MAXWELL FIELD, Ala. — It probably wouldn't have happened if the Maxwell Field control tower operator hadn't been reading up on camouflage, but

Not long ago, the tower received a radio call from a B-24 signalling that it was on the "base leg," ready to land a Maxwell. The radioman looked out the huge tower windows and saw nothing, but what the heck, he reasoned, the way they paint these things up these days, you can't see 'em half the time anyway. So, he cleared the plane to a landing.

Five minutes later, he got this call: "B-24 to Maxwell Tower. On the ground."

This time the radio traffic [illegible] knew blame well there was [illegible] airplane from which the signal could be emanating, but to make sure, he asked, "Where on the field are you, B-24?"

"Right in front of the tower, came the reply.

The operator leaned out the window and saw nothing. Just before they removed him to psychopathic ward, the telephone rang. It was Gunter Field, seven miles across Montgomery from Maxwell.

"Say," said the Gunter tower operator, "if you're looking for a stray B-24, it landed over here!"