

SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED

BEFORE WOMEN'S CLUB

I want to talk to you today; not as members of this organization but as the mothers and wives and relatives of men who are serving in the Armed Forces!

I think this community is doing its part in the war effort. I think the women of this community are doing their part in the war effort. We are buying War Bonds, working in the Red Cross, giving blood to the Blood Donor Center, doing all the things we are called upon to do, and doing them well.

But at times we have felt, and still feel, I think, that we would like to do more, something bigger, more direct. If you feel that, and I believe you do, you will be glad to hear that we now have a chance to do that something more and bigger - to do something that can be of great help, in a sense, a direct help, toward making the war end sooner - toward bringing our men back not only sooner, but safe, and alive.....

I don't know whether most of you know much about the technical side of fighting a war - I am sure I don't. But last Tuesday at a meeting in the office of our Mayor, I learned a few things about that technical side which I think you will want to hear. The meeting was called at the request of Lt. Col. Donald R. Hyde, Commanding Officer of the Sunflower Ordnance Works.

What Col. Hyde said added up to something that I never realized before - that long range artillery is not just something that destroys and kills; it is also something that saves lives, something that is saving, right now, the lives of thousands of American boys.

Here are just two examples, both from the Battle of Cassino in the Italian campaign.

Our infantry was preparing to attack the town of Fondi, which was strongly held by the Germans. For the infantry to attack with only their rifles and light artillery would have