

escarpment the next morning, that his division was going up "to meet Rommel head on." They did, and they held on for two days. They held Rommel and his army back and the 8th army was able to re-form at Alamein, part of it in trenches dug by the New Zealanders months before. We are proud of what the New Zealand troops did at Alamein; we are proud of the contribution they made to saving the Middle East. We are proud of their subsequent sweep, along with the rest of the British and Dominion forces, right through to Tunis.

We are glad that to-day New Zealand troops are fighting side by side with your boys in Italy. I saw some of your lads there, and I saw others in the United Kingdom before the invasion. I saw your second-in-command in Italy, General Burns, and I was much impressed by his ability, his grasp of the military situation, just as I was impressed by General Alexander and all those who have contributed to the successes there.

Mr. Mackenzie King will agree with me when I say that a splendid opportunity was afforded to us when we visited the United Kingdom recently and met at the Prime Ministers' conference to study the strategy of the United Nations. He will agree that we saw preparations for the invasion that exceeded anything we ever dreamed of. The advance already made has gone beyond my most sanguine anticipation. It was a splendid thing to see Eisenhower and Montgomery, Portal and Tedder, Cunningham and Brooke and all the other United States and British officers working together just as though they had all come from the same country. Never has there been such complete cooperation as in this command, which is destined not only to achieve victory in Normandy but to defeat Germany.

I am not going to prophesy, but things may happen that will bring victory quicker than we anticipate. Be it soon or be it delayed—it cannot be long delayed—victory is certain. We have been told enough of the plans of the combined general staffs to know that after Germany is accounted for, after the Russians come in again with their sweeping advances from the east and our united forces come in from the west; after the people of France rise; after Germany has been swept back into her own territory and then swept out of it—then the general staffs in Washington and London will give to Japan a larger measure of attention than already has been very effectively and efficiently directed to her.

Japan also is being swept back. When the time comes to direct all our forces against her, we expect Mr. Mackenzie King will come

down to New Zealand and Australia, along with Mr. Churchill and the other leaders, to see for themselves what has been done there, and help to complete plans for the final blow.

Just a word about the future. We are fighting for great principles, and we can testify that those principles have not been dimmed, nor has the spirit of the people diminished. We hear a lot about Great Britain just now, about the flying bombs, the pilotless planes. We cannot underestimate these, or treat them too lightly. But the people of Britain under this new affliction are standing as they stood at Dunkirk, when their shores were open to invasion, and when the words of Mr. Churchill, ringing out not only through Britain but through the world, raised an echo in every heart that beat for freedom, when he said they would fight on the shores, on the streets, on the hills and in the valleys. That spirit is still there. After four and a half—it is getting on to five years of war, the British people are still unflinching. That can be said of all of them from their Majesties the King and Queen, who have stood constantly in the forefront in a manner which has shown that they are truly associated with their people, right down through all walks of life. That spirit is still unbroken, still undimmed; it is destined to endure. The British people feel as they did when their armies were miraculously delivered from France. They will be able to face up equally well to any new inflictions. Even if many may be killed, even if many may be injured, even if many homes may be destroyed, there is no trembling, no going back. There is nothing but courage unsurpassed, a courage rising to heights that have never been exceeded.

The sacrifices made by our men and women on land, in the air and on the sea, and in their homes when these have been attacked, as in Britain, must not—I speak most seriously and earnestly—be in vain. We are fighting first for the principles set forth in the various declarations of the united nations, and, secondly, for the principles set forth in the Atlantic charter. We went to war, not for Poland alone, but Poland was the occasion. We had seen Manchuria turned into the puppet kingdom of Manchukuo; we had seen Abyssinia trampled under foot; we had seen Austria go next; we had seen the Rhineland taken, and Czechoslovakia overwhelmed. We knew there had to be a stopping place; otherwise, the world would be given over to tyranny, bloodshed and cruelty. The stand was taken. The principles then enunciated have been stated in my hearing and that of your Prime Minister time and time again