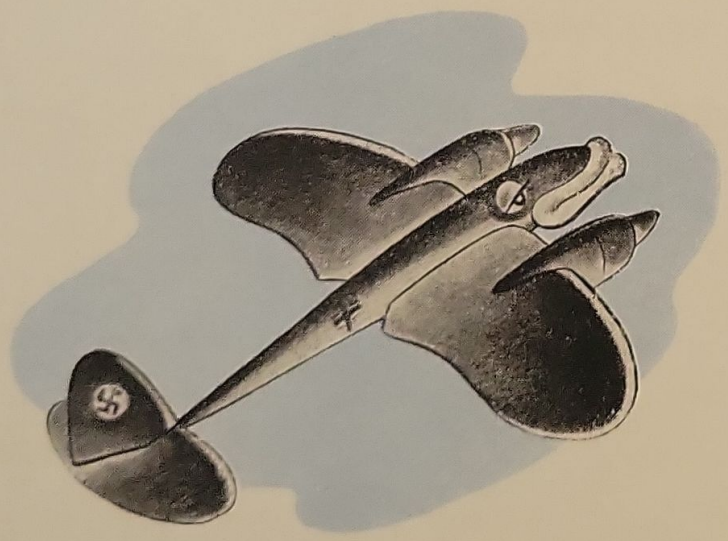




RECOGNITION FEATURES:

1. Biplane, upper and lower wings of equal span.
2. Dual open cockpits.
3. Fixed landing gear.
4. Straight wings with marked stagger.

HEINKEL HE 111 K



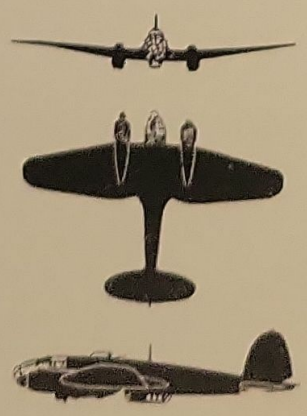
The HE 111 K, Germany's standard medium bomber, is a twin engine low wing monoplane with a single fin and rudder, a wing span of 73′6″ and a length of 53′7″.

A versatile all around plane, this Heinkel model has been used for day bombing, night bombing, transport work, torpedo dropping and as a glider tug. This plane has seen much service against Russia bound convoys and in the Mediterranean.

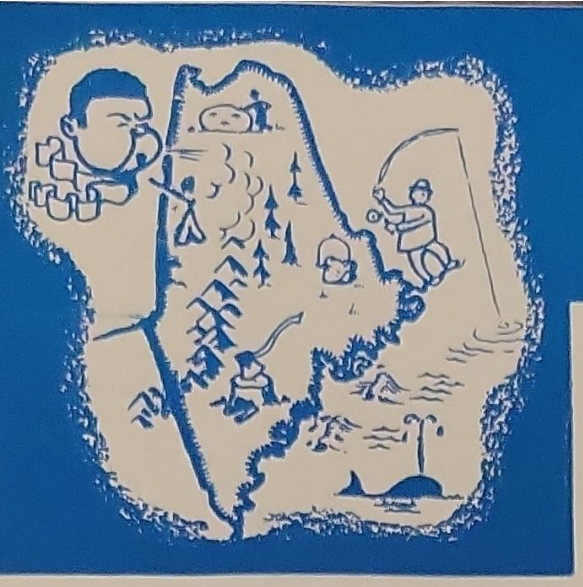
The HE 111 K has a cruising speed from 170 to 215 miles per hour with a range of 1100 miles. It is powered with two 1150 horsepower Daimler-Benz engines. Armament usually consists of seven 7.9 machine guns and one 20 mm. cannon. Normal bomb load is 4400 pounds.

RECOGNITION FEATURES:

1. Bite out at root of trailing edge of fairly heavy wing.
2. Fully elliptical tail plane.
3. Rudder overhangs fuselage.
4. Short transparent nose, off center and extending just past motors.







. . . from the top of Maine

EMERGENCY SQUAD

SCRANTON, PA. — An emergency squad, which can be summoned at a moment's notice to man the local observation post in case of an alert has been named by Chief Observer Anthony Cartusciello. One of the duties of the squad will be to take over operation of the post in an emergency alert and man it while other observers are being summoned to duty.

ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM

WINCHESTER, MASS. — The second anniversary of the observation post here was marked recently at a dinner to which observers and their friends were invited. Presentation of wings, citations and merit medals was made at the dinner.

AWARD CEREMONY

DAYTONA BEACH, FLA. — Three members of the observation post here have been awarded 1,000 hour medals and three others have received 500-hour bars in ceremonies held here recently. Merit medals were awarded to 47 other observers on the post, along with citations testifying to the long and faithful service they have contributed.

"SPOTTER'S PARTY"

CONCORD, MASS.—About 300 observers and their friends attended a "Spotter's Party" here with Chief Observer H. Whittemore Brown welcoming the guests. Motion pictures, showing training stunts, identification of planes and British interrogation of prisoners, were shown by the U. S. Army Air Corps. Main speaker of the evening was a Concord man, Col. Louis B. Merrick, Commanding Officer of the Boston Fighter Wing. A number of awards were presented to volunteers and the evening was concluded with refreshments served by a committee of women observers.

EMBLEMS PRESENTED

HARRISONBURG, VA. — Observers of the Harrisonburg, Mt. Clinton and Singers Glen observation posts were presented with AWS emblems at a program held at Wilson Hall, Madison College with more than 800 persons attending. The Madison College Glee Club and the Madison College orchestra furnished a musical program, and Lt. George V. Ayton, ground observer officer of the Richmond filter area, presented the emblems, distributed to qualifying observers throughout the audience by members of the Glee Club.

