

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

July-September, 1940

(A) HIS MAJESTY THE KING

1. TEXT OF RADIO ADDRESS OF HIS MAJESTY ON THE 23rd OF SEPTEMBER

It is just over a year now since the war began. The British peoples entered it with open eyes, recognizing how formidable were the forces against them, but confident in the justice of their cause.

Much has happened since September, 1939. Great nations have fallen. The battle, which was at that time so far away that we could only just hear its distant rumblings, is now at our very doors. The armies of invasion are massed across the Channel, only 20 miles from our shores. The air fleets of the enemy launch their attack, day and night, against our cities. We stand in the front line, to champion those liberties and traditions that are our heritage.

As we brace ourselves for the battle, there is much to encourage us. We have with us brave contingents from the forces of our Allies. We have behind us the good will of all who love freedom. Our friends in the Americas have shown us this in many ways, not least by their gifts for the relief of suffering in this war.

Nearer home, in the British Commonwealth of Nations itself, the struggle of the Mother Country has been made the struggle of the whole family. From every part of it, men and material are coming in increasing flow and there is an eagerness to share in the sacrifices which will bring us victory.

In this Battle for Britain, London, the mighty capital of the Empire, occupies the forefront. Others of our cities are being subjected to the barbarous attacks of the enemy. Our sympathy goes out to them all. But it is London that is for the time being bearing the brunt of the enemy's spites.

I am speaking to you now from Buckingham Palace with its honourable scars, to Londoners first of all, though of course my words apply equally to all the British cities, towns and hamlets, who are enduring the same dangers.