

"E" PRESENTATION CEREMONIES
TRIUMPH EXPLOSIVES, INC.

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Elkton

IT is to be admitted, and I think every sensible business man and woman realizes, that there are indeed serious times ahead for America and for our own State, even though we never fire a gun.

There are serious and busy times ahead for our civilian populations, too, if the firing does begin. Never was there a war such as this one! Never before, even when the barbarians of the Middle Ages overran Europe, was there a more brutal disregard of the rights, the safety, the very lives, of non-combatant populations.

Today, as Nazi Germany has established the pattern of total war, the aged, the tiny babe in its cradle, are not spared. Total destruction is the aim and purpose of behind-the-lines bombings, and civilians, therefore, become a major factor in the defense personnel set-up.

If and when such total war should come to America and to Maryland, death and destruction will rain from the skies, on our cities and towns, our roads and our bridges, our factories and our homes. You and I and every able-bodied member of every community, young and old, must be prepared to step into a task that will be assigned, and to perform that task, no matter what comes.

A terrible possibility, yes! But it can be an inspiring one, too. For under such conditions, a populace, a nation can rediscover qualities that possibly have been completely forgotten—can rise to heights of national and spiritual exaltation. England has done just that. Its people have rediscovered their national soul, so to speak. And out of the fire and tempest that now rage around them, the people of Great Britain will emerge revitalized to an appreciation of the truly important things of life.

Honor, courage, fidelity to trust, appreciation of one's fellow-man—these are some of the virtues that stem from great tribulations and from hardships shared together in a righteous cause.

May it never be required of us that we rediscover them in travail and terror, as England has done. But if in the wisdom of a Divine Providence, such is required of us as a Nation, we will live up to the example set by our forebears, we will come through our trial by fire a better Nation, a newly inspired people.

Today there is room for no division of spirit among the people of America. Rather there is a very definite need for reawakening of that spirit of old, that spirit that prompted our fearless and self-reliant pioneer forefathers to overcome every obstacle in their fight against the wilderness, and against the forces