RECOGNITION TEAMS MEET

SAUGERTIES, N. Y. — Represented by teams of junior observers, the Ground Observer Corps of Saugerties and Woodstock, met for their third contest in aircraft recognition. The young Saugertians managed to hold a one point margin over their opponents, winning the heated contest 175 to 174. A goodly number of supporters were present to cheer the teams.



A unique location for an observation post is shown in the above photograph of the residence of Mrs. Jane Gordon Fletcher, Ass't Chief Observer at Sugartown, Pa. Constructed on top of the home, the tower is reached by a specially built stairway shown at the left side of the picture. W. H. Kohlmeyer is Chief Observer.

AWS WINGS PRESENTED

GROVE CITY, PA.—Wings of the AWS have been awarded to 187 observers who served on the Robinson Farm post here. J. C. Coleman, chief observer of Grove City's second post, on the Blacktown road, is planning a ceremony at which observers of his post will be similarly recognized.

POST AFIRE

BRISTOL, PA.—Authorities are investigating what apparently was an attempt to burn down the observation post recently. The blaze, which started on the outside of the building, was noticed by a watchman at a nearby manufacturing plant and firemen were called in time to prevent the fire from spreading. Damage was estimated at about $50.

PRESENT WAR BOND

NEW PORT RICHEY, FLA.—Over fifty observers attended the regular monthly meeting of the observation post at which time approval was given for the purchase of a war bond to be given to one of the local boys in service. Heading a project to present every New Port Richey boy in service with a war bond is the Chasco Junior Woman's Club. Members of the AWS offered to be the donor of a bond. Chief Observer M. D. Ackerman is signing up new recruits for the AWS —and also for donors for the blood bank at New Port Richey.

DEVISE ALARM SYSTEM

NEW MILFORD, CONN. — An alarm system whereby an officer of the day can be ready to serve within thirty minutes has been evolved by the post here. Should an alert be sounded the post could be manned and ready to function almost at once, officials believe.

DISTRICT CONTESTS

NEW HAVEN, CONN. — The first district recognition contest ever to be held took place in New Haven recently with Major R. B. Cate, state liaison officer, of the Army Air Forces, Ground Observer Corps, in charge of arrangements. The contest follows the suggestion of Brigadier-General L. C. Craigie, of the New York Fighter Wing, who, in a recent letter stated that "aircraft recognition training is to be continued as in the past, and every effort should be made to maintain the Ground Observer Corps so that it may be alerted as a trained organization at any moment, should the situation require." The contest was open to the public and proved to be very interesting to many civilians who, theretofore, had not been familiar with the workings of the AWS or the study of aircraft recognition. Prior to this district recognition contest, area contests within the district had been held, and the plan is for inter-district contests to determine the champion district, competing for a trophy donated by Gov. Raymond E. Baldwin. The winner of the contest at New Haven was Madison which triumphed over teams from Meriden, Seymour and Woodbridge, each of which had previously won the championship of its own area.

SEND GOOD CHEER

PENNS GROVE, N. J. — Observers of the Penns Grove OP were quick to send a message of good cheer to Edward Fletcher, Jr., as soon as they learned he was confined to the Naval Hospital at Great Lakes, Ill., with scarlet fever. A seaman, second-class, Edward is the son of Chief Observer Edward Fletcher.

ALERT OBSERVER

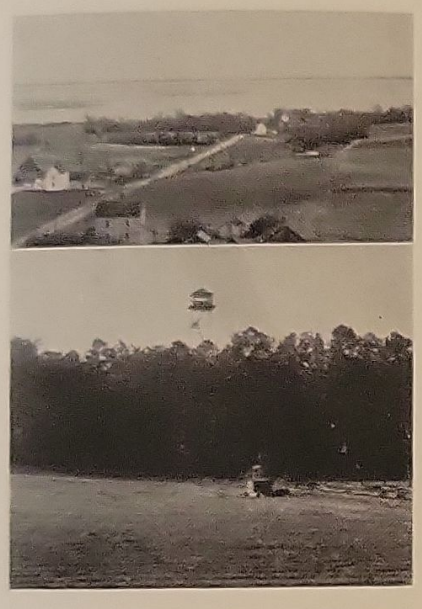
GROTON CITY, N. Y. — Even though she was not on duty at the time, Mrs. Robert Metzger remembered her training as an observer when a training plane crashed near West Groton recently. Mrs. Metzger, whose home is not far from the scene of the accident, immediately telephoned the Syracuse Filter Center which promptly relayed her report to the proper civilian authorities as the plane was a civilian craft from Ithaca airport. Fortunately neither pilot or passenger in the plane was hurt but the plane was damaged considerably. For her prompt action in reporting the accident, Mrs. Metzger was complimented by William A. Ralston, area supervisor.

to the tip of Florida . . .



AID REHABILITATION

PITTSBURGH, PA. — One of the major activities of Post 490-A here is aiding in the cause of rehabilitating soldiers who are patients at the U. S. Army's Deshon Hospital. Bob Prince, local sports announcer, has instituted a fund for the entertainment of these hospitalized men, making his appeal for donations over the air. Rallying to this humane cause, members of Post 490-A made an initial donation of $150.00, the largest single contribution received to date.



The interesting vista shown in the above photograph is what meets the eye of an observer on duty at the Atlantic, Va. observation post, shown towering above the trees in the lower photo.

