

great conflagration that is taking place now on the eastern front is settled one way or the other, Hitler will return to the attempted invasion of Britain, and that invasion will be accompanied by a more terrible blitzkrieg from the air and from every available branch of German arms than the British people anticipated in days gone by. And they do not intend to be conquered or to be invaded. The last thing that Mr. Churchill said to us when we left him on a lovely Sunday afternoon was this: "Better to die than to be conquered, and we do not intend to be conquered."

What is the position in England to-day? They have recovered from the position that existed after Dunkirk. I should like to make it clear that we were given full information with respect to the losses on the continent at the time of Dunkirk. This may be a commonplace to most hon. gentlemen, but Britain had sent over to the continent the finest army that was ever assembled in England. We are assured of that. It was supplied with the best equipment that was ever assembled for an expeditionary force leaving England, and when, after Dunkirk and the fall of France, the cost was counted, it was found that practically all of that equipment had been lost. Very little was brought out. Fortunately through the efforts of the navy, the merchant marine and what not, they were able to bring out from France the greater part of the personnel of that army. But they lost in prisoners and wounded many thousands of the flower of that army, and they had to begin all over again.

I discussed this aspect of the matter with Mr. Bevin, and you will find that he made a statement with reference to it in a speech which he delivered in August, 1941, before the Trade Union Congress. It is therefore in no sense confidential. When you come to analyse the position between Dunkirk and Christmas, 1940, and what was accomplished between those two dates by the army, the navy, the air force and the merchant marine—about which so little is heard, but which has done so much—and also by the working people of Britain, is it too much to say, as Mr. Bevin said in the speech to which I am referring, "Verily, the civilization of the world was saved by reason of the opportunity for recovery given at that time."

I do believe that is the exact position. And while I mention the working people of Britain last, I should not like to have it thought that this indicates the measure of their achievement in connection with this resurrection of the equipment of the British army. Perhaps it should be placed first, because without the cooperation of the trade unions, of the labour-

ing people of England, men and women, this would not have been possible. I pay them that tribute.

Britain to-day has its professional army—I will not say how many hundreds of thousands. This professional army includes the Canadian corps, and it is as well trained to-day for defensive purposes as it can possibly be having regard to the fact that all equipment has not been on hand all of the time. That professional army is a mobile force which constitutes the first line of defence against invasion. In addition there is the territorial army of two million men or more, scattered from Land's End to John o' Groats, and comprising all the services. You see them everywhere, at every cross-roads.

We were privileged to go into some of the coastal defence areas. From every headland, from every crag, on every beach, we saw these territorials, many of them officered by men who are not professional army men at all; and there they stand prepared against invasion. Together with the professional army they are to-day the army of Britain. But I would not have you think that that is all. In addition to that professional army, that territorial army, there is a vast army numbering literally millions in the employ of the state, some in uniform and others not, most of them men, many of them women, doing civil defence work of the utmost importance. Literally speaking there are millions of men and women forming the defence of Britain at this time, and because of the spirit of these men and women I am satisfied that invasion can never be successfully accomplished. Defence has been built up to a high degree of efficiency. The whole preparation has been marshalled for defence and not offence. That is the situation to-day, and I think that is as far as it has gone. I am not dealing of course with offensive operations in other theatres of war such as Africa and the near east. I am dealing only with the position of Britain.

There was borne in upon us one further fact, namely, that it is the general opinion in Britain that Britain cannot win this war by bombing Germany and occupied Europe. That I think is conceded, and once you concede it the effect is important. I do not wish to minimize the disruption wrought by the nightly attacks of our magnificent airmen. But even so, informed opinion believes that Germany cannot be defeated in that way. There is full recognition in Britain of the fact that the war cannot be brought to a decisive conclusion without the invasion of enemy territory.

Britain's main preparations and main objectives, the training of her armies, the