

## **Verbundkatalog Kalliope**

### **Bundles for Britain.**

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Bundles For Britain

June 7th, 1941 .

Erika Mann

Ladies,- I am very glad, indeed, I am happy to be with you today. For not only am I in a position to fully appreciate the great value and <sup>significance</sup> ~~importance~~ of your work I also know from first hand experience how tremendously important this work is to the British,- how much it means to them,- both actually ~~and~~ <sup>what</sup> practically, and, ~~perhaps~~ <sup>what</sup> maybe even counts more,- psychologically.

As I have lived through the worst Blitz-months,- September and October in London,- Birmingham, Coventry,- and so forth and so on, I had ample opportunity to study the kind of war by which

Mr. Hitler and his pathological gang intend to liberate mankind from democracy,- ~~and~~ <sup>his</sup> and I can assure you ~~his~~ <sup>his</sup> methods are worthy of his <sup>for</sup> ~~the~~ aims, ~~and~~ <sup>nothing less than</sup> all of them are ~~develish~~ <sup>develish</sup>. But/fascinating as it may be, to see the develish,- the wholly bad, the absolute evil at work,- after one night of total destruction, of smoke, ashes, ruins,

of streets that look like rivers of ~~broken~~ <sup>broken</sup> glass, of a noise ~~which~~ <sup>after one night</sup> human voices ~~can~~ <sup>can</sup> hardly penetrate, ~~and~~ <sup>burning</sup> under a sky that seems to be ~~burning~~ <sup>illuminated by</sup> with the sinister redish

flames of an unnatural sunrise,- after one night ~~of~~ <sup>such</sup> ~~one~~ <sup>might be quite ready, one might indeed be very eager</sup> ~~one would be more than willing, to have, to quit to flee~~ <sup>at</sup> ~~one~~ <sup>scene</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>for that reason</sup> ~~of horror and to seek refuge~~ <sup>at</sup> ~~some~~ <sup>place where the people are still "neutral" and where the devil</sup>

~~still works in disguise and on a somewhat smaller, more modest~~ <sup>scale. Even there, of course, he would quietly burn up 25 000 000</sup> ~~worth of supplies meant for Britain, even there he would~~ <sup>burn</sup>

*carefully*  
 cleverly destroy a few *Ginats* bombers ready to leave for  
 Britain and incidentally kill a few of our best <sup>and irreplaceable</sup> test-pilots,  
~~he would~~ <sup>deliberately</sup> cause strikes and, while <sup>slyly</sup> taking  
 advantage of our neutrality, <sup>massively</sup> he would carry his devilish war  
 right into our midst, without ourselves who ~~he such attacks~~ as much  
 as realizing it.

Well, - as I said, - one might be ready to quit, -  
 one might be eager to flee, - but, strange as it sounds, one is not.  
 And when I say "one" I mean <sup>for instance</sup> an independent resident of America  
 like myself who <sup>originally</sup> had no business, no particular duties, no  
 personal ~~ties~~ <sup>her</sup> binding ~~her~~ <sup>bleeding</sup> to the ~~isles~~  
 but who under no circumstances would have left <sup>the battlefield</sup> one day earlier  
 than ~~when~~ <sup>her</sup> was dictated by ~~her~~ <sup>over</sup> obligations here. And even then,  
~~when~~ <sup>long ago</sup> my appartement had been blown up, my  
 typewriter smashed, ~~and~~ <sup>had been</sup> all of my manuscripts burned ~~while~~ <sup>for</sup> I had  
 escaped ~~and~~ <sup>even then</sup> slightly injured with a few glass splinters in my  
 leg, ~~and~~ <sup>had been bombed</sup> when, after a bomb had damaged Victoria Station, I ~~had~~  
 finally caught my train ~~in~~ <sup>of London</sup> some half-disturbed suburb while the nightly "concert",  
~~the raid~~ <sup>because of my departure</sup> was already on again, - even then I felt sad and ashamed  
 like a deserter, - ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> I wanted to stay and to see it through  
 and to go on and try ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> help in my tiny way, - help the  
 defenders of freedom, of right and simple <sup>human</sup> decency to win this  
 war against the enemy of mankind.

You, my friends, are helping them. Time and again have  
 I seen the <sup>fruits</sup> ~~fruits~~ of your industry and ~~generosity~~ <sup>of London</sup>  
 I have seen them in country-churches turned into first-aid and  
 emergency-stations, - in <sup>shelters</sup> the tube ~~stations~~ of London, in private  
 homes, ~~and~~ in schools and soup-kitchens. I have seen your

[illegible]

I have seen people who had cut <sup>your</sup> Bundles for Britain  
the inside of <sup>had been given</sup>  
Trademark ~~out~~ of the shirt or the dress they ~~were wearing~~ and  
had pinned <sup>n</sup> on the outside like a decoration, "look," - they would  
proudly  
say, - "this came to me from America and I want everyone to <sup>see</sup> recognize  
~~that~~ it right away." And then they would put me to shame by mistaking  
my Bavarian-Australian accent for <sup>an</sup> American <sup>one</sup> and ~~by~~ thanking me for  
your gifts.

✓ I could tell you dozens  
of shows - the 2<sup>nd</sup> seconds - 'a little  
"more open"

European  
There is an old ~~European~~ saying "God's mills grind slowly but safely."

Well, America's tremendous, all-important and all-decise mills have been grinding none too fast,- but I feel confident that they are grinding safely and that our friends and <sup>e</sup>defenders beyond the ocean will receive all the tools they need in order to finish the job,- receive them in time.

In the meantime, however, the work you are doing can not be over-estimated. I know, you will go ahead with it,- stubbornly, untiringly you will double and redouble your efforts if necessary,- ~~you~~  
~~you will increase your production~~  
you will multiply your results,- for you realize that it is not just some kind humanitarian ~~work~~ job <sup>attending to</sup> you are doing,- some friendly welfare <sup>you are doing</sup> work,- but that you are fighting,- that you are <sup>actively and unflinchingly</sup> participating in a battle which is neither the battle of England nor the battle of the Atlantic, nor the battle of America,- but which is the battle of mankind,- a battle which must and can and will be won.