

A CALL TO ACTION

History has many dark and sombre pages. Almost it seemed in one period after another that the light of liberty had gone out for ever and that mankind was doomed to everlasting night.

But always men and women were found who, ready to dare all, battled against the hosts of darkness to save and preserve the sacred flame of liberty.

Never in all its dark pages does history reveal such a menace to liberty as Europe has experienced during the past years of Nazi domination.

Whole countries held down with heavy chains of terror and fear—the same dread menace brooding over all the world.

The day of deliverance was promised when the steel-hearted men and women of Stalingrad, within the gates of that historic city, destroyed the vaunted prowess of the Nazi armies.

The promise is now moving towards fulfilment. The army of liberation, mighty in courage, unconquerable in spirit, is even now on the soil of France, smashing the chains and setting free the slaves.

Comrades, these are great days, greater than any we have known. We must rise to the height of the best that is in our land. No laggards, no lying back. On the Western front, on the Eastern front, as over there in Italy and the mountains of Yugoslavia, the warriors for freedom dare all and give all. We can do no less. Every man, every woman to his or her post, with and for the armies of liberation, never halting, never stopping till the final blow is struck—till the last chain is broken and mankind, with the torch of liberty high overhead, marches forward to Freedom and to Peace.

WILLIAM GALLACHER.

NOTES OF THE MONTH

The Great Offensive—1941-1944—Smashing the Western Wall—A Victory for Democracy—And for Unity—Blow to Fifth Column—Vindication of National Unity—Europe in Movement—France and the United Nations—Urgency of Recognition—Foundations of International Co-operation—Decisive Battles in Front—United Will to Victory—Practical Tasks—Building the Future.

THE battle is joined. The landing in Northern France has opened that combined offensive of the United Nations, for which all opponents of Fascism have striven during these years, which was finally planned at Teheran last December, and which, once launched, can only end and will end with the complete destruction of the power of Fascism in Europe. It is a great, a glorious and a serious moment. The spirit of all those millions who have given their lives in the bitter struggle against Fascism during these many years will be with those British and American soldiers who are now storming the gates of the Fascist hell; for the hour of avenging and liberation is at hand. We are still only at the beginning of these final battles. The greatest caution, soberness and realism is necessary in estimating what has been accomplished and what remains to be accomplished. But we can already testify to the magnificent achievement of this beginning, and to the gigantic change it means in the entire world situation.

JUNE 6, 1944, stands with June 22, 1941, as a turning point of world history. June, 1941, brought into being that Grand Alliance of the democratic nations of East and West, whose division had brought such costly consequences and made possible the growth of Fascism, and whose union heralded the doom of Fascism and opened the vision of a new future for mankind. June, 1944, has begun the Grand Offensive of the Alliance in action, which backs up that union and agreement with the

power of deeds, and whose victorious accomplishment is the indispensable condition