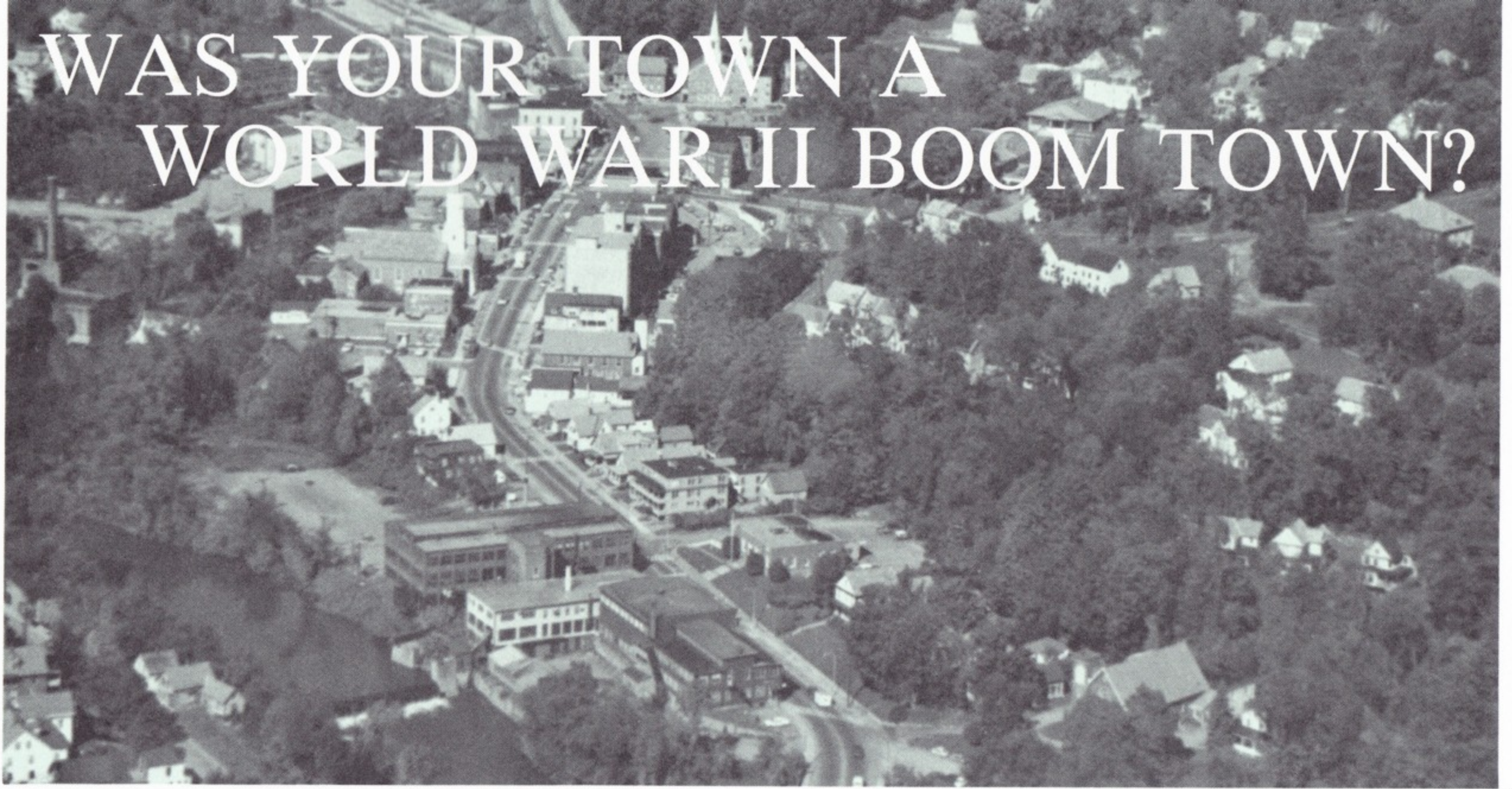


WAS YOUR TOWN A WORLD WAR II BOOM TOWN?



Springfield, Vermont.

What was your town like during World War II? Maybe it was a boom town like Springfield, with machine tool factories running night and day and temporary homes being built to house workers. Maybe it was one of ten air raid warning centers across the state, such as Hartford, Rockingham, Newport, or St. Johnsbury. They were ready to warn nearby towns of enemy bomber attacks. Perhaps your town had vital resources such as major bridges, dams, mines, train yards, reservoirs, or power stations that were guarded from enemy saboteurs by the Vermont Home Guard. Or maybe it was a farming community that provided food for the soldiers and sailors.

If you want to find out the history of your town during the Revolutionary War, there may be books to help you. But to find out about World War II in most communities, you'll have to do the detective work yourself. This might seem tough, but think of it this way. There are no people alive from the Revolutionary War, but there are many men and women in your town

who were actually involved in World War II. Some may be members of your family. People who lived through World War II are a goldmine of information about what life was like back then. Looking at stories and pictures in this *Green Mountaineer* will give you some ideas about what to ask them.

Your town clerk or library might have town reports from the 1940s. Local newspapers are another good source of information on what was happening.

Hint: One way to use what you find is to read about what was happening during the war in other countries. Pick a town or city in England, Germany, or the Soviet Union. Compare what went on there with what went on in your town.

Many towns have written histories, but very few mention World War II. In fact, after talking with local people who remember the war and finding out about your town, writing it all up would be a great class project.