

STAR SPANGLED BANNER REGATTA

Maryland Yacht Club, September 12, 1941

Radio Station WCAO

Baltimore

IT is a pleasure, indeed, to have the opportunity to address the radio audience this evening preliminary to the opening of the Maryland Yacht Club's Annual Star Spangled Banner Regatta.

Over a period of years, the Maryland Yacht Club has been instrumental in staging many important regattas, and the program for the ensuing days would indicate that the water sports to be provided will measure up in splendid fashion to the best events of previous years.

Baltimore, of course, has ever been a center of water activities, and the Maryland Yacht Club a Mecca for all who are interested in the varied types of recreation the waterfront affords. While always most important from the sportsman's angle, the activities of the club members take on additional importance in a time of national crisis like this. Yachting today has the very definite function of helping to keep in readiness, and thoroughly prepared, many hundreds of men interested in various types of water craft, who thus will be instantly available for duty in conjunction with the State Guard, the Coast Guard, or the Navy, when and if it is felt necessary to assemble and organize additional harbor and coast protective forces.

One of the largest organizations of its kind in the Country, the Maryland Yacht Club for more than a quarter of a century has been a leading factor in promoting the sport of motor-boating and yachting on the waters of the Chesapeake and its tributaries. Its membership includes persons from all walks of life and from many parts of the State, as well as Baltimore City. The one essential requisite for membership is a true sporting interest in boating.

Naturally, the members are proud of the fact that their organization ranks fourth among the Yacht Clubs of the Nation in membership, and second in the number of vessels in its fleet, which includes practically every type of boat from fast runabouts to the larger sea-going vessels. The club basin ranks well up among the finest boasted by any club in the Country.

This regatta, with its closing spectacle of the bombardment of Fort McHenry, serves as a forceful reminder that, one hundred and twenty-seven years ago tonight, the people of Baltimore faced the gravest crisis with which they ever have been confronted in the several centuries of the existence of this great city.

How well they met and overcame that threat, the annals of our State well record. The story is familiar to every Marylander.

It is quite fitting to have recalled vividly to us, however, through the medium of this State holiday, and through the ceremonies held in connection