APPRECIATES MEDAL

JACKSONVILLE, FLA.—Night flying planes were welcome company to a Florida observer who wrote as follows to the headquarters of the Jacksonville Air Region: "I expect you would like to know that I received the medal all right. I am very pleased with it. Even if I earn more medals this medal will mean more to me than any of the others. It is the first medal I have earned and I spent many hours on the Post from one to four in the morning and most of them alone. The men that flew the planes that I reported will never know how much company they were to me. You can understand why this medal means so much to me. I have many hours toward another 500 Hours."

OBSERVES BY SOUND

PARADISE, CALIFORNIA — Although totally blind, Joseph E. Stephens stood a weekly watch at the observation post here without missing a single assignment in 16 months. Stephens stood the 7 P.M. to 7 A.M. watch once a week and reported every plane "sounded" within four miles of the post. He was accompanied by another observer and by his Seeing Eye dog, Arnim. Butte County has two other blind ground observers in the AWS. They are Mr. and Mrs. Morris Schurr, of Oroville. Stephens is a farmer and Schurr operates a newsstand in the Oroville postoffice.

ACTIVE POST

KATONAH, N. Y. — Observers of the Katonah post were honored recently when, through the efforts of Dick Doyle, district director, they were selected to aid the Air Force in presenting to the younger generation of this Westchester County community the story of aviation cadets and the need for young men in this vital service. Working directly with Air Corps personnel engaged in recruiting Air Cadets, observers were able to present the story of the service to the young men of their town.

Chief Observer and Mrs. Neff of Katonah have received word that their son, Bud, has arrived safely in England, where he is a member of an American Eagle Squadron. Lt. Neff has all of the good wishes of his hometowners, and that goes for former Junior Chief, Paul Noe, Jr., who was seen around town recently, all decked out in his Navy uniform.

AID LOCAL HOSPITAL

QUINCY, MASS. — A feature column in the Quincy Patriot-Ledger by Howard Key Bartow recently devoted several paragraphs enlisting the aid of AWS volunteers in other war efforts. It was explained that several men from the local observation post were offering practical assistance in the City Hospital as orderlies in lieu of the shortage of nurses, and urged others to join their fellow-patriots in this vital endeavor.

HONOR VOLUNTEERS

SUNBURY, PA.—An elaborate ceremony was planned by the American Legion Posts of Sunbury and Northumberland, Pa., honoring civilian volunteers who are members of the Aircraft Warning Service. Taking place in the Northumberland County Courthouse, the ceremony was preceded by a parade led by the Sunbury High School Band. Broadcast over Sunbury's radio station, the program included addresses by Michael J. Kane, Chief Observer, and other prominent persons, with distribution of awards following. A handsome program which printed names of all observers of the posts, was presented to the attending guests.

HOLD RALLY

TOWER CITY, PA.—A rally of volunteers who have served as plane spotters here, featured the December meeting of the Ground Observer Corps. Chief Observer James F. Nunemacher arranged the program in conjunction with the district observer, Dr. W. O. Seitzinger, and county chief, Harry Koenig. Qualified observers of the Tower City Post were given awards in recognition for their services.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

SENECA FALLS, N. Y.—Spotters of the Seneca Falls observation post held a Christmas dinner at the Hotel Gould on the anniversary of Pearl Harbor. The Rev. R. L. Wentz, Mrs. Arnold Barden, Mrs. William Greer, and Stanley Jarrett planned the affair and J. Devillo Pollard acted as toastmaster. Lt. Edgar C. Reif, ground observer officer for the Syracuse area, presented diplomas to those who satisfactorily completed the second course in aircraft recognition, taught by Frederick K. Huntington.

AWARD AWS WINGS

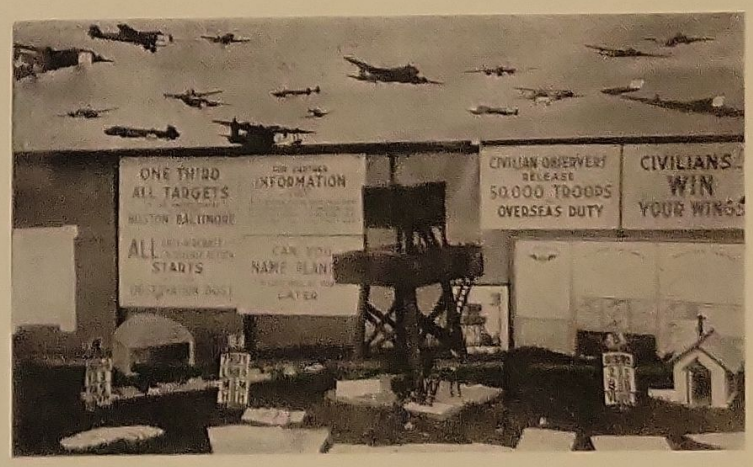
RED HOOK, N. Y.—More than 250 observers were the recipients of AWS wings presented at a ceremony held at Red Hook Central High School on the second anniversary of Pearl Harbor. Seventeen observers of the Red Hook post were qualified to receive medals, also presented at the gathering.

BUSY VOLUNTEER

NEW YORK, N. Y. — We'll wager that few civilians—or soldiers, either, for that matter, have been busier than Miss Vivian Kraemer of New York since the Pearl Harbor attack. Immediately upon America's entry into the war Miss Kraemer volunteered to serve in the Aircraft Warning Center here, later serving three nights a week. Keeping her daytime job with the Bell Telephone System's manufacturing unit, the Western Electric Company, Miss Kraemer augmented her already busy program with the study of the Japanese language, to be able to interpret enemy messages if intercepted. More recently she studied in the Federal Communications Commission School, preparing for her present government assignment, with hope of foreign service.

