

completed under the competent direction of Brigadier General Mohr and Adjutant General Petrott.

We realize that in the further development of its program, the National Government must rely principally upon the resources which can be afforded by the forty-eight States, of which Maryland is one. Anything affecting the Union of forty-eight States necessarily affects each individual State.

That our Country faces a threat "infinitely greater" than was the case one year ago, when the Selective Service Act was passed by Congress, was declared by President Roosevelt on Monday of this week when he asked Congress for a declaration of full emergency.

To any thinking American the President's statement, startling as it was, should not have been a surprise. International events have developed so swiftly, and so unfavorably from a peace standpoint during the past twelve months, that even the most unwilling minds must have been impressed with the increasing seriousness of our national situation with each succeeding month.

In the brief twelve month period we have seen the map of the world changed almost beyond recognition by the ruthless war-like acts of dictators who have discarded accepted ideas of right and justice, and have adapted the policy of seizing for themselves whatever territory their powerful armies could overwhelm.

Countries whose peoples had no territorial ambitions, who never had the slightest desire to do other than to live their national lives in peace and security, have been captured and enslaved because they were not able to defend themselves against aggression. Never was there a time in the history of the world when force ruled more definitely than it has ruled in the conquest of Continental Europe by the dictator armies.

To their terrible, and possibly everlasting, dismay, the people of these conquered countries discovered, when it was too late, that they could not have peace and security simply because they desired them. They discovered, as many millions of thinking Americans have discovered, and as many more millions of unthinking Americans *must* learn, that in the face of aggression such as is sweeping over the world today, there is no sure way to retain peace and security other than by the one method of being powerful enough to defend national possessions adequately.

Today, of all the once-free peoples of Europe, of all the races liberated and restored to national unity following the first World War, England is the one country that has survived, that still retains its freedom. Only the fact that England has performed an heroic job in staving off the Hitler Blitzkrieg has the tide of totalitarianism been stemmed before it reached the very shores of our own United States.

We need not delude ourselves, either, in the comforting thought that our priceless freedom and individual liberties would have been preserved if the totalitarian armies and airforce could have gotten to us months ago. It is no secret to everyone in this room that we were totally unprepared, when the major conflagration flamed in Europe, to protect ourselves against such a