

**The Giddings News**

April 24, 1942

**GIDDINGS BOY WRITES  
OF BLACK-OUTS**

Camp Bowie, Texas  
April 18, 1942

Mr. C. M. Bishop  
The Giddings News  
Giddings, Texas.

Dear Sir:

As long as your article "A Basket of Chips" has appeared in the Giddings News, I, and also several of my friends who share the paper with me each week, have made it a point to read that article first. The one of April 17, 1942 interested me most. The Giddings Black-Out Situation and Poor Cooperation of the People. Perhaps most of them do not realize how important a black-out is even to a small town as Giddings.

A total black-out is a very important part of modern Warfare. It isn't just a mere practice of extinguishing lights and getting yourself to a bomb shelter or similar safe place. The primary object of a black-out is to confuse the enemy, and to deceive the human eye. Also to confuse the bombardiers and observers on a bomber studying an air-photo map, (if they have one) of the town or city which is their target. A modern bomber crew must be able to sight and recognize their target from three to five miles away (depending on the speed of the plane) before they can adjust sights and drop the bombs with any accuracy. If the target can not be seen from a distance the bombs must be dropped by guess work. It has been proven there are very few hits in or around the target area using the guess work method. Concealment is the newest and also the oldest weapon of war in the world. It concerns everyone today.

Giddings can become a very important target for the enemy for one reason alone. Roads and Railroads. There are five different directions that troops and war supplies can leave Giddings by rail and a number of ways by hard surface roads. That alone is an important factor in war time. The bulk of Giddings is built very close to the intersections of both, therefore a lot of lights are in the vicinity. If a total black-out isn't created, these places and the city proper could be bombed as easily at night as by day. Unless everyone works together, in practice or otherwise, a total black-out can not be created. One small light, the glow of a cigarette, or even the reflection of moonlight from an upturned face can be enough to give an observer in a high flying plane the key to the necessary data for his bombardiers' bomb sights.

If an air-raid alarm sounds, park your car well off the street. Leave all the room possible for the police and fire departments. Don't run out of buildings into the streets and stare at the sky looking for the planes, a face reflects light like a mirror. Don't light a match

or smoke in the open. Go to the nearest shelter in an orderly manner. If in a building with a large audience, such as schools and theaters, don't run out, it will only create confusion. Remain seated until told to do different by an official only. Most important of all, turn out all lights. If it is impossible to do so, get something to break the bulb. In most towns and cities when a person fails to obey the rules and regulations concerning black-out, he or she is heavily fined for the offense. Black-out rules and regulations must be enforced. You can not play it as a game.

Help protect lives and property in the future by doing your part in all black-out exercises. One never knows when they may become a reality. Do you "REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR"?

Very truly yours,  
Sgt. Lee R. Toppel  
Company "C" O. C. P. S.  
Camp Bowie, Texas.