APPOINTED DIRECTOR

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Mrs. Harriet Davis has been recently appointed Director of the AAF Aircraft Warning Corps for the New York Fighter Wing. Mrs. Davis succeeds Mrs. Eloise Skidmore, who has been forced to resign because of illness in her family. Both women have worked at the Center since the Autumn of 1941. Mrs. Davis is the wife of Captain George Davis, an intelligence officer with the A.A.F. overseas.



Effectively exploiting the operations of the Aircraft Warning Service was this attractive window display arranged in a window of the Winton Hardware Co., Winchester, Mass. S. Earle Burgoyne, publicity officer of the Post at Winchester, arranged the exhibit which featured models of old and new posts and model airplanes constructed by young observers who attend the local high school.

AWS Meetings and Club

PRESIDENT HENRY T. MOORE of Skidmore college at **Saratoga Springs, N. Y.,** is believed to be the first college president in the country to receive the I Fighter Command's "For Merit" medal. At ceremonies held at the college recently the medal was presented to the educator by Lt. Col. Alfred A. Jacobson of the Albany Air Region in recognition of his work as head of the school's War Activities Committee. Several faculty members also received medals, and diplomas were awarded to 98 members of the student body who have completed the standard course in aircraft recognition. Under President Moore's leadership, Skidmore students, who hail from 16 states and the District of Columbia, have constituted more than 50 per cent of the observer personnel serving on the Saratoga Springs post and all have been thoroughly trained in aircraft recognition. Work on the observation post, and attendance at recognition classes has been an extra-curricular activity of the school since the war started and every student has been encouraged by the faculty to participate in some phase of the work as a part of the college's contribution to the war effort. Speakers at the special convocation at which the college head, faculty members and student body were honored included Capt. Donald A. Meyer, ground observer officer, I Fighter Command, Mitchel Field; Capt. John E. Nesbitt and 1st Lt. Alfred D. Schiaffo of the Albany Air Region. Presentation of the awards at Skidmore received widespread publicity, both in newspapers in the vicinity of Saratoga Springs and throughout the territories from which the students were drawn.

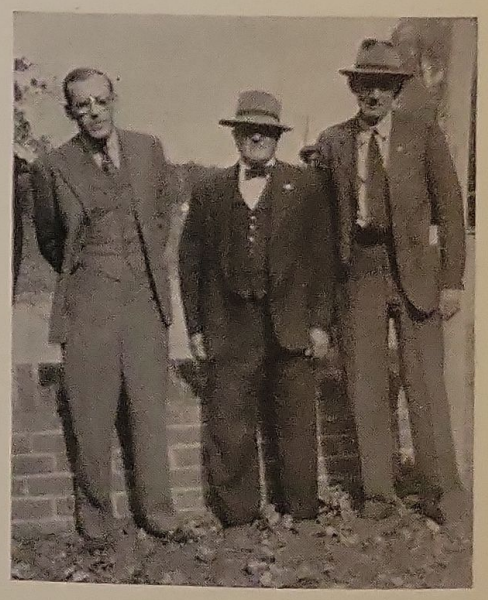
In December, 1941, the Zion's Hill Observation Post at **Farmington, Me.** was erected in the yard of the Charles Q. Fuller residence, and this fall, almost two years later, observers and their friends who have manned the post, gathered to honor Mr. and Mrs. Fuller on the occasion of their golden wedding anniversary. A complete program of entertainment was planned for the 250 guests who were present, and included orchestral music, singing, dancing, and the presentation of merit awards by Captain C. H. Wollenberg of the Bangor Filter Center. After refreshments were served, Mr. and Mrs. Fuller were presented with a cash purse and other gifts.

On the day after Pearl Harbor was bombed, the observation post at **Stamford, Conn.,** went into operation. Recently members gathered to observe their post's second anniversary, at which time wings and citations were presented to the personnel by Capt. Arnold Johnson of the New York Fighter Wing. Guests at the dinner, which was attended by some 150 observers, included Mayor Moore of Stamford and Selectman Barrett, who spoke briefly on the valuable service the observers had given to the community and lauded them for the "time and energy they have devoted to this most essential work of protecting the home front."

More than 400 women civilian volunteers of the **Buffalo** Air Region were presented with their long-awaited awards for meritorious work at the Buffalo Information Center, at a Presentation Party on November 9. The formal presentation ceremonywas in charge of Major George T. Ritter, regional commander, who presented the awards to the shift supervisors. The supervisors in turn made the indi-



Here is a picture of the dedication of the Observation Post at Damariscotta, Me., attended by Army personnel, American Legion members in uniform and civilian volunteers and their friends. The Post was constructed entirely by volunteer labor and funds were provided from a house-to-house canvass by local Boy Scouts in addition to contributions by merchants. Material for the post was also supplied through community effort. Mrs. Edith Martin is Chief Observer.



Shown here on the occasion of the presentation of wings and merit medals to observers of King and Queen County, Virginia, are: (left) Chief Observer Carey C. Hall, King and Queen, Va.; (center) Area Supervisor J. C. Bland, Shanghai, Va.; and (right) Chief Observer C. L. Smith, Walkerton, Va. Ceremonies were held at King and Queen County Court House.

Activities

vidual presentations. 167 women received the Merit Awards for more than 500 hours or a year's service at the Center and an additional 268 women were given the Aircraft Warning Corps wings for more than three months service. A festive aeronautical motif featured the decorations, with huge photos of the Curtiss P-40 Warhawk and Bell P-39 Airacobra lining the walls. A realistic 50-cal. machine gun demonstration using traced "bullets" of luminous pellets, was presented by a gun crew.

