

WOMEN'S CLUB SPEECH - CONTINUED

cost many American lives. So our 240-millimeter howitzers - they are called the "Black Dragons" - were brought into action; they shelled Fondi, the Germans retreat - those that were left of them - and our infantry captured the town quickly and with few casualties.

Later, an enemy supply route west of Cassino needed to be blocked. The job could have been done with infantry - but at great cost. Instead, the Black Dragons shelled a sharp corner in the narrow twisting mountain road, destroyed the road itself and all German equipment that came along it.

In both of these cases, because our troops had plenty of heavy guns and plenty of heavy ammunition for those guns, many American lives were saved.

That brings us to the reason for that meeting in the Mayor's office. Unless the production of heavy gun ammunition is increased, there will be a serious, dangerous shortage in a few months. And unless a great many men and women who are now doing other kinds of work go to work in plants which make heavy gun ammunition - plants like the Sunflower Ordnance Works at Lawrence - that production cannot be increased.

Ladies this community has got to see to it that Sunflower Ordnance Works gets its workers - we, as representatives of this community, have got to see to it. It will not be easy, but we have been faced with other things that are not easy, yet we have succeeded in doing them, and I am sure we will not fall down this time. It will be a big job and a hard job, with some real problems to solve.

First, there is the question of the danger involved in working in shell-loading and powder plants. There is no denying that it is dangerous - but people forget, I think, that just because it is recognized as dangerous, many unusual precautions are taken, and many special safety devices are used.

No one who works in powder plants, no one who even visits them is allowed to wear anything or carry anything - not even a compact or a lipstick, if they are made of metal - which might strike a spark. Much of the work is done from behind great concrete walls by mechanical means with the worker operating machines through small windows.

And the results of these precautions are quite surprising. Only one industry has a better accident record than our ammunition plants. That industry is the one which makes women's clothes!