

quired. It is apparent that the French defenders on a wide portion of the battlefront now stand behind no wall of entrenchments, blockhouses and emplacements. They are out in the open in a battle of movement where individual courage and determination stand for as much as any armoured vehicle.

Serious as the situation is, we may be sure the Allied peoples will not give way to panic or hysteria. Let us face things as they are. Let us realize the gravity of the position in which the Allied armies are placed. But when that is done, let us not fail to hold firmly to the essentials. The French army is not broken. The French spirit is as steady as it ever was. No nation that has witnessed the Marne and Verdun and the days of March, 1918, will fail in the present crisis. The British army has been the subject of heavy attacks but it is unbroken and full of vigour. The Royal Air Force has inflicted far more losses than it has suffered, and has proved once again its superiority over the Germans.

In these circumstances it is our duty to examine the means by which we can give *immediately* increased aid to the Allied cause. The date of the departure of the Second Division for overseas has been advanced, and no effort will be spared to ensure its being made ready for the field at the earliest possible date. Recruiting for reinforcements will be hastened and their despatch overseas will follow as fast as it can be arranged. There will be formed a Canadian Corps in the field in accordance with arrangements which have been fully discussed with the British War Office. A Third Canadian Division will be made available for such service as may be required in Canada, or overseas. At the request of the United Kingdom Government we have assigned certain naval and military formations to active duty in the Caribbean Sea and in North Atlantic areas. An additional Army Co-Operation Squadron, No. 112, will be despatched overseas as soon as possible to act as a reserve for No. 110 Squadron which is now overseas.

I should like especially to mention the work being done by the Royal Canadian Navy. No spectacular headlines have appeared in connection with our Navy. Our ships have not been engaged in actual hostilities. Nevertheless the importance of their work cannot be over-estimated and it has been a direct and continuing contribution to the Allied cause from the opening day of the war. It is not too much to say that in proportion to its size it is doing, day by day, work of an importance equal to any unit in the Allied Navies. Approximately sixty-six hundred men are in the service. Besides seven destroyers, we have in commission fifteen mine-sweepers, six anti-submarine vessels and sixty-six other auxiliary craft. And they are all performing duties of utmost importance. Additional vessels are under construction to the number of ninety. Construction of these is being hastened in every way and crews are being trained so that