At a meeting held at **Emporia Virginia,** Aircraft Warning Service medals were presented to "veteran" observers of observation posts in Greene County by Lt. Col. Mason, executive officer of the Norfolk Fighter Wing. The meeting included addresses by Governor Darden of Virginia and Captain H. J. Haynes of the British Royal Navy. Captain Haynes told of some of his experiences in the Navy since the early part of the war while both speakers praised the observers for their outstanding devoted service to duty to the Army Air Forces.





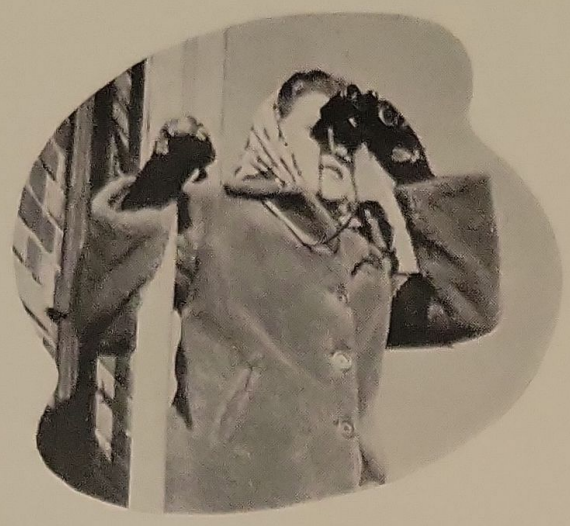
Above are two views of the special convocation and award ceremonies held at Skidmore College with student and faculty recognition enthusiasts receiving medals, wings and diplomas. The photograph in the circle shows the Observation Post atop a tower of one of the campus buildings. Skidmore College contributes sixty per cent of the personnel operating the Saratoga Springs, N. Y., Post. Joseph I. Cunningham is Chief Observer.

Observers of the Red Oak post, **Scranton, Pa.,** were guests recently at an appreciation dinner tendered them by members of Koch Conley Post, American Legion. . . . Members of the **Pemberton, N. J.,** post were among some 100 civilian volunteers receiving awards at an AWS rally at Mt. Holly, N. J. . . . At **Walden, N. J.,** recently members of the post held their anniversary dinner at St. Andrew's Episcopal church. . . . Organization of a Spotters club has been completed by observers on the **New Haven, Conn.,** post. Purpose of the club is to keep the observers posted on latest developments in the aircraft warning field and to promote goodfellowship among the observers. . . . Presentation of awards to observers featured a dinner held at **Flourtown, Pa.,** recently for personnel of all posts in the Whitemarsh Valley section. Awards were presented to some 200 persons. . . . Eighteen observers attached to the **Pawling, N. Y.,** post were awarded merit medals recently. . . . Title of "area champions" in aircraft recognition was won recently by a team of observers of the **Seymour, Conn.,** post when they defeated a team representing **Naugatuck, Conn.** . . . A covered dish supper and Christmas party was held by members of the Aircraft Recognition club of the **Johnson City, N. Y.,** post. Membership in the club is limited to those observers who have completed the recognition course and have won their diplomas. . . . Awards were presented at **Stanfordville, N. Y.,** to 155 observers who qualified by virtue of long terms of service. . . . Observers on the Duke Center post near **Bradford, Pa.,** were guests of honor at a joint Ground Observer - Civilian Defense rally held recently. . . . Veterans' Building in historic **Concord, Mass.,** was the scene recently of a rally at which 80 members of the Concord post received merit medals and other AWS awards. . . . Mrs. George Hardenburg has been appointed chief observer of the post at **Mayville, N. Y.,** succeeding C. J. Renner, who resigned to accept appointment as district director. . . . Members

(Continued on Page 12)



Formal presentation of the flag, given by the city of Auburn, N. Y., to the Observation Post is pictured here. Accepted by G. W. Ockenfels, Chief Observer, the flag was dedicated by Lt. Col. William A. Aiken, Chaplain, U. S. Army, retired, former Chaplain of the Department of New York, American Legion. The Post building and its equipment are also gifts of the city.



REVIEW OF AIRCRAFT RECOGNITION TEST No. 5

A total of 157 posts qualified for the 100 Per Center Club in this test—a very encouraging showing from any standpoint. The largest number of mistakes were made on Plane No. 15, the Focke-Wulf 190.

If your post isn't already entered in these tests why not plan to get a group together and enter Test No. 7, which appears on the outside back cover of this issue?

This month we point out for special honor the list of 24 posts who have answered correctly each of the five tests so far published and have therefore won the title of "500 Per Centers."

100 Per Centers

CONNECTICUT
Bristol
Essex
Fairfield
Greenwich
South Windsor
Waterford
Windsor Locks

DELAWARE
Delmar
St. George's

FLORIDA
Ankona
Fort Myers
Hollywood
Ormond Beach
Stuart

MAINE
Augusta
Blue Hill
Calais
Camden
Cherryfield
Damoriscotta
Hamburg
Livermore Falls
Madawska
North Jay
Sanford
Somerville
Wells
Wiscasset
Yarmouth

MARYLAND
Lansdowne
Newark
Royal Oak
Salisbury
Smithburg
Woodstock

MASSACHUSETTS
Charlemont
East Dennis
East Freetown
Halifax
Millis
Mattapoisett
Northboro
Palmer
Paxton
Reading
Southboro

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Candia
Farmington
Florence
Gilsum
Keene
Seal Harbor
South Merrimack
Wolfeboro

NEW JERSEY
Allaire
Arneytown
Barkley
Bordentown
Burlington
Butler
Columbus
Dayton
Dunellen
Elmer
Florence
Haddonfield
Keyport
Lakewood
Newark
New Egypt
Pittstown
Ramsey
Washington
West New York
Westville

