

## KOPPERS COMPANY—BARTLETT-HAYWARD DIVISION

April 30, 1941

Baltimore

**I**T is an inspiration to come here this afternoon to attend the ceremonies incident upon the delivery to the Ordnance Department of the United States Army of the first Anti-Aircraft Gun Carriers manufactured by the Koppers Company, Bartlett Hayward Division.

The occasion is inspiring because it is one more evidence of the completeness with which the people of Maryland have addressed themselves to the stupendous task of adequate national preparedness.

We, in America, have ever been ready to boast of our splendid production facilities, but boasting of potential production is a meaningless thing except where it can be translated promptly into actual delivery of needed materials.

With these most necessary implements of air defense added to the many hundreds of aircraft of every type now being sent to the Army and Navy and to our British Allies from Maryland, and with the many other desperately needed defense materials under production in factories of Maryland, our State rightly can pride itself on the fact that we have whole-heartedly rallied to the plea from Washington for production without stint.

In past wars all honors have been accorded, and rightly so, to the men on the firing line. Unquestionably, in every war the fighting man will deserve and receive the praise and lasting gratitude of all his fellow-citizens. Today's highly mechanized warfare, however, where speed and overwhelming armaments have upset in a few short months, the whole national situation in Europe, the eyes of the nation will be upon the men on the production lines as well as the men on the firing line.

With this feeling very definitely in our minds, therefore, as we are privileged to participate in these stirring ceremonies, I bring to the officers and workers of the Koppers Company, Bartlett Hayward Division, the confidence of the people of Maryland. We appreciate that your work is of the utmost importance to the continued security of the Nation. We congratulate you on your achievements to date, and bid you God-speed in your future efforts to help consolidate our Country's all-important defense preparations.