

HEADQUARTERS HUNTSVILLE ARSENAL

CHEMICAL WARFARE SERVICE
OFFICE OF THE POST SIGNAL OFFICER

IN REPLY REFER TO:

HUNTSVILLE ARSENAL, ALA.

December 3, 1942

MEMORANDUM

TO: Col. Brice, Intelligence Officer, Huntsville Arsenal

1. The undersigned visited the city of Huntsville Air Raid Warning Control Center Wednesday night December 2, arriving at the Police Station at 6:45 P.M.

The Police Desk Sergeant received the first air warning from the Gadsden center by long distance telephone. He in turn called the Chief Air Raid Wardens. The Chief Wardens use their home telephones to notify the officials under them and then gather at the control center. The control center has two telephones with which to make and receive calls as well as the long distance flash telephone. The practice of Chief Wardens calling their squads from their home telephones at the Yellow Flash, relieves the control center telephones of an extra load.

3. The Yellow Flash was received at the Police Station at 8:21 P.M. Three Wardens had reported within five minutes. Ten officials with two messenger boys had arrived nineteen minutes after the first warning. Fifteen officials and ten messenger boys had arrived by 8:43, right after the Blue Signal.

4. The opinion of this Office is as follows:

a. Time of arrival of personnel: Excellent

b. Number of staff (in control center): Sufficient

c. Guarding of center: Well guarded by Police and Firemen. Police are always on duty in the building and emergency Police were called in after the Yellow Flash.

d. Discipline maintained throughout blackout. Within the control center everyone was well disciplined, (another officer was on duty



①

Memorandum Cont'd
(12-2-42)

to observe in the city area). A report came to the center that a lady refused to turn out her lights. A Policeman was dispatched to the address.

e. General operations during blackout: Very good. Warning Signals were received from Gadsden as follows:

Yellow	8:21 P.M.
Blue	8:41 P.M.
Red	8:46 P.M.
White	9:16 P.M.

f. Communication system and Industry notification: Communication system is adequate, by the use of home telephones, by the Chief Wardens on Flash Yellow. Industry notification was very fast and the first whistle sounded within one minute after the Red Flash.

g. Effectiveness and timing of local warning system: Timing, good. Effectiveness (to be reported by Area Umpire). It is recommended that all telephone numbers to be called by the control center be listed on large cards, one list of numbers for each calling telephone.

5. The local Radio Station was not reached until 8:48 P.M. For some reason the Station did not answer the telephone. The Station broadcasted the alarm at 9:00 P.M., but then went on with its program.

6. Huntsville Arsenal received the signal as follows:

From Gadsden	Yellow	8:26 P.M.
	Blue	8:41 P.M.
	Red	8:44 P.M.
	White	9:19 P.M.
From Huntsville	Yellow	8:22 P.M.
	Blue	8:39 P.M.
	Red	8:44 P.M.
	White	9:19 P.M.

E. C. Knox
E. C. KNOX,
1st Lt., Signal Corps,
Asst. Post Signal Officer.