

other means". The sharp cleavage, therefore, which many envisage existing between war and peace is not so sharply defined after all. It is a transition only, whereby the methods change but the objects remain the same.

I would ask you to dwell on this point, and in your study of past history and of day to day events, maintain a proper perspective because it is greatly influenced by this fact which I have just mentioned.

No doubt some of you have read the memoirs of the statesmen who held high office before World War II, and you will see from their observations that so-called peaceful events foreshadowed those darker ones to come.

Since the beginning of time, the conduct of war has been governed by certain principles and strangely enough these principles have remained immutable despite the advance of science and the change of methods of warfare down through the ages.

Tonight I am going to enumerate these principles of war and suggest to you how they can be applied to the rules of peace.

A principle may be defined as a fundamental truth which will serve as a basis for reasoning and which, in turn, will result in the evolution of a general law guiding subsequent action.

Now the first and paramount principle of war is the selection and maintenance of the objective--or aim.

This must be regarded as the master principle to which all others must be subservient.

It is, therefore, essential in the conduct of war as a whole, and in every operation of war, to select and clearly define the aim.

Each phase and each separate operation must be directed towards the achievement of this supreme aim.

Naturally each operation will have its own limited objective, but taken as a sum, all operations are designed to gain the desired goal. Operations which do not enhance the achievement of the ultimate goal are worse than useless.

On the 10th August, 1943, Mr. Winston Churchill handed me a directive written in his own hand which read as follows:

1. "Your prime and main duty will be to take or destroy, at the earliest opportunity, the German-Italian Army commanded by Field Marshal Rommel, together with all its supplies and establishments in Egypt and Libya.
2. You will discharge or cause to be discharged such other duties as pertain to your Command without prejudice to the task in paragraph (1) which must be considered paramount in His Majesty's interests."

There is no mistaking what was wanted here.