HACWS

HA 381/275

December 3, 1942.

MEMORANDUM

To: Chief, Safety Division

Subject: Blackout in Huntsville, Alabama, December 2, 1942.

1. The undersigned was at the Huntsville Civilian Defense Center when the yellow flash was received at 8:40 P. M. He proceeded immediately downtown to watch the proceedings. In a few minutes the mill sirens and several other sirens sounded. There was some confusion at first but within a few minutes most of the lights had gone out. Only four store windows remained lighted.

2. Air Raid Wardens and Auxiliary Police were stationed on each street corner. They seemed to be performing their duties effeciently and effectively. There was relatively little confusion except for the first minute or two after the sirens began to sound. Of course, every one took cover except those specifically assigned to duties on the streets and a few spectators. All traffic except ambulances stopped as required.

3. The all clear was sounded at about 9:15 P. M. and within a few minutes all lights seemed to be on again. This observer returned to Civilian Defense Headquarters and was told that in addition to the four stores which remained lighted downtown, four homes in the city failed to observe the blackout.

4. Later the undersigned was told that Westlawn, Redstone, Merrimack Mills and the other housing additions failed to observe the blackout to any great extent but that the blackout on the Arsenal was most effective.

Frederic Cornell

FREDERIC CORNELL
1st Lt., CWS

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