NEW YORK
Amenia
Auburn
Babylon Village
Bellmore
Callicoon
Croton-on-Hudson
De Ruyter
Edinburg
Edmeston
Glens Falls
Huntersland
Middleburgh
Mount Vernon
New Berlin
Niagara Falls
North Hebron
Norton Hill
Port Washington
Poughkeepsie
Pulaski
Roscoe
Roxbury
Saugerties
Schoharie
South Worcester
Unionville
Valley Stream
Verbank
Vernon
Wading River
Wassaic

NORTH CAROLINA
Belhaven
Monroe
Washington

PENNSYLVANIA
Berwyn
Christiana
Danielsville
Ephrata
Fogelsville
Harrisburg
Krocksville
Lancaster
Lehighton
Paoli
Pennsburg
Pineville
Rome
Schnecksville
Shillington
Starucca
Stroudsburg
North Troy
Summit Hill
Weatherly
Wanamakers

RHODE ISLAND
Jamestown
Newport

SOUTH CAROLINA
Beaufort

VERMONT
East Dover
Glover
Grand Isle
Lincoln
Lyndonville
Manchester
Morrisville
Pittsford
Randolph
South Hero

VIRGINIA
Beaverdam
Brockroad
Charlottesville
Columbia
Denbigh
Greenwood
Harrisonburg
Jarratt
New Bohemia
Norfolk
Sparta
The Plains
Wilsons

500 Per Centers

CONNECTICUT
Essex

FLORIDA
Stuart

MAINE
Calais
Seal Harbor

MARYLAND
Smithburg

MASSACHUSETTS
Reading
Southboro

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Farmington
Wolfeboro

NEW JERSEY
Haddonfield

NEW YORK
Middleburgh
New Berlin
Valley Stream
Vernon
Wassaic

PENNSYLVANIA
Berwyn
Summit Hill
Weatherly

VERMONT
Glover
Manchester
Randolph

VIRGINIA
Beaverdam
Charlottesville
Greenwood

Answers to Test No. 5

1. SM-79
2. P-47 Thunderbolt
3. A-31 Vengeance
4. Spitfire
5. AT-6
6. HE-111K
7. JU-52
8. Avenger
9. A-20 Havoc
10. Aichi-99
11. Commando C-46
12. Mit 96
13. Zero
14. P-40
15. FW 190
16. Seagull
17. Kawanishi-97
18. Mosquito

AWS Meetings and Club Activities

(Continued from Page 11)

of the Kingwood post at **Frenchtown, Pa.**, were guests at a meeting at the home of Fidelity post, American Legion, at which time awards were made to 40 of the post's members. . . . Wings were awarded to 47 observers of the Overlook post, **West Warwick, R. I.**, and 12 other officers of the posts received medals at a recent meeting held at Phenix Methodist church. The post also observed its second anniversary recently. . . . Daytime volunteers of the **Albany, N. Y.**, Information Center held a bridge tea at the Fort Orange American Legion post recently. . . . Six observers of the **South Seaville, N. J.**, post were presented with merit medals at a rally held at Grange hall. The post's service flag also was dedicated, the single gold star representing Pvt. James Revelle, a former observer who lost his life in the Italian campaign, and the 20 silver stars representing former observers now serving in the Armed Forces — nine in the Army, two in the WAC, two in the Coast Guard, seven in the Navy and one in the Marines. . . . Wilfred Chesebro and James Trumbull, youthful observers at **Westerly, R. I.**, received medals at a recent post meeting at which wings were awarded to 100 of the post's observers. The lads have served as the post's instructors in recognition since the course was inaugurated. . . . Model airplanes will be among the equipment used in teaching recognition at the new school to be started by the post at **Millerton, N. Y.**, it has been announced. Classes will be held each Wednesday night in the Millerton High School. I Fighter Command medals were awarded recently to post officials by Army officers. . . . Chief Observer Samuel Chappell of the post at **North Windham, Conn.**, was awarded a merit medal recently upon the eve of his departure to join a ship repair unit. At the same time he accepted a medal on behalf of his wife, who now is a member of the WAC and is undergoing training at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga. . . . A total of 81 observers of the **Evans Mills, N. Y.**, post received their wings at a recent gathering of observers attached to the post. . . . The Gould Hotel, **Seneca Falls, N. Y.**, was the scene of the annual Christmas party held by observers of the post recently.



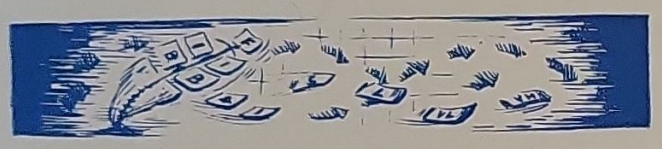
A SONG FOR THE GROUND OBSERVER CORPS

(Tune—The Caissons Go Rolling Along)

Army Flash! Army Flash!
Low or High we scan the sky,
As the bombers go flying along.
Army Flash! Army Flash!
Seen or Heard send in the word,
As the bombers go flying along.
And it's one flight more
For the Ground Observer Corps!
Send in your Message loud and strong!
For whene'er they go,
The Army wants to know
Where the bombers go flying along—
Keep them flying—
Where the bombers go flying along.

—Meade Minnigerode
Essex, Conn.

☆ ☆ ☆



FILTER CENTER GHOSTS

Written AFTER October 4, 1943

by Harry W. Kidder, Portland Filter Center

Somber and still stands the old Filter Room,
Eeerie, deserted and shrouded in gloom.
Slithering ghosts scuttle under the Board
As my footsteps approaching bepanic their horde.

Other dim ghostly forms on the balcony rail
In shaky alarm start to quiver and quail.
Some vanish completely; some, half out of sight,
Peer out around corners and gibber with fright.

