



BHC-MSS 0165  
Guide to the Air Raid and Civil Defense Collection  
By Meg Rinn  
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**Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** Bridgeport War Council

**Title:** Air Raid and Civil Defense Collection

**Dates:** 1941-1945

**Quantity:** 5 linear feet, 4 record cartons and 1 oversize container

**Abstract:** As a manufacturing city during World War II, Bridgeport was a logical target should the warfront move to the east coast of the United States. The Bridgeport War Council, which oversaw the city's defense and preparations, devoted special resources to air raid preparation, defense, and recovery. This collection heavily focuses on the individual zones that Bridgeport was divided into, who was in charge of each zone, and how the city prepared for air attacks should they ever come.

**Language:** English

**Repository:** Bridgeport History Center

**Biographical History:**

Bridgeport is primarily known for its manufacturing role during World War II. This is thanks to the number of industries that mobilized during the war, including the Bullard Machine Tool Company, Bridgeport Brass, and Sikorsky Aircraft, among many others. The shortage of male workers at these companies also allowed women to work in industry in far greater numbers than they had before.

However, manufacturing was not the sole focus of Bridgeport during the war. Due to all the manufacturing going on in the city, there was reason to see the city as a target, should action ever move towards the east coast of the United States. As a result, Bridgeport actively organized its home front, working with the State of Connecticut's defense council in order to establish means of defense. Concerns regarding air raids on the city – especially the potential for bombing factories that helped supply the United States' war effort – were high, and a section of the Bridgeport War Council was devoted to air raid preparation, defense, and recovery.

This work relied heavily on volunteer efforts, with the city being split into different zones that were headed by wardens. Those wardens helped to ensure that their area knew the correct safety protocols, kept them compliant with certain regulations such as those regarding blackouts at night, and other concerns.

While the work of this group concluded with the end of the war, the Cold War would see the Civilian Defense Council rise up to address concerns about atomic bombs and attack by the USSR instead.

**Scope and Content note:**

Most prevalent in the collection is information regarding Bridgeport's different zones, and who was in charge of each. This permits a complete picture of how the city was divided and prepared for any potential attacks, especially by air. Other information relates to preparedness warnings, schools, policies and procedures, and other concerns.

**Arrangement Note:**

Subject file arranged in alphabetical order

**Administrative information:**

**Provenance:** 1995.02, found in collections. Original inventory and arrangement by Diane Kurtz

**Preferred Citation:**

Air Raid and Civil Defense Collections (BHC-MSS 0165), Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library.

**Names and Subject Tracings**

*Corporate names*

Bridgeport War Council

United States. Council of National Defense. State of Connecticut

*Subject tracings*

Air raids

Air raid shelters

**Detailed box/folder listing**

Box 1

1. Awards, 1941-1945
2. Air raid damage report forms and memos, 1941-1945
3. Air raid manuals, 1941-1945
4. Air raid manuals, 1941-1945
5. Air raid policies, procedures, etc. , 1941-1945
6. Air raid precautions, 1941-1945
7. Air raids shelters, 1941-1945
8. Aid raid signals, 1941-1945
9. Air raid tests, 1941-1945
10. Aid raid wardens certificates, 1941-1945
11. Aid raider warden letters, 1941-1945
12. Air raid warden maps, 1941-1945
13. Aid raid warden meetings, 1943-1945
14. Aid raid wardens names – zone 1, 1941-1945
15. Aid raid wardens names – zone 2, 1941-1945
16. Aid raid wardens names – zone 3, 1941-1945
17. Aid raid wardens names – zone 4, 1941-1945
18. Aid raid wardens names – not by zone, 1941-1945
19. Aid raid wardens notebook, 1942, 1941-1945
20. Aid raid wardens, regional, 1941-1945

21. Air raid wardens set up, 1941-1945
22. Armbands, 1941-1945
23. Banks, 1941-1945
24. Blackouts, Bridgeport rules and policies, 1941-1945
25. Blackouts, Connecticut and some out of state regulations and memos, 1941-1945
26. Blackouts, correspondence, 1941-1945
27. Blackouts, reports and violations, 1941-1945
28. Blackouts, test, 1943, 1941-1945
29. Blind and deaf, lists of residents, 1941-1945
30. Bomb reconnaissance agents – active, 1941-1945
31. Bomb reconnaissance agents – in active, 1941-1945
32. Bomb reconnaissance agents – Bridgeport and vicinity, 1941-1945
33. Bomb reconnaissance agents -Local, 1941-1945

