



***“...FOR HIGH ACHIEVEMENT
IN THE PRODUCTION OF
WAR EQUIPMENT AND A
SYMBOL OF OUTSTANDING
CONTRIBUTION TO THE WAR
EFFORT AND TO THE FUTURE
OF AMERICA.”***



PRESENTATION
of the
ARMY-NAVY PRODUCTION AWARD
to

THE FIRESTONE COTTON MILLS, INC.
GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA

2:30 P. M.

MARCH 27, 1944

FIRESTONE COTTON MILLS





WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

26 February 1944

To the Men and Women
of the Gastonia Plant
Firestone Cotton Mills, Incorporated
The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company
Gastonia, North Carolina

This is to inform you that the Army and Navy
are conferring upon you the Army-Navy Production Award
for high achievement in the production of war material.

Your patriotism, as shown by your remarkable
production record, is helping our country along the road
to victory. May I extend to you men and women of the
Gastonia Plant my congratulations for accomplishing more
than once seemed reasonable or possible.

In conferring this award, the Army and Navy will
give you a flag to fly above your plant and will present
to every individual within it a lapel pin symbolic of
leadership on the production front.

Sincerely yours,

Robert P. Patterson
Under Secretary of War



PROGRAM OF PRESENTATION

"AMERICA"

The Firestone Choral Club and Audience

★

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

HUGH JAMES, Master of Ceremonies

★

PRESENTATION OF THE ARMY-NAVY PRODUCTION AWARD

BRIGADIER GENERAL H. F. SAFFORD, Chief, Production Service Branch,
Ordnance Department, United States Army

★

RAISING OF ARMY-NAVY AWARD FLAG

Color Guard, United States Air Forces

★

ACCEPTANCE OF THE AWARD

HAROLD MERCER, Vice President and General Manager,
The Firestone Cotton Mills, Inc.

★

PRESENTATION OF AWARD PINS

CAPTAIN A. T. CLAY, United States Navy, Retired.
Commanding Officer, Naval R. O. T. C. Unit and V-12 School, Duke University,
Durham, North Carolina.

★

ACCEPTANCE OF AWARD PINS

BEN DAVIS, Employee Representative

★

"NATIONAL ANTHEM"

The Firestone Choral Club and Audience



THE ARMY-NAVY PRODUCTION AWARD

IN 1906 the Navy instituted in the Fleet an award for excellence which has been known ever since as the Navy "E." First awarded for excellence in gunnery, this was later extended to include outstanding performance in engineering and communications. An honor not easily won nor lightly bestowed, it became and has remained a matter of deep pride to the men of the Service who receive it.

When the rising tide of war in Europe placed a premium on the production of war equipment, the Navy "E" award was extended to embrace those plants and organizations which showed excellence in producing ships, weapons, and equipment for the Navy.

Then came Pearl Harbor — and with it a demand for war production such as the world has never known an awareness that our fighting forces and the men and women of American industry are partners in the great struggle for human freedom and on the part of all Americans a grim and enduring resolve to work and fight together until victory in that struggle is final and complete.

From that high resolve was born the Army-Navy Production Award — which stands today as our fighting forces' joint recognition of exceptional performance on the production front of the determined, persevering, unbeatable American spirit which can be satisfied only by achieving today what yesterday seemed impossible.

