

any avoidable interruption of effort, will prolong the struggle and increase its cost in human lives.

Whether civilization is to live or die has yet to be decided on the field of battle. All that has gone before, all that is now taking place is leading up to the hour of supreme effort. The strategic objective in driving Italy out of the war was to clear the way for a concentrated attack on Nazi Germany. The surrender of Italy does not mean that the whole of Italy can be occupied without a bitter struggle. The defeat of the German armies in Italy - the phase of the war on which we have just entered - is but a prelude to the real task. In Europe, Germany has always been the real enemy. Victory over Hitlerite Germany will not be achieved without a tremendous struggle. Our hardest battles are still in the future.

I would not be true to myself, nor to you, did I not say that?
 Canada's fifth year of war will demand more fortitude, greater efforts, heavier sacrifices than any we have yet faced. To be worthy of our fighting men, we must work more intensely, accept heavier burdens, cooperate more fully in a united effort.

As I said when the news was announced, by all means let there be rejoicing ^{and thanksgiving} from one end of Canada

to the other at the unconditional surrender

of Italy