

I doubt, too, if we have given the credit which is their due to the men in battle dress who have stood in ceaseless vigil at the lonely outposts of our own country. When the balance sheet of war is struck, we shall do well never to forget the long dreary months of dull, but vital routine which the army has performed with little notice, and no complaint, on our coasts, and in vulnerable areas in Canada, in Newfoundland and Labrador, and on the islands of the Atlantic.

The Canadian army is not an instrument built only to resist attack. It was planned; it has been organized and is trained as a highly mechanized and armoured striking force. The day is coming--it may be close at hand--when it will have an honoured place in the van of attack. No Canadian doubts that when that day comes, our army will do its full part--and a glorious part--in helping to defeat and to destroy the military might of an enemy whose design and ambition is to conquer the whole free world. Canada's army is strong; it is united by a common purpose. It is the duty of all Canadian citizens to be no less strong, no less united by a common purpose. On this seventy-fifth anniversary of confederation the need is greater than ever before in our history, to let nothing divide us as a people, to compose our differences, and to throw all our energies into the task of saving our country, and helping to save the freedom of the world. If we would be worthy of our past, and the sacrifices of the past; if we would be worthy of the many brave sons of Canada who, in the present war, have given their all, and of the half million young Canadians who have offered, if needs be, to die for their country, it is our supreme duty, while striving for victory, to preserve for them and for future generations a free and a united Canada.

2. Fifth Anniversary of Japanese attack on China,
statement by Prime Minister, July 7, 1942.

Five years ago this evening, Chinese and Japanese forces clashed in a skirmish which marked the beginning of a war which has brought as much devastation and death as was witnessed in the first world war. This house will, I believe, wish me on this anniversary to pay some slight tribute to the indomitable spirit of the Chinese people and their brave leaders. The five years that have elapsed have shown that nothing can daunt their courage or shake their resolution.

On November 3, 1941, I remarked in this chamber that "the uncomplaining courage of the Chinese has not been surpassed in the annals of human resistance", and that "the Chinese continue to die in staggering numbers in defence of their humble habitations and the good earth which for countless generations has given to the ancestors they revere and to themselves their scanty sustenance." Another eight months have passed, and the courage and resolution of China are as fresh as ever.