

NAVAL AWARDS PRESENTATION
UNITED STATES NAVAL POWDER FACTORY

November 28, 1941

Indian Head

IT is a splendid tribute to the employees of this important defense centre that the United States Navy has singled them out for recognition for extraordinary proficiency in production. For, of course, any award to the Factory itself is fundamentally an award to the workers who to a great degree have been responsible for the excellent production record.

To anyone who is at all familiar with the record of Maryland's people throughout the past several centuries, there is little cause for surprise in the fact that the efforts of the people of our State to further their Nation's efforts towards defense, are accorded recognition. It is a tradition of our people, and has been from the earliest Colonial times, that when there was a job to be done in defense of their own rights or of the rights of the other States in this great Union, they stepped in and did the job throughly, without fuss and fanfare.

Several weeks ago it was my privilege to witness a similar ceremony in another explosives plant in our State, but I can tell you sincerely that my presence at this second award is increased rather than diminished by this additional evidence of Maryland's complete cooperation in the all-important defense preparedness now facing the Nation.

We, here in America, have grown so accustomed to proclaiming our splendid production facilities, that at times it would seem as though we expected the required materials to appear by magic simply because they are required. This doesn't happen, of course, and any claims of potential production capacities are meaningless except where they can be translated promptly, as has been here at Indian Head, into actual delivery of needed war materials.

With these most necessary ingredients of defense, added to the many other defense implements and armaments of every type now being sent to the United States Army and Navy and to the defenders of Democracy in other lands, the people of our State once again can pride themselves rightly on the fact that we have rallied whole-heartedly to the plea from Washington for production without stint.

The great degree of efficiency here at Indian Head, as indicated by the awards being made this morning, is typical of the manner in which the United States Navy is tackling the stupendous task of defense preparedness generally throughout the Nation and in our far-flung possessions. It helps to explain the great naval achievements of the distant and recent pasts, achievements of which the American people have ever been proud, and rightly so.

In past years all honors have been accorded to the men on the firing line. Unquestionably, in every war the fighting man will deserve and receive the