

thousands now engaged in less essential work will have to be switched to essential industries. It will mean, too, that hundreds of thousands of women, many of whom have never been inside a factory or plant, must come forward and patriotically take their place on this vital production line.

The third phase of America's all-out effort, the protection of our homeland against possible attack or emergency, is one that most, if not all of you, understand pretty thoroughly. Harford County and Aberdeen are well represented among the 165,000 volunteers who are listed under the Banner of Civilian Defense here in Maryland. These volunteers have been given training in such important activities as air raid wardens, air raid spotters, auxiliary firemen and police, fire watchers, medical and first aid personnel, etc. Every resident of the county who has volunteered for this work and who has given the necessary time to training deserves the fullest praise of all our people.

Thanks, too, are due the 15,000 patriotic men of this County and the State who constitute the Maryland State Guard and Maryland Minute Men. It is pleasing to note that Federal recognition has been won by the State Guard, as being in the forefront of State Units for efficiency, discipline and equipment.

The Minute Men, banded together for the defense of their own communities, likewise have won the most sincere praise possible—their set-up is being copied, in some cases even to such details as uniforms, by various other states of the Nation. And let me say right here, the Maryland Units are ones of which any state might well be proud.

We may never have a hostile attack or a dire emergency created by the war. God grant that we may not! Because we have not had such a visitation up to now is no indication that we won't have one tomorrow. Experience has shown that the Nation, the State and the community prepared to absorb such a shock, is the one that suffers least and rallies quickest. For two years, efforts have been directed towards insuring the preparedness of our State for anything that might happen. I believe we are prepared!

While expecting a long war and realizing the full extent of United Nations setbacks of recent weeks, it is possible, however, to take some satisfaction in developments that have indicated the growing strength of America's might, and the increasing force with which America is being prepared to strike.

From Europe now comes the news that American-made bombers, flown by American pilots, are participating in raids upon German-held countries and upon the centers of the German war industries. Following the accomplishments of American land and sea planes in the recent Coral Sea and Midway victories, and the severe damage wrought upon battleships of the Italian Fleet by American long-range bombers, it is safe to predict, and it is cheering to contemplate, vastly increased participation by American flying forces in the fighting on Europe's second front, now being conducted through the air.

Those whose duty it is to check on German broadcasts know full well the tremendous damage that is being inflicted upon Germany by the large scale bombings conducted from hundreds of flying fields throughout Great Britain. Some of Germany's Great war plants, several of their key war ports, have been