

have out-fought the adversary, they have been out-gunned and at a disadvantage in numerical strength and air support.

That is why we have lost battles. That is why we have given ground. That is why we have gone from bad to worse, and may continue going in that direction through the weeks ahead. Why? The reason is clear enough, and it is all too seldom set forth in plain language.

Look back over the past ten years. During that period the American Government has been bending its every energy toward humanitarian endeavors. The American Government has spent millions to exterminate poverty. It has poured other millions into education, into soil conservation, into the elimination of city slums. It has done so because the people of America felt that it was a function of Government to look to the physical and spiritual needs of the individual. I wonder if there is a better explanation of war aims than in these facts. Are we not fighting so that civilization may have the opportunity of saving these gains and making further improvement?

But in the last ten years or more, how have our enemies conducted their affairs? While we in America pursued a program of self-improvement, the youth of Germany and Japan were being taught the arts of slaughter and conquest. While we built reservoirs against flood-control, the Axis was storing up gun-fodder to feed its fierce and savage gods of destruction. While we built roads, they built guns. While we reforested, they rearmed.

Is it any wonder then, that in the first few months of war, these war-gearred nations should have the advantage in numbers and materials?

Is it any wonder that peoples, whose younger generations have been brought up to glorify war and all its bloody savagery, could do the terrible things our Axis enemies have done and are doing, and will do to us unless we destroy them first?

Our military authorities warn that right here in our very midst saboteurs are ready in large numbers to undertake against us, when the time is ripe, the type of destruction and defeatism practiced so successfully in all the conquered countries of Europe prior to actual invasion. As the military authorities point out, we have difficulty now in recognizing these potential saboteurs. We don't know what key place they may occupy in industry or in governmental life. We cannot be sure that our Army, Navy, Police, or other uniformed forces are free of their activities. All we can be sure of, these responsible authorities tell us, is that acts of sabotage will occur, possibly on a broadly planned scale, to come at a time when our protective forces may be engaged elsewhere and thus are not immediately available.

Despite this, despite what has happened in all the conquered countries, we hear today many appeals, some of them undoubtedly from well-intentioned persons, who ask that we go about this war job meekly, lest we engender hate among our people for the peoples of the countries with which we are locked in bitter conflict. It is the Axis leaders who are to blame, they would tell us—the people themselves.