One ghost at the Turret seems to sway in a breeze
As she plaintively squeaks, "Army; Go ahead, please."
Another at Ops quavers "Target"—once—twice,
With weak hopeless gestures, then melts—into ice.

A spectral Floor Supe keeps a phantom-like Log,
All the while dancing round in long leaps like a frog.
At the Overlap post, both by night and by day,
A bodyless Form sleeps the dim hours away.

They plot without pips, without headphones or rakes;
And the Filterers' stands are green up-ended snakes.
The arrows glow palely and crawl round at will—
While the Filterers dance a slow-motion quadrille.

The Memory Board now has no more work to do
But safeguard its memories from this strange ghostly crew.
While the B Board stares down bleakfaced on the scene
As tho yearning in sorrow for days that have been.

Can our places be filled by their weird spectre band?
Can they fulfill the task of protecting our land?
Time only can tell—Time and War's fickle Fate.
So "Alert" is our watchword—the while that we wait.

☆ ☆ ☆

"THEY ALSO SERVE"

They also serve, who merely stand and watch
The skies above for plane of friend or foe
Alert and faithful, ever on the job,
'Mid summer's heat or winter's cold and snow.
Obscure, unsung, Observers at the Post
Disdain the thought of fortune or of fame;
For their reward is made of greater things
In humble service guarding freedom's flame.
The city sleeps, in peaceful certainty
That sentinels of the skies watch through the night.
For stars that move, or shadows cross the moon,
Can tell the watcher of a plane in flight.
A warning to the Army, prompt and clear;
Then interceptors winging through the sky
Bring safety to the sleepers down below
And destruction to intruders there on high.
"The Right Hand of the Army," so they're called,
These men and women from all walks of life;
Who gladly give their time; their work; their hearts
To help in their small way to end the strife.

—Nathalie A. Keazer
Porstmouth. N. H.

☆ ☆ ☆



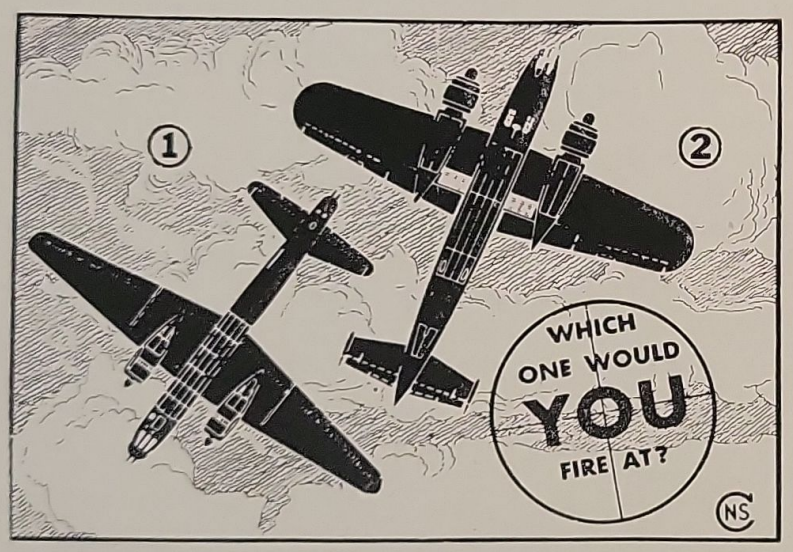
WHEN STARS STAND STILL

Looking at that star up there,
Hanging in the sky,
I wonder, "Did I see it move,
Did I see it fly?"
I think with every night that's clear
Are They coming soon,
Lighted on their deadly way
By shining bombers moon.
Oh, speed the time
When stars stand still
And do not fly above
When moons are only used for songs
And boys and girls in love.

—Frances Wood
Wallingford. Conn.



"Now will you believe that we're lost?"



Not at No. 1! It's the British Wellington, a mid-wing, long-range heavy homber powered by twin engines. The long nose of the fuselage extends well forward of the engines. The wide spanned wings taper to narrow rounded tips. The tailplane is swept back and it has a single fin and rudder. Hold up.

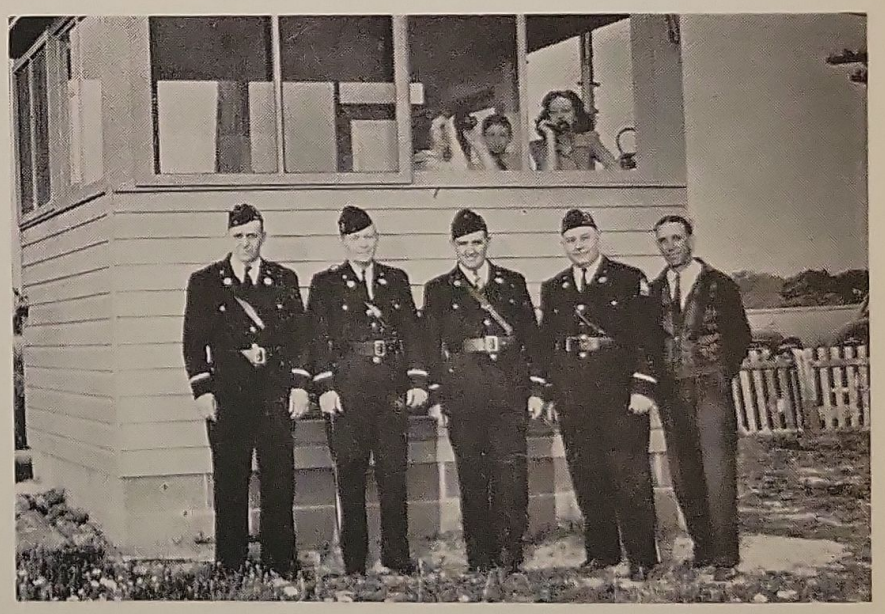
Fire at No. 2! It's the German Dornier Do. 217 E, a high-wing, twin-engine bomber. The nose of the slim fuselage extends ahead of the engine nacelles. Both edges of the thick wings taper equally to rounded tips. The broad tailplane is also tapered and it has twin fins and rudders. Shoot it down.

