

potential centres of attack upon our shores and upon any part of this continent, so long will they be attacked, and it is for this reason that squadrons of the R.C.A.F., operating in conjunction with United States forces, have been based for some months in Alaska. Air operations in this hazardous area have not been defensive alone. The opening of the new highway to Alaska last November opens up also many new possibilities to help in winning the war.

From all of the developments of the past six months, from what is known of decisions taken at Casablanca, and from the combined planning which continues from day to day, the picture of the war in 1943 emerges more clearly. The chief highlight in this composite picture marks out the defeat of Germany and Italy. Both have now been driven out of Africa. The defeat of Italy has already been partly achieved; she may shortly be knocked out of the war entirely. Once Germany and Italy together are beaten, Japan can be beaten too. Meanwhile, as the pressure upon Germany and Italy is increased, Japan must be held at bay and hemmed in wherever forces can be concentrated for this purpose.