

CIVILIAN DEFENSE REPORT

October 28, 1942.

Hagerstown

Today one reads in the daily press of the heroism of our armed forces, whose members are making World War Two an era of gallantry, sacrifice, and incredible toughness. In that spirit, Democracy has proven that it has not been found wanting.

At home the same dogged spirit prevails. We now realize that wars are not won by indifference, by dreaming about glory, or by conferences; but only by hard, relentless work, here at home as well as on the battlefield.

Naturally, the first impact of a war offers somethings of a thrill. Victory always seems easier at first than it actually is. Now, after the bitter taste of battles lost and thousands of our valiant boys lost in action, and with the suspense of the current struggle in the Solomons weighing upon us all, we realize the hugeness of the task that the destruction of Japan and Nazi Germany involves.

Not that the hugeness dismays us. We know that we have both the strength and the will to win. And at home the pattern of individual action, individual sacrifice, and individual contribution is rapidly crystallizing.

Right here in Maryland the willingness to do more, and then more, and again more, has been surging like a great ground swell.

This has been gloriously demonstrated in Maryland's Civilian Defense activities.

As early as August, 1940, the shadow of invading hordes that were sweeping over the countries of Europe cast its onionous reflection over our land. We immediately established the Council of Defense. I am happy to report that in this, Maryland again recorded another first to its long and illustrious record of responding to the Country's call in time of need. Maryland was the first State to organize a Defense Council.

Early in 1941 when the Axis unleashed its ruthless aerial blitzkrieg on neutral and undefended nations the need for preparedness became apparent. We were not to be caught napping.

The Maryland Council of Defense issued a call for volunteers to establish Spotter Posts for the Aircraft Warning Service which were being set up under the general direction of the American Legion. This activity was aggressively prosecuted and the response of the people was heartening. Since September, 1941, these Spotter Posts have been functioning steadily and effectively. The people of Maryland owe an everlasting debt of gratitude to the thousands of men and women, whose patriotic devotion to their duties has kept Maryland safe from surprise attack. Today there are over 200 Observation Posts