

We know now to what extent good use was made of those months from June to October in supplying reinforcements and equipment to a few areas in which a later offensive against the Axis might be launched. We know now how careful and precise was the planning which, once the offensive had been taken, made it possible for offensive to be maintained.

That offensive marked the first turning of the tide in the great battle around the world. As I have suggested, the main offensive phase really began in the Southwest Pacific with the American landings in the Solomons in August, 1942. It was continued, nearer the European fortress, in the offensive launched by the British Eighth Army, westward from El Alamein, late in October. It received its greatest impetus from the Allied landings, in Morocco and Algeria, early in November. Looking at the events of the past nine months, we have good cause for satisfaction that the tide has now set in the opposite direction.

Elsewhere, campaigns which were holding actions on a vast scale have been turned against the original aggressors with increasing force. A vivid chapter in the war for freedom is being fought out in Russia. The first winter offensive of Hitler bogged down in cold and snow and mud. The second winter of bitter fighting found the