

THE ALERT

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Millburn Defense Council

November 23, 1942

WAR SERVICES -- Some time ago the need for segregating the protective and non-protective services of the local civilian defense operations was pointed out. A recent State directive has made this possible and early this month the Township Committee appointed Mr. Victor Traub, 32 Maple Terrace, Wyoming, to the Defense Council. Mr. Traub will be Chairman of the Community War Services for Millburn, and will be in charge of such non-protective units as salvage, consumer interests, child care, recreation, etc. We feel this is a distinct step forward in Civilian Defense and look forward to great accomplishment under Mr. Traub.

MEDICAL -- Dr. Austin Tansey, medical officer of the Millburn Red Cross, has been granted a military leave of absence and is now a First Lieutenant in the Army Air Corps. Lieutenant Tansey was alternate to the Emergency Medical Chief in the Control Center during various alerts, and was largely responsible for building up the first aid units and casualtyposts. The Army's gain is our loss.

MESSENGERS -- Mr. William Barr, Head of the History Department and Assistant Administrator of the High School, is the new head of the Defense Council's messenger service. He is now interviewing all boys sixteen years of age and older to find out whether or not they have volunteered for the messenger service. Mr. Barr is stressing the importance of volunteer services. When the boys report for duty they will be required to fill out a card. The warden or general headquarters to which the boys report will fill out duplicate cards. In this way Mr. Barr will have a record of those boys who have fulfilled their obligations and those who have not will be expected to give adequate explanation.

WHISTLES-- Last call for this bit of information: The proper signal for wardens to use to summon an Auxiliary Policeman is one long blast, two shorts. Dash--dot--dot, in other words. There has been considerable controversy over this point, in spite of the fact that the entire warden service received instructions concerning it in May.

FLASHLIGHTS -- Several months ago all Sector Headquarters received copies of State instructions on the use of flashlights, and were to distribute these to each person in the warden service. Still, a large proportion of all services do not conform to the rules and regulations. How closely have you been following them? Here are the requirements again. The official flashlight will have an opening no larger than one inch in diameter. This opening should have placed over it a piece of newspaper, or similar material, which will diffuse the light. Under no circumstances are colored bulbs or lenses to be used. That's an Army Order. Courtesy, at least, should prevent persons in the service from shining their lights in the eyes of those being investigated. An Army survey, moreover, shows that it takes many valuable

minutes for a driver's eyes to return to normal blackout adaptability. Try it yourself. And of course, flashing lights about indiscriminately during a blackout defeats the purpose of the blackout.

AUTOMOBILE HEADLIGHTS -- This one takes some drumming in, too. Last month the Alert tried to clear up the matter of automobile lights to be used in a blackout. Either we have no public or the public doesn't read. The State law says that drivers may use LOW BEAM HEADLIGHTS during a blackout. And headlights are not parking lights. In the blackout of November 9, the over zealous stopped cars driven for all branches of the service and required them to drive with parking lights. This is contrary to State rules. And, as we pointed out in the last Alert, it also is a very dangerous procedure. Automobiles whose drivers have permission to travel will show an emergency card issued by the State Department of Motor Vehicles on their sun visors. If a driver has such a card, the idea is not to detain him and slow up the civilian defense machinery, but to let him proceed, with LOW BEAM HEADLIGHTS, immediately.

An outstanding case in the blackout of November 9 was a Motor Corps ambulance driver going from Red Cross Headquarters to Christ Church and return. The trip took 35 minutes, and was completed only with a great deal of difficulty. Put yourself in the position of a patient in this ambulance. Chances are, by the time the trip was completed they'd be leaving you at Christ Church for your funeral.

And, if another warden has stopped a car down the street, and you see him do it, why waste motion and go through it all again? Undoubtedly the driver was qualified or else the other warden would not have permitted him to proceed.

DIMOUT -- We quote from the new dimout rules and regulations of the United States Army Major General T.A. Terry. Further information on store and house lighting will be given at a later date. Section IV Paragraph 9--"The use of high-beam vehicle headlights within the coastal dimout area is prohibited. Headlights, if used, shall have the upper one-half of the lens obscured by opaque material. (Headlights visible from the sea must be further dimmed as provided in paragraph 7.)

AEROPLANE ACCIDENTS -- The following bulletin has been received from the State of New Jersey Department of State Police, Trenton, New Jersey: Attention is invited to the fact that the risks involved in fighting fires in aeroplanes are more numerous and greater now that our Country is at war. Most of the flying is by and of the services. Practically all, including only occasional trainers and transports, are "loaded." These planes contain one or more of the following: high explosive bombs, incendiary bombs, Pyrotechnics, Depth charges, Machine guns and Cannon. Controls are electric and will, in most cases, be actuated by fire. The safe distance is regarded as not less than 1,000 yards. Realizing the fire service will and frequently must approach a plane fire to protect life and property, the following suggestions are offered as minimum for so on reasonable safety of your men:

WILL YOU PURCHASE YOUR HI HO TICKETS? Saturday is almost sold out but there are still good seats available for Friday night on sale at the Dome Council or A.V.V.S. Headquarters. Turn in your tickets at A.V.V.S. Headquarters for reserved seats at no extra charge. The A.V.V.S. participated in Civilian Defense to the tune of degree now its our turn to back them.

Will you, therefore cooperate with us in bringing these matters to the attention of your Auxiliary Police and Air Raid Wardens, whom we must assume may not have followed this procedure in municipalities where observations were made.

I would refer you to Rule No. 26, Section VI, of the Rules and Regulations which instruction states that all vehicles having permission to move during a blackout shall be operated with low beam headlights. Interpretation of low beam headlights is not the parking light, nor the high beam light which in modern cars is put in operation by pushing a button, but the usual driving light which on older makes of cars is known as the "dim" light.

All Auxiliary Police and Air Raid Wardens should approach the car from the right in order to observe the Emergency Card which is required to be applied to the windshield in the lower right-hand corner. This will expedite the movement of cars which have permission through the issuance of Emergency Cards.

Air Raid Wardens and Auxiliary Police should not enter the highway to stop cars because of the tremendous risk to their own lives. Their flash-lights and whistles from the curb should be sufficient to stop motor vehicle traffic, and where it does not stop, the recording of the license number would be sufficient to trace the disobedient operators of motor vehicles.

SAFETY -- MILBURN was very proud to report to the Area Administrator that there had been no accidents or serious injuries to members of the Milburn Civilian Defense Corps. Safety is a matter of great concern to all chiefs of service. We quote herewith a memorandum from the State Department of Civilian Defense.

NEW CHIEF WARDEN -- Taking up where Mr. Rodrick MacDougall left off as Chief Air Raid Warden will be Mr. G.L. Underhill. Mr. Underhill will be assisted by Mr. E. Bartleson, Deputy, and by Mrs. Norman White, Daytime Chief Deputy.

During. There were seventeen violations in the previous blackout. Seven compared to seventeen is a great improvement. Looks as though things were getting under control.