AWS POST
LOCATED IN
GUARD TOWER

ARMY FLASH-----LONG DISTANCE-----
-----LONG DISTANCE-------------------ARMY
FLASH SECTOR 69 CHINO 7211---GO AHEAD
PLEASE-----3-5 BI'S-HIGH-SEEN-MAN 84-
SOUTH 3 MILES-GOING WEST-ZERO DELAY-----

The above jumble of words is not a message from Mars. It is emanating from the world's most unusual location for an aircraft warning service post. Situated in a guard tower on the grounds of the world's most modern institution you will find the men of CIM on watch 24 hours of the day.

It was on November 21, 1942 that the post was authorized by the Fourth Fighter Command, and since that day over 250 men have given freely of their time, after their regular work, to carry on this vital war work. Having vital war industries and training centers all around our section of the country, it was extremely essential to have this area covered by a reliable force. CIM was fortunate in being selected for this service. When an aircraft is sighted the call is placed as illustrated in the opening paragraph.

The gun tower was originally planned to be manned by guards and guns but the advanced program of penology in force at CIM has never called for the manning of the gun towers and so this gun tower along with nine others have been vacant since the opening of the institution. What better use could be found for the tower than to man it with inmates in defense of our country. In the past 8 months the planes reported by our unit has the very high average of 95.5% perfect.

One member of the volunteer crew has over 500 hours in service and 52 men have over 100 hours. When an aircraft spotter receives over 100 hours of service the U. S. Army Air Force Fourth Fighter Command presents him with an arm brassard which identifies him as a member of this service. For each additional 100 hours in service, a star is given to the arm band. When 500 hours of service are completed then a 500 hour pin is presented. Classes are held in the evenings and the names and types of all aircraft are studied.

Every man on the post is then capable of doing his part to the best of his ability.

All hours spent on the post, on duty, are after regular job assignments have been taken care of and all work is on a voluntary basis. Covering the post 24 hours a day produces some sleepy eyed fellows. Especially those working from 8:00 P.M. to 7:00 A.M. The shifts are divided into four-hour sections with two men on duty all around the clock.

The post is under the supervision of Mr. J. O. Rhodes. An Adjutant assists him and carries out the details of the post and designates the shifts for the men. This vital job is being carried on by the men of CIM with great enthusiasm and we have been highly complimented by the army for the work being done. AGAIN WE ARE DOING OUR PART.
Primtive man found fire his friend but modern civilization has found that fire can be a curse. Millions of acres of fine timberland and watershed are destroyed yearly by this force. From the Mexican Border to the Ojai Desert the men of CIM are on guard protecting the huge forest reserves of the United States. Over 200 men are strategically placed in Forestry camps. Working daily constructing firebreaks, erecting telephone lines, felling dead and diseased trees, drilling and conditioning mechanical equipment and building roads for the Forest Service.

The Aircraft Warning Service telephone line from one of our most important lookouts was one of the extremely vital jobs performed by the men of CIM and more of this type of work will be carried on this summer.

Sabotage of our national forest would cause millions of dollars of damage and would greatly hamper our war effort. To be prepared for any attempted destruction of the forests, every device known to man is employed for protection. Midget radio sending and receiving sets, quite often referred to as "walkie talkies", are used on all fires. Transmitters and receivers are used on fire trucks enabling the quick maneuvering of equipment to the vital fire areas where the trucks can do the most good. An airplane flying high above the fire may be directing all operations from its most advantageous point. On the ground, fighting the smoke, flames, heat and fire bugs, will be found the fire crews of CIM. As is this the most exacting and difficult work on any fire, the ground crews are responsible for the checking and holding of the fire. Sweat, muscles and endurance are the only factors that can perform this arduous and extremely dangerous work on the fire line. Many letters on file in the Forestry office attest to the outstanding effort of the CIM fire crews. Millions of acres of valuable timber and grass and hundreds of homes have been saved through the efforts of our crews. The rangers of the State and Federal Forestry Departments are enthusiastic in their praise of the work done by our men.

Mr. Farrell, Supervisor of the Cleveland National Forest, phoned Superintendent Kenyon J. Scudder last week. It seems that a fire broke out in the vicinity of our new camp at El Cariso, and our men, being newly organized had only a small complement of nine men on duty. Well, the nine men hit the fire line with all they had and were extremely successful in limiting the damage to ten acres.

Mr. Farrell was delighted with the work of our men and on his phone conversation that the performance of the nine men in putting out this one fire justified the expenditure for this camp. For the entire fire season, if it hadn't been for our small crew being on call it would have been a very serious fire.

Our men, available to the U. S. Forestry Service, are valuable gold to Uncle Sam, due to the manpower shortage.