

2nd Radio 3 AIR RAID 3/14 1942
Commissioner Fred L. Peterson, director of the Air Raid Warden organization for the Portland and Multnomah County Civilian Defense Council.

Inf + P.R. Jones
PETERSON: In a few moments you are going to hear a remarkable electrical transcription that will bring you the actual on-the-scene sounds of a London air raid. These are sounds of a hell that I hope we in the United States will never experience. Yet, no matter how much we wish and hope, we must be prepared to meet bombings from the enemy, should "it happen here." Just because we haven't yet received a visit from the Japs doesn't assure us that it can't or won't "happen here". The Japs have planes that can easily make the round trip to Portland with a full load of bombs, from their bases in the Aleutian Islands. We have important military objectives in Portland--- our shipyards that are turning out ships that are supplying our forces in the fighting areas all over the Pacific theater. I believe that the Japs definitely would like to hamper this production. I believe in General DeWitt who said--"That the Japs bomb the mainland of the United States is a military necessity."

We are not going to be caught unprepared in Portland. Our Civilian Defense organization is well established and working. Our protective services have been practicing constantly for nearly two years now to perfect civilian protection measures that will be responsible--- we feel sure--- in saving many lives should we be bombed. Thousands of air raid wardens have given unselfishly of their time to attend warden schools, to inspect their neighbors homes and pass along information to their neighbors as to what is expected of them when the

emergency comes.

Around the air raid warden revolves the whole of Civilian Defense protection. It is upon his shoulders that the responsibilities of all phases of protection rest. He is the man--- and the only man--- who can call upon emergency services during a bombing. He is the only man who is trained to determine whether an incendiary fire in your home must be controlled by you and your neighbors or by the fire fighting auxiliary. He is the boss of your block during an emergency. He is the man to whom you might owe your life when and if we are bombed by the enemy.

The air raid wardens chore during these times when even the most pessimistic of us secretly believes that it "can't happen here.", has been a hard one. But he has kept doggedly at work to prepare for the worst... constantly reminding himself that the persons at Pearl Harbor, at Manila, at Singapore, and at Hong Kong also felt that "it can't happen here." Not until after we actually are bombed ~~we~~ will we appreciate the work and loyalty of these 8000 air raid wardens who have trained themselves to protect us.

Men of Portland, if you are not yet enrolled in any branch of Civilian Defense, may I urge you to contact Civilian Defense headquarters, Southwest Fifth and Main, tomorrow. Civilian Defense needs men of character and responsibility to take over vacancies in the Air Raid Warden organization. The work is interesting, and, as you will realize after hearing this transcription of an actual raid on London, it is important to yours, your family's and your community's protection.