

sary to organize such units suggests the type of war in which we are engaged, and the dangers that threaten us, as a State, from participation in this conflict.

Why should we have aircraft spotters, emergency squads, medical, fire, police auxiliaries, and all the other Civilian Defense units, except in anticipation of hostile attacks, and because we know not what form they will assume, or when to expect them?

There is a very important word in the dictionary these days, which has been rediscovered for military purposes. It is a word which in this war can mean victory or defeat. That is the word "surprise."

Hitler knew what that word meant when his officers breathlessly reported to him that Allied Commandos had made surprise raids upon Norway. Hirohito had that word indelibly impressed upon him when apologetic generals announced to him that American bombers were over Tokyo, and were dropping bombs on that allegedly "sacred" city. Both of these inhuman rulers will have plenty of worries in the future when they find out what kind of surprise parties are being planned for them at this moment by the greatest military planner of all times, our own General Douglas MacArthur.

However, let us come home to Maryland. It would be reassuring if we could tell you definitely that these surprises were only to be one-sided—that is, against the Axis. Unfortunately, we cannot. The enemy has surprises for us too. But rest assured that, as far as it has been humanly possible to do, every effort has been made, and every means at our command used, to prepare this State of Maryland so completely, so efficiently, that we will be ready for any eventuality.

In many conferences with the responsible military officials we have been assured of adequate military protection in case of enemy attacks on Maryland. Similar reassurance has resulted from repeated conferences with ranking officials of the Navy. Maryland's shoreline, so vulnerable to enemy attack and to hostile landing forces, is being patrolled day and night, and its strategic points are as safe as military preparedness can make them.

However, we haven't stopped there. Marylanders have always been ready and proud to defend their own State against any enemy. That spirit accounts for the excellent trained soldiers in the Maryland State Guard, of which you have just witnessed such splendid examples. These men, many of them veterans of the last war, have given generously of their time and efforts to insure for the people of Maryland, for their own families and homes, the utmost possible protection. During a recent inspection by Army officials, the Maryland State Guard was complimented highly for its efficiency, its high calibre of men and its discipline. You may be sure it will be maintained on its present high plane.

Nor have we stopped even here, in the matter of providing protection for Maryland. There is still another organization of Reserve Militia Men, which will be most important in taking the "surprise" out of any Axis attacks on Maryland. These recently organized patriotic citizens in the Maryland Minute Men even now number more than 6,000 strong. Formed in companies of 50 men