Courtesy Dodd, Mead & Co., publishers Aircraft Spotter by Lester Ott.

POST CAMOUFLAGE



What is it? Why, it's an observation post, of course! And it's an excellent example of how camouflage can fool the enemy. Located in New England, this experiment in camouflage was accomplished through cooperation between the Army and Ground Observer Corps officials.

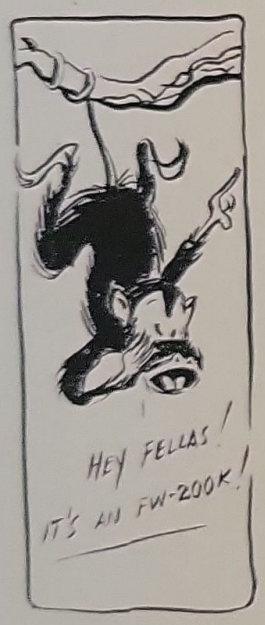


Pictured above are five members of the Observation Post at Allentown, New Jersey, four of whom are veterans of World War I and members of the American Legion. From left to right: George Walton, Warren Thompson, Edward Inman, Chris S. Theoharis, Chief Observer, and Milton H. Probasco, Ass't Chief Observer. Mr. Theoharis was recently awarded the gold-bar pin representing 500 hours of duty at his post.



Marjorie Pennell, an attractive member of the Aircraft Warning Corps at the Philadelphia Information Center, is shown here signing the official scroll as a charter member of the organization.

MONKEY BUSINESS



Somewhere in the world a heated controversy rages and fighting words are exchanged as supporters advance their claims as to which side boasts of the first member of the Simian Ground Observer Corps. Soldiers of the First South African Division say the honors belong to Japie, which was with them in Ethiopia and warned of the advance of enemy planes long before anyone else heard the sound of the engines. On the other side of the argument are veterans of the Rand Light Artillery who contend that Susie, their monkey mascot, was screaming warnings of approaching enemy aircraft back in the days of World War I, when the Germans had a lone bomber in action against the South Africans in the Southwest African campaign.



"Ed's a little excitable—that's his first plane."

Idea suggested by Warwick, Mass. Post



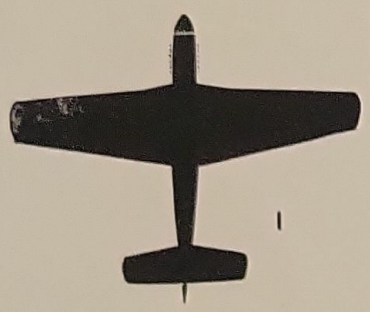
So effective are army methods at teaching aircraft recognition that a special recognition class was conducted by the Philadelphia Fighter Wing Ground Observer section for 25 Coast Guardsmen, shown at left. Completing the course, the men returned to their various Coast Guard Stations as qualified instructors. Lt. Sterling S. Speake, Ground Observer Officer, Philadelphia Fighter Area, was in charge of the class.

Aircraft Recognition Test

No. 7

Here is Aircraft Recognition Test No. 7 in the series which is being enthusiastically received by volunteers in every Wing and Region of I Fighter Command. Each Observation Post or Recognition Class is entitled to one answer—which may be the result of group effort. (Results of Test No. 5 are announced elsewhere in this issue.) Send in your answers by February 10. Address all correspondence to The Aircraft Warning Volunteer, I Fighter Command, Mitchel Field, N. Y. A list of all groups hitting 100 per cent will be published in an early issue.

What's that plane?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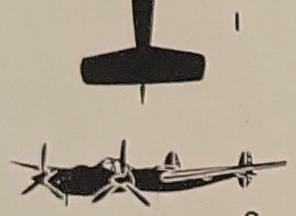
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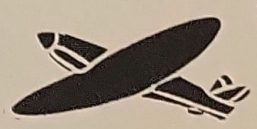
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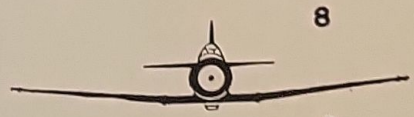
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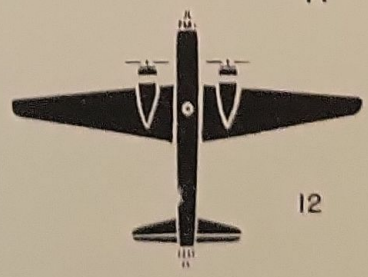
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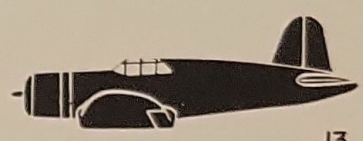
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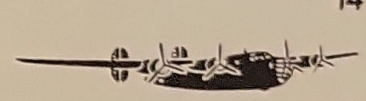
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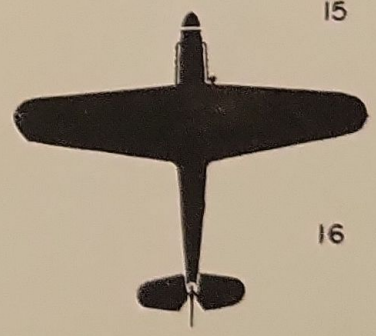
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