

BEFORE THE BOMBERS COME  
APRIL 6, 1942  
KGW...6-6:30 Pm

8 (Radio 1) Bomb Raid 31/18

THEME: MARTIAL MUSIC UP AND TO BG FOR:

TRANS: EXCERPS ROOSEVELT'S DECLARATION OF WAR.

THEME: UP AND OUT

VOICE: Do authorities expect the West Coast to be bombed?

VOICE #2: Yes.

VOICE: When?

VOICE #2: Don't know.

VOICE: If a bomb sets my house on fire during a raid, shall I call the fire department?

VOICE #2: No!

VOICE: Who will keep my house from burning down?

VOICE #2: You will!

VOICE: How can I put out my own fires?

VOICE #2: We'll teach you.

VOICE: Who saved London from the Nazi bombers?

VOICE #2: The common people.

VOICE: What can I do in an air raid?

VOICE #2: Plenty.

VOICE: Who will protect Oregon from enemy bombing?

VOICE #2: Ladies and Gentlemen, It's your job! That's the title of the first lesson in "Before the Bombers Come", an official program presented by station KGW in cooperation with the Oregon State Defense Council and the City of Portland Defense Council. This is a radio school to teach every Oregon citizen how to protect himself and his family, his property and his home during enemy air raids. Every week at this time outstanding experts in every phase of civilian defense will answer important questions on each subject in this series of vital, informative broadcasts!

VOICE: Says Governor Charles A. Sprague, State Defense director....

TRANS: SPRAGUE TALK

VOICE #2: Says Mayor Earl Riley, Portland metropolitan area defense director.

TRANS: RILEY TALK

VOICE: Today's experts who will tell you why it's your job -- why it must be your job -- why only the common citizen can protect our territory from the results of enemy bombing, will be Captain Edward Boatwright, Portland co-ordinator of civilian defense and Mr. Jerrold Owen, State Defense co-ordinator. They will be interviewed by Mr. Robert Smith, who compiled the State of Oregon's official Air Raid Information booklet.

Mr. Smith.....

SMITH:

Ladies and gentlemen we are living in a new world. It may not be a very pleasant one but it's undeniably a different world than the one we were brought up in. If the events of today could have been anticipated it's quite possible that we would have studied first aid instead of algebra, fire fighting instead of Latin, during our school days. But since we were not educated for a world at war in our youth we must now do the next best thing, we must educate ourselves to cope with the conditions that are facing us now, and as rapidly as possible. Because civilian defense is not the job of the army, the navy, or the police force. It's your job. Tonight we are going to tell you what the job consists of and then you will see why it's a job that you have to do for yourself. There simply isn't any other way.

Mr. Owen, what is the FIRST thing that the people must know about civilian defense?

OWEN:

I'd say that the best place to start is the AIR RAID SHELTER. Everyone must know how, when and where to take shelter when the bombers come. Actual statistics from England's experience show that for every thousand people taking no shelter at all there are ten times as many casualties as among the same number of people taking the proper shelter.

SMITH:

What do you mean by the proper shelter? Specially built cellars, subway tubes, concrete vaults...that sort of thing?

OWEN:

No, I mean just the ordinary forms of shelter now available to our people...in homes and in downtown buildings...if you know where to go you're ten times as safe as if you were in the open.

SMITH:

Now you can see that knowledge of shelter is YOUR JOB.. no one else can take shelter for you..you have to know it yourself and when you tune in next week's program you'll hear all about it .. every detail...Captain Boatwright after shelter, what?

BOAT: I'd say that the next lesson should be ADVANCE PRECAUTIONS. The special supplies that you should have on hand in your home and in your office building. And the things that you should do right now...before the bombers come, so that you'll be ready for them when they do come.

SMITH: What do you mean...exactly...by things to do right now?

BOAT: I'll give you one small example... Do you know how many steps there are on your front porch? Count them and memorize the number. Many air raids have produced as many blackout accidents as bomb casualties. You're far less apt to fall down a flight of steps in the dark if you know where they are and how many in advance. Of course that's only a trivial example.

SMITH: Right and we're going to devote an entire program to these advance precautions, even down to telling you why the Englishman who takes a bath leaves the dirty water in the tub. There's a reason for that, too.

Now Captain Rogers, I've noticed that both Mr. Owen and Captain Boatwright used the same phrase. They didn't say IF the bombers come they said WHEN. That sounds like we're expecting company. What do you think?

ROGERS: I haven't had the pleasure of looking over Hirohito's shoulder but it's my personal belief that the Pacific Coast will be bombed and probably at not too distant a date. That's because it would be pretty obvious military strategy for the Axis to do everything possible to influence America toward keeping its army, navy and air force close to home. They would naturally prefer to attack the United Nations one at a time. And even a dozen bombing planes, raiding from an aircraft carrier could drop ten thousand incendiary bombs on Portland.

SMITH: That brings us to the next part of our job. Captain Boatwright, you're an expert on anything incendiary tell us why it's our job, and not the fire department's to put our incendiary bombs.

BOAT: Because one airplane can carry thousands of magnesium bombs. They only weigh 2 pounds apiece so a thousand of them makes just a ton. There just isn't any fire department in the world that can be in a thousand places at one time. But incendiary bombs only start small fires and if the people can put out 990 of the 1000 fires while they're still little ones the fire department can take care of the ten that aren't caught in time and have become big fires.

