

## The St. Lawrence Plaindealer

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### AS TO CIVILIAN DEFENSE

As part of the concern felt by the people of this country over the damage wrought by the Japs in their initial surprise attacks, it was inevitable that every community, from New York City down to the smallest hamlet, began wondering about its own defenses. The question arose, "What can we do about it? What are we doing?"

The answer to America's apparent lethargy in perfecting her home defense has been the attitude that "It can't happen here." Now that it has happened things are moving, our people are awake to the danger, steps are being taken.

A reassuring note has been struck in this country. We have not all been idle. The country's listening and aerial observation posts are organized and manned by volunteer workers. In the Gouverneur area under Albert Boughner's leadership a whole program of civilian and home defense has been worked out in detail. In effect the Gouverneur group has been the proving ground for the rest of the county. Now that they have studied out the best methods to adopt, and how to follow them, other communities can profit by this advance preparation and build up their own organizations quickly and with a minimum of lost motion.

At Potsdam an excellent company of home guards have drilled and been in training for months. Very probably they will be available to aid in organizing and drilling companies in other sections of the county. Ogdensburg and Massena, both of whom have major defense industries to protect, are at work on their civilian defense programs. It will be seen that a start has been made here in this county. Sheriff Sam Jule already has a county-wide organization on police defense formed.

## Defense Council Seeks Voluntary Registration

TO ALL CITIZENS OF ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY:—

Your attention is directed that a general sign-up for Civilian Defense will be held throughout the districts outside the Gouverneur area on Friday, December 19. This includes the towns of Hammond, Morristown, Hopkinton, Oswegatchie, Lisbon, Waddington, Louisville, Massena, Brasher, Lawrence, Pierrefield, Colton, Parishville, Stockholm, Norfolk, Madrid, Potsdam, Pierrepont, Clare, Canton, and DePeyster, and the northern half of the town of DeKalb and a small portion in the North Russell section of Russell. The remainder of the County has all ready been partly or wholly signed up under the direction of Albert Boughner of Gouverneur and is all ready under his direction.

Your cooperation in this matter is requested by the St. Lawrence County Defense Council. It is necessary to know all persons who are able to assist in an emergency or in getting ready for an emergency, if one arises.

The questionnaires are designed to show what various persons are qualified to do, and when they are completed they will be tabulated so that each person will be classified in the class of work that he is best qualified to do.

The Supervisor of each town is in charge of the sign-up by volunteers who will help him. In most instances the sign-up will be conducted at the Town Hall or office of the Supervisor. Notification of any change in place will be given from the Town Officials in the town.

In the Town of Brasher, the sign-up will be held in the American Legion Rooms, and in Helena, at the office of the Town Clerk. The office of the Executive Secretary of the St. Lawrence County Defense Council will be open all week, and any who desire to receive information or sign-up at that place may do so. We will also be ready to receive the forms as soon as they are filled out at the various places in the various towns.

A meeting of the St. Lawrence County Defense Council was held Monday evening to coordinate the work of the Civilian Defense enrollment, and other matters pertaining to the Defense of this county.

Your cooperation with the Defense Council in the matter of Civilian Defense is urgently requested.

**YOUR COUNTRY, YOUR STATE, AND YOUR COUNTY  
NEED YOUR SERVICES. PLEASE ASSIST YOUR TOWN OFFICIALS IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE.**

The office of the Executive Secretary is in the office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, Court House, Canton, N. Y.

All of these various measures have been carried into effect quietly under the leadership of the County Defense Council. Communities which are interested in aiding with this program, and in perfecting their own local organizations, should first consult with the County Defense Council. This will expedite whatever programs are followed, and will eliminate any unnecessary or overlapping efforts, and will also comply with state laws. This all means that the people in each and every community will be called upon to share in building up

the home defense and thus placing themselves in a position to render the most effective aid in the event there is need. No person can afford to feel "it can't happen here" even if the country seems to settle back into a state of placid security as our armed forces swing into action against the enemies on our east and west coastlines. In place of the feeling "it can't happen here" comes the realization that it is not too late for us to act.