

Fortunately there is opportunity in this many sided war for every one of us to do our part to the very limit. There is service in the military forces; there is equally vital service in the industrial plants; there is a place for everyone in Civilian Defense and in the new Maryland Minute Men.

Further, there is not only the opportunity, but the inescapable duty laid upon everyone, to contribute generously to finance our Country's war burden, directly in the ratio of our ability. Unless our citizens rally as generously in the matter of buying Defense bonds and stamps as their sons and brothers are rallying to the military forces, they can certainly never be satisfied that they are doing their part to uphold the obligations of American citizenship.

We are in this war, gentlemen, to the point where we cannot afford to overlook even one effort that might advance our cause. We are at a tremendous disadvantage also. The Japanese have at their very front door, so to speak, possibly the richest empire in the world and they have been alert to their opportunities. They are seizing not only our American possessions, but possessions of our Allies, the products of which are absolutely necessary to our economic existence. We must not only defend the few possessions still remaining to us, but we must tackle the tremendous task of recovering what has been lost not only by us, but by the valiant Dutch and by our English and Australian Allies.

Every effort we make in this Far Eastern field entails the transportation of men, of tanks, of fighting planes, and munitions, and supplies of every type over a distance of 5,000 to 8,000 miles, through oceans where enemy submarines and battle units provide a constant threat. It seems to irk a good many of our people that Japan is able to transport men and fighting material thousands of miles in either direction as they have done. However, they have countless island outposts, while we have practically none outside of Hawaii and the Australian area.

We started late to think about these things, and we gave Japan every opportunity to jump in ahead and take the prized island possessions. That is tragic, indeed, but it is the price apparently we must pay, and always be prepared to pay, for the priceless privilege of Democracy.

Is this too severe a price to pay? I think not. No price is too high for the privilege of calling one's soul one's own. Our ancestors from the days of Valley Forge and before, we willing to give their very lives to secure the things we now are asked to defend. The vast difference is that they were willing to fight and die for an opportunity to live in freedom. We, thanks to their efforts, actually have enjoyed, and are enjoying, this free way of life. To do otherwise than to defend it now, at whatever cost may be necessary, would be treason, indeed, to the memory of those brave ancestors, and to the traditions of independence handed down to us through the 160 years of our National existence.

We *won't* fail now, because there is too much at stake. America never has known defeat in war, and it never will! Slowly to start, by God's grace America will quickly gain the momentum necessary to out-produce and to out-fight all the forces our dictator foes can rally against us.