



AIRCRAFT WARNING *Volunteer*

Editorial

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"...the German people are becoming anxious over British and American air raids. They see their cities crumbling into ruins without any counter-action by the Luftwaffe."

Major General Ralph Royce, Commanding General, First Air Force, Mitchel Field, New York, made this statement in an address at Soldiers' Field, Chicago. General Royce keyed the need for alertness in the maintenance of our defenses, for constant preparedness against sudden aerial attack.

"American daylight raids have been particularly devastating," he pointed out. "What is more natural than that the Germans' desire for reprisals, which was first directed against Britain, should be turned against the United States? Nazi leaders are threatening to raid New York, Boston and Washington. What could raise German spirits more than a statement that their planes were bombing New York?"

"In raiding our cities Hitler might figure on being able to force us to keep a large portion of our offensive weapons on this side for defensive purposes. If he could thereby induce us to keep thousands of fighters and anti-aircraft guns on this side, which would otherwise be used against him in Europe, he would have achieved a major victory."

General Royce's words of warning were reemphasized by a declaration of Colonel George Baehr, chief medical officer of the OCD in Washington, before a recent meeting of the Medical Society of the State of New York.

Colonel Baehr warned that we are in as great danger as we ever were of air attacks on our seaport towns and industrial centers on both the Pacific and Atlantic.

"The technique of air raids," he said, "is quite different today from what it was during the first two years of the war."

"The increased use of incendiaries has greatly changed the technique of civilian defense. Today a moderate-sized squadron of planes can drop 100,000, even as many as 200,000, incendiary bombs over a city within an incredibly short time. Coming at a time when high explosives of large caliber have been dropped, essential services are disrupted and water supply may be cut off."

"How likely are we to have air raids? In view of the present occupation of North Africa and Dakar our Gulf Coast will not need as great a measure of protection as the rest of our coastline. But on the Pacific Coast and on the East Coast... we are in as great danger as we ever were."

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Ground Observers and Information and Filter Center Workers of the
Aircraft Warning Service of this Command.
Brigadier General Glenn O. Barcus, Commanding General

