

Flomaton Centennial Scrapbook

The Civil Air Patrol was founded Dec. 1, 1941. During World War II, towers were built in coastal and border towns, and spotters were trained to recognize enemy aircraft.



Blackouts were practiced in every city, even those far from the coast. All lighting had to be extinguished to avoid helping the enemy in targeting at night.

The main purpose was to remind people that there was a war on and to provide activities that would engage the civil spirit of millions of people not otherwise involved in the war effort. In large part, this effort was successful, sometimes almost to a fault, such

as interior areas where many dedicated aircraft spotters took up their posts night after night watching the skies in an area of the country that no enemy aircraft of that time could possibly hope to reach.

Its principal purpose was to allow private pilots and aviation enthusiasts to use their light aircraft and flying skills in civil defense efforts. In 1943, the organization came under control and direction of the Army Air Forces. It's credited with sinking at least two German U-boats during World War II.

Still in existence, it is a volunteer organization with an aviation-minded membership that includes people from all backgrounds and walks of life. It performs three congressionally assigned key missions: emergency services (including search and rescue), aerospace education for youth and the general public, and cadet programs for teenage youth.



(Left) Civil Air Patrol Airplane "Spotter's Shack" in 1943. Voncile White Bethea on the left, Teresa Gordon Weaver, right.

Located on the present site of the First Baptist Church, during the height of World War II, volunteers watched the skies for enemy aircraft and were instructed to contact pick up the phone and tell the operator should they see any aircraft overhead.

Inside some of the shacks were bare necessities and silhouettes of known Axis aircraft for ease of identification.



Lucky Strike Green Goes To War!

The metal that was used for the green dye on Lucky Strike cigarette packages was needed for the war effort, so they changed their packaging from green to white....and used this fact in their advertising.