

ADDRESS BY RT. HON. WINSTON CHURCHILL,  
PRIME MINISTER OF GREAT BRITAIN;  
1st JUNE, 1941

I am glad to have an opportunity of speaking again to the people of Canada. Your comradeship in this mortal struggle cheers and fortifies the people of these islands. To Nazi tyrants and gangsters it must seem strange that Canada, free from all compulsion, oppression, so many thousands of miles away should hasten forward into the van of the battle against the evil forces of the world. These wicked men cannot understand the deep current of loyalty and tradition that flows between the different self-governing nations of the British Empire. The people of Great Britain are proud of the fact that the liberty of thought and action that they have won in the course of their long romantic history should have taken root throughout the length and breadth of a vast continent—from Halifax to Victoria. But the Canadians are the heirs of another tradition—the true tradition of France; a tradition of valour and faith which they keep alive in these dark days and which we are confident will, in the end, bring back again to life France herself.

The people of this country know that the prayers, the toil and the anxious thought of all Canadians are with them in their severe ordeal. Canada has given abundant proof of her purpose. Canadian troops are becoming a familiar sight in the towns and villages of England. I have met many of the Canadian forces and I have never seen a finer body of troops. It has not fallen to them, as yet, to be engaged with the enemy, but they have been allotted a task of vital importance—to play their part in the defence of the heart of the Empire and to meet the enemy should he venture to come upon the very threshold of the land. And when the test comes, and if the test comes—and come it may—I know that they will prove that they are the worthy sons of those who stormed the Vimy Ridge twenty-four years ago. But this war will not be won by valour

in action alone; it will be won also by hard persevering effort in field and in factory. It will not be won without a multitude of minor, prosaic, unnoticed sacrifices.

I have heard from your Prime Minister, my friend, my old friend, Mr. Mackenzie King, of the remarkable organization which has been built up in Canada to raise this, the greatest War Loan in her history. I am confident that this tremendous effort will be crowned by success. I speak to you this evening from No. 10 Downing Street, here in the capital and the governing centre of this battered, but indomitable city and island. Our people have been through so much in the last few months; they have learned so much, and some things they will never forget. But above all, they have learned their own strength, they have tested their resolve under heavy hardship and danger. None of us doubts that together, with the whole Empire together, with the old world and the new world together—no one doubts that we can or that we shall see it through. And that when, at length, we march again back into the light of happier and easier days, Canada will play her just part in the laying of the foundation of a wider and better world.