Spalding Wins Second “E”

IN less than a month after A. G. Spalding & Bros. Brooklyn, N. Y. factory had received the Army and Navy “E” for excellence in war production, a duplicate award was conferred on the firm’s Chicopee and Willimansett, Mass., plants, in a ceremony at the Municipal Auditorium, Springfield, November 30.

Within these factories a unique example of industrial conversion began to take place even before the date of the Pearl Harbor attack. Sporting goods machinery made way for a new and different variety. Whole sections turned from the manufacture of golf clubs and Lastbuilt basketballs to the production of microscopically accurate war products. Almost overnight tennis racket experts acquired precision in the manufacture of aircraft parts.

The award was outstanding in the athletic equipment industry because it was the second honor to be conferred for excellence, not alone in the manufacture of sporting goods, but in the production of a large variety of items for front-line battle use; such articles as 20 mm. projectiles and parts for 155 mm. shells, parts for tommy guns and carbines and rifles, sections of gas masks and planes, and parts for electronic devices. Each represents a job of conversion accomplished by Spalding’s management and workers alone, “without outside aid. Production records by Spalding employees for civilian athletic requirements as well as military and naval needs were praised by Brig. Gen. E. L. Ford, office of Chief of Ordnance, U. S. Army and Lt. Comdr. R. T. Fish, office of Inspector of Naval Materials.

President Charles F. Robbins accepted the award for the company, saying, “We are gathered here to hold this ceremony to salute you men and women of Chicopee and Willimansett. There are many men and women in the Spalding organization throughout the country and also many other Spalding men and women who are serving in the Armed Forces. All of them would like to be here to join with us in congratulating you most heartily on your fine achievement. I know I express the feeling of everyone when I tell you that we are convinced that you have fairly earned the honor which is now conferred on you by the award of the Army-Navy “E”.

“Yours was a difficult job of conversion. It was done and could be done only by hard, conscientious work and wholehearted cooperation of everyone in every department. Your accomplishment speaks for itself.” You have made—and are making—a real contribution to the fighting war.

“I am sure that we here in the Chicopee and Willimansett plants realize that the war will not be won until the last enemy is vanquished—until the last shot is fired. We all have relatives and friends, as well as our own Spalding associates, who are gallantly serving in the Armed Forces throughout the world. I know your spirit and I am sure that you will never forget that it is they who are fighting our battles for us. I am confident that you are determined to continue to put forth your best efforts to back them up to the very end.

“You have won a fine honor. You richly deserve it. I am proud and happy to be the representative of the company to receive this award, which we shall guard jealously.”

A wounded veteran of the Italian invasion made the token presentation of “E” pins to a group representing management and employees. This included C. F. Robbins, Vice President William T. Brown, Treasurer Walter B. Gerould, Employment Manager Robert L. Medlicott, Harold G.
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Chicago Sets $100,000 Par
For Caddie Scholarships
★ The Western Golf Assn., nation-wide campaign for funds to expand its caddie scholarship program was launched Dec. 1 at a meeting of team captains and workers in the Lake Shore club, Chicago.

Under the general chairmanship of T. C. Bute, the drive has been started in the Chicago area. Western GA has sponsored the operation for the last 15 years, during which time 55 boys have been selected as "Evans Scholars" and contributions in the present campaign which it is hoped will total $100,000 will be used to make similar opportunities available to a larger number.

L. G. Kranz, Director of Physical Education at Northwestern University, who has been counselor for the Evans Scholars there, reported that of the group 41 are now commissioned officers in the armed services or in officers' training.

Two of the boys, Lieut. Frank Cankar, U. S. Navy, and William Bigley, who recently received a medical discharge as a lieutenant in the Army, spoke for themselves and the other members of the group.

Other speakers included M. G. Fessenden, Chairman of the Individual Gifts Division of the campaign; Jerome P. Bowes, Jr., Sponsors chairman, who reported a total of $15,000 already in hand; William T. Woodson, Western GA President, and Carleton Blunt, general counsel. Mark Brown was toastmaster.

Prior to the dinner, the annual meeting of Western Golf Association was held at which the by-laws were amended to facilitate operation of the expansion program and the directors re-elected.

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