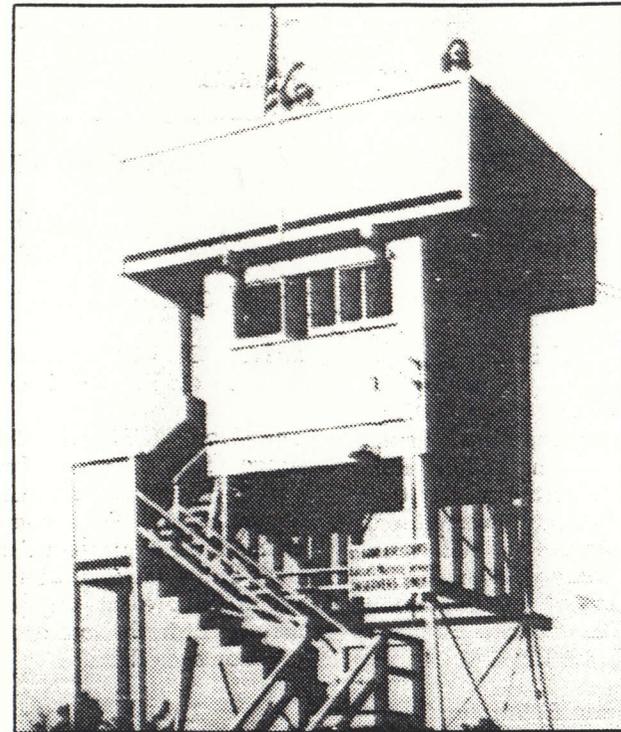


Pictures of the Past
**Old lookout tower
 used during WWII**

The feeling of patriotism during World War II was great and many citizens from Branford helped their country's cause both here and abroad. There was an active group that kept watch over land and sea throughout the war for fear of enemy invasion. The "Aircraft Warning Service," originally part of the American Legion, became a branch of the U.S. Army and Thomas A. Sturges was in charge of the Branford operation.

The first Branford observation tower was on Cocheco Avenue on land donated by Reginald Baldwin and was built November 1940. In April 1941, the old windmill from the Brainerd Hotel in Stony Creek was moved to the Hitchcock property in Pawson Park and was used as the lookout tower. The windmill was originally built by Alvan S. Brainerd to supply running water to the hotel. This tower was moved in December of that year to the top of the hill at Parker Memorial Park with a good view of both water and air. The tower was manned 24 hours a day throughout the entire war.

Members of Branford's Aircraft Warning Service were dedicated citizens and over 100 volunteered their time during World War II. The Branford Point observation tower was finally removed about 1960.



THE BRANFORD POINT observation tower was used during World War II and the Korean War and stood overlooking Parker Memorial Park. It was razed about 1960. (Photo courtesy of Branford Historical Society)