

ALABAMA STATE DEFENSE COUNCIL  
P. O. BOX 196  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

REPORT ON BLACKOUT August 26, , 194 3.

TO ALL COMMANDERS:

It is the desire of this office to get a report on the recent blackout. Please fill in the form below and return to this office at your earliest opportunity.

1. OBSERVING OFFICER E. P. Rodwell Jr., Commander.  
2. AREA PARTICIPATING Floral, Ala.  
3. TIME SIGNALS RECEIVED: YELLOW 9:25 BLUE 9:35 RED 9:45 BLUE 9:57 WHITE 10:09

POINT OF OBSERVATION Floral C.D. Control Center (Dept. Agriculture Bldg)  
Time of arrival of personnel 20 on staff, 10 arrived by 9:30.  
Number of staff Only 6 out of 20 failed to report.  
Guarding of center Control center guarded all through blackout.  
Discipline maintained throughout blackout Good, very little confusion.  
General operations during blackout Practically all of organization manned posts  
Communication system and industry notification Yes.  
Effectiveness and timing of local warning system Commander notified promptly on yellow signal. All siren signals blown according to schedule.

FUNCTIONING OF DEFENSE CORPS OUTSIDE CONTROL CENTER

Violations by places of business 1  
Violations by residence None except through error.  
Violations by industry None reported  
Efficiency of air raid wardens, auxiliary police, etc. Excellent  
Traffic control 2 violations reported.

REMARKS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The public forgets fast, lights in several residences were turned back on during last Blue signal through error. These lights were turned back off when contacted by Wardens. No lights were visible in the town from the Control Center (including street lights) within two minutes after first Blue Signal. Only 11 wardens out of 32 made reports to control center. Automobiles traveling off through highways report not able to recognize wardens and aux. police. Transits have no way of knowing a blackout in effect in a community; however, most of them stop on blast from wardens whistle. Some wardens and Aux. Police forget arm bands and other identification on surprise blackouts. As a whole I think blackout here very successful.