#### Box 2

1. Bomb reconnaissance – handbooks, guides, forms, 1941-1945
2. Bomb reconnaissance – handbooks, guides, forms, 1941-1945
3. Bomb reconnaissance – state, 1941-1945
4. Bond sales, 1944, 1941-1945
5. War Bond drive, 1941-1945
6. Buildings and homes, 1941-1945
7. Camouflage, 1941-1945
8. Chemical warfare and gas, 1941-1945
9. Churches, 1941-1945
10. Civilian defense, manuals, forms, correspondence, 1941-1945
11. Coast patrol, 1941-1945
12. Communications, 1941-1945
13. Control center, 1941-1944
14. Control center, 1941-1944
15. Control system guide, 1941-1945
16. Correspondence, 1941-1945
17. Defense council, 1941-1945
18. Defense council – names, 1941-1945
19. Defense council – names, 1941-1945
20. Demobilization, 1941-1945
21. Dimout, 1941-1945
22. Disaster relief, 1941-1945
23. Equipment, 1941-1945
24. Examinations, quizzes, etc., 1941-1945
25. Field trials, 1941-1945

#### Box 3

1. Films, 1941-1945
2. Fires, 1941-1945
3. Firewatcher, 1941-1945
4. First aid, 1941-1945

5. Flags, 1941-1945
6. Handicapped, 1941-1945
7. Helmets, 1941-1945
8. "I Am An American" committee, 1941-1945
9. Incident officers, 1941-1945
10. Identification cards, 1941-1945
11. Identification numbers, 1941-1945
12. Industrial plants, 1941-1945
13. Industrial plants, 1941-1945
14. Industries – Underwood Elliott Fisher Co. , 1941-1945
15. Inspections, 1941-1945
16. Inspection tour, 1941-1945
17. Insurance, 1941-1945
18. Juvenile delinquents, 1941-1945
19. Maps, 1941-1945
20. Messengers, 1941-1945
21. Mutual aid, 1941-1945
22. Nurses' aides, 1941-1945
23. Parade, 1941-1945
24. Parking, 1941-1945
25. Police, auxiliary, 1941-1945
26. Police, radio, 1941-1945
27. Pumps, stirrup, 1941-1945
28. Publicity, 1941-1945
29. Publicity, "Aid Raid Wardens Meeting of the Air", 1941-1945
30. Publicity – Aid Raid Warden News, 1941-1945
31. Red cross, 1941-1945
32. Releases, 1941-1945
33. Reports, 1941-1945
34. Rescue squads, 1941-1945
35. Russia, 1941-1945
36. Sand, 1941-1945

#### Box 4

1. Schools, 1941-1945
2. Sector posts, 1941-1945
3. Sector post - finances, 1941-1945
4. Sector wardens, 1941-1945
5. Snow, 1941-1945
6. Speakers, 1941-1945
7. Telephone, 1941-1945
8. Theatrics, 1941-1945
9. Training schools, 1941-1945
10. Uniforms, 1941-1945
11. V-Day, 1941-1945
12. Vehicles, 1941-1945

13. Volunteers, 1941-1945
14. War council, 1941-1945
15. War records, 1941-1945
16. Warning center, 1941-1945
17. Zone wardens, 1941-1945
18. Zones, 1941-1945
19. Zones, misc., mostly Zone 2, 1941-1945
20. Tags for "injuries" , 1941-1945
21. Notebooks with names and numbers, 1941-1945
22. Book, "Names of those who served in various Civil Defense positions in zone 2 ,Bridgeport, CT" 1942-1945
23. Clippings, aid raid wardens, 1941-1945
24. Clippings, air raid wardens, 1941-1945
25. Glass jar with tokens, 1941-1945

Flat file D, Drawer 5

20. Posters with air raid information, 1941-1945
21. Civil defense armbands, 1941-1945

Box 5

Aid raid shelter sign, 1941-1945

Box 6 etc.

Index cards with names and addresses of air raid wardens, Zone 2, undated