

training of our Canadian contingents, have been largely if not wholly based on defensive tactics. To contemplate the invasion of Europe requires an entirely new conception of a total or all-out form of warfare. And what an heroic conception! Britain cannot possibly do it alone. With the united efforts of Britain, the dominions, our great neighbour to the south and all the democracies of the world, aided if you will by any totalitarian state that is willing to join us, even then the task is colossal. I do not like to suggest even for a moment that it is not possible, but it takes a stout heart to contemplate an invasion of Europe. Hon. members who are students of history will recall the days of the Napoleonic wars. Well, multiply Napoleon's strength many times and you have Hitler. Furthermore, in those days Britain had allies in Europe. What has she to-day? It is difficult to say she has any. What is the situation? Civilian populations unarmed and dominated by nazism—nazism in control of the entire European continent from the Pyrenees to Norway—yes, and if he wanted them, Spain, Portugal and all the rest. Continental Europe from the Atlantic to Russia is under his control. That gives the picture of the present nazi domination of continental Europe.

What is to be done about it? Well, I have no doubt that the battle of Britain will be won. Is that to be the end? I ask that question in all seriousness. I asked it in Britain, and the answer that came back was: No, that is not to be the end. But if it were the end, what flows from that? Hitler wins. In two years, five years, ten years or at some time the whole thing will have to begin over again. By that time he will have recruited his whole resources and will have only Britain and this north American continent to oppose him. That is the situation which confronts the whole world. It is appalling to think that this could be the end. That is not the spirit of Britain to-day. But to those who are clamouring for an invasion of Europe I say that in my opinion, to ask Britain to start a campaign in western Europe to-day is to ask the impossible. Russia will have to be aided, but in some other way. And Canada will have to do her part.

Now, what do they contemplate? They contemplate invasion—when or where or how I do not know; probably they do not themselves. What competent observers contemplate is this: a superior force of men, trained in offensive operations, equipped with offensive weapons, an overwhelming force, which, once established in Europe, will roll on irresistibly. That is the vision. That is what Hitler has to-day. They contemplate that they will have

[Mr. R. B. Hanson.]

to have something bigger and better and more mobile. Once a landing is effected it will have to be supported by lines of communication by land, sea and air, which cannot be interrupted. That in itself is a gigantic task. That is not now possible, but it is their objective. It can be attained, as I said, only by the combined efforts of Britain, the dominions, our great neighbour to the south. Nothing less will suffice.

This super-force of men and machines is not yet in being. The conjunction of all these factors is not yet accomplished. It will take time and effort and much treasure and the best equipment and strategic ability that can be produced. I am confident that, gigantic as is the task, heroic as is the conception, the genius and will of the British people and their gallant allies, present and future, will accomplish it.

What of Canada and her contributions. We have in being or in process of development six divisions, some overseas, some in Canada, some well trained for defensive purposes, some not so well trained. The task of maintaining them at full numerical strength is for the government of Canada. So far we have a policy of voluntary enlistment for overseas service, with partial national service for home defence. I think that is a fair statement. Six divisions at this time is certainly not too many. Six divisions at the end of the second year, fully trained and equipped, would have been a fair contribution. Comparisons of course are odious, but we have to remember that we are stronger in numbers now than we were twenty-five years ago and stronger in potentiality. I am not complaining that so far we have set up only six divisions; I doubt whether we could have done much more, having regard to the equipment available. But will that suffice? If Canada's maximum effort and man-power is to be confined to six divisions, not all overseas, and a home defence army composed of drafted men, then possibly the voluntary system of recruiting will do. I doubt it, but we should hear from the minister just what the problem is with respect to recruiting—I intend to return to that later. My own view is—and I am giving it only as my own view—that if the invasion of the continent is to be successfully accomplished Canada must provide more than six divisions, must provide an ever-increasing volume of man-power adequately trained and equipped for the offensive. Is it not reasonable to suggest that these men should be provided now, should be enlisted at once, trained and equipped as soon as possible, as an effective fighting force?