SMITH: The idea of the members of my bridge club putting out 990 fires is a little startling to me and I suppose there are many people listening in who may doubt their ability to put out an incendiary bomb. So I think this would be a good time for Mr. Owen to tell us that story about the corus girls. Jerry, what about those London dancers.

OWEN: INSERT DRAMATIZATION

SMITH: So bombs are your job, too. We're going to have a number of programs about bombs. Captain Rogers suppose you tell us the first thing people must know about bombs?

ROGERS: First you must know one kind of bomb from another. You will find that necessary because you have to know what kind of bomb you're dealing with because different types demand different methods. And since you're the person who has to handle the bomb you're the one who will have to tell them apart.

SMITH: Is that a hard job, Captain, telling them apart?

ROGERS: No, it's comparatively easy. In fact that will be the smallest of your problems.

SMITH: Now Captain Boatwright, after the bombs fall then what? What's the next part of the job.?

BOAT: Escape and Rescue, I'd say. And since you're the person that will have to escape you'll have to learn how to do it for yourself.

SMITH: Good, we'll have a program on that. And suppose you give us one little example of the things to be discussed on that program.

BOAT: Suppose we start with jumping out of windows. People are often trapped on upper stories during a fire.

SMITH: Is there a technique for jumping out of a window?

BOAT: You bet there is. In the first place you don't jump, you hang from a sill and drop. That makes your fall about 8 feet shorter and it assures you of landing feet first. Then you land with your knees bent and you get a sprained ankle, maybe, instead of a broken neck.

SMITH: And since you have to do the jumping it's your job to learn the technique. Alright, Mr. Owen, suppose you tell us the next step.

OWEN: Now that You've sprained that ankle some one will have to take care of it. That means first aid. So we'll devote one program to elementary first aid. And the first element is to make sure that no one does the wrong thing.

SMITH: Suppose you give us an example of the wrong thing?

OWEN: To start with one that some people may regret I am sorry to tell you that the traditional drink of whiskey for an injured person may often do a lot of harm and rarely do any good.

SMITH: What about gas, Captain Rogers, whose job is gas.

ROGERS: We have many trained squads of experts to solve the gas problems but the first problem is that of getting away from it so we'll devote one radio program to teaching the fundamentals of recognizing and avoiding gas.

SMITH: Captain Boatwright, tell us something about the actual value of civilian defense training for every man and woman, as we know it

SMITH:

CON'T.

from the experience of that thoroughly bombed city, London England.

BOAT:

The first all out German air raids over London were toward the end of 1940. On Dec. 29 and 30 London was the victim of what was the most destructive air raid in history. Hundreds were killed, thousands were injured and the property damage ran into billions of dollars. If these raids had continued on the same scale there just wouldn't be a London by now. But the R.A.F. made the raids costly to Germany by the number of raiding planes they destroyed in combat over the city and a program of citizen education, like the one we are now undertaking, taught the people how to cope with the fires from incendiary bombing and how to protect themselves by taking proper shelter. The result was that subsequent raids did comparatively little damage and England seems to have now created a successful defense against air raid bombing.

SMITH:

But that doesn't mean that we, on the Pacific Coast, have a successful defense against bombing.

BOAT:

Not unless the people learn the same lessons that the people of London learned.

SMITH:

And now, Mr. Owen, will you tell us about the State of Oregon's Air Raid manual...the little 24 page illustrated booklet that you have been distributing during the past two weeks.

OWEN:

The State of Oregon's Air Raid Information manual was designed to serve as a text book for the entire civilian education problem. It covers all the fundamental information you should know, in a concise form with 70 diagrams to show you exactly what to do in any emergency. We have printed half a million copies of this booklet and we hope to have one in every home in Oregon. There is a little hole punched in the upper right hand corner so that you

OWEN: CONT

can hang it up in the same place at all times, so that you'll always know exactly where it is and can refer to it quickly in any emergency. It is the first Air Raid citizen's textbook to be printed by any state in America though I understand that the State of Washington printed one about two weeks later and other states are now following suit.

SMITH: And that brings us down to your home work assignment. Every week over this program we are going to ask you to fulfill one assignment before the next week's program. This week we ask you to read the State of Oregon's Air Raid Information Booklet and have it handy by your side when you tune into next week's program for the experts that explain civilian defense to you in detail can be understood far more easily if you refer to the booklet as they go along. If you haven't received your copy of the booklet your county defense co-ordinator has extra copies or you can get one from the radio station to which you are listening.

Remember that civilian defense is your job.

ANNOUNCER: Next week's program in the joint State of Oregon and City of Portland citizen's school of defense will be devoted to Air Raid Shelter. It will tell you exactly where to go for instant protection at the first sound of the Air Raid Warning Signal. Mr. Smith will ask the questions of Fire Chief Grenfell of Portland, Jack Hayes, the State Fire Marshal's expert on civilian defense and John Cartwright, president of the Oregon Institute of Architects. Tune in next week at \_\_\_\_\_ and let's be ready before the Bombers Come.

THEME: UP TO FILL