

The Evansville Home Front

- 1) January 1942 Chrysler Plant gets contract from the government
 - a) Renamed Evansville Ordnance Plant
 - b) Creates steel jackets for .45 cal bullets & .30 cal bullets
 - i) Produces 3 billion rounds
 - ii) 96% of total rounds fired in WWII
 - iii) Sept 43 had 12,500 @ ten times number making cars
 - c) Refurbished @ 1,300 Sherman tanks
 - d) Refurbished many army trucks
 - e) At war's end got contract to build 7,000,000 fire bombs

- 2) Republic Aviation started construction of plant March 22
 - a) First p-47 flies Sept 18
 - b) 6,000 produced nearly ½ total production

- 3) Serval Inc converts from refrigerators to wings
 - a) Also fire units for field ranges
 - b) Cartridge cases, & gun breaches

- 4) Hoosier Lamp & Stamping makes ice cube trays & similar products
 - a) Made tail surfaces
 - b) Made other aircraft parts

- 5) International Steel makes pontoon bridges

- 6) The Evansville Modification Plant starts up
 - a) Altered aircraft for allied use world wide
 - b) Changed markings to native tongue
 - c) Fitted devices for use from sub-zero Arctic to sand swept, blistering hot desert

- 7) Evansville Shipyard started March 11
 - a) first L. S. T. launched October 31
 - b) in 15 months 15 launched
 - c) 171 produced totally & 31 smaller vessels made
 - d) 326 feet long 50 feet wide (use football field dimensions to gage size)
 - e) 480 tons loaded (38 R. R. cars ammo) (38 R. R. cars beer)
 - f) Draft 2'4" front 7'6" back empty. 8'2" front 14'1" stern loaded
 - g) 12 knots (15 mph) full speed

- h) 110 men + officers crew
 - i) Arms 8 40mm cannon, 12 20mm cannon anti-aircraft protection
 - j) L. S. T. Landing Ship Tank LARGE SLOW TARGET
 - k) 1 named Vanderburgh
 - l) 19,600 people employed at plant
- 8) Peak work force 46,800
- a) 1300 women
 - b) At wars end shipyard sold to International Harvester fraction cost for ref mfg.
 - c) January 1946 Republic plant burned to ground
 - d) 75% of all business were making products for war
 - e) big reason for plant locations were effort of civic leaders led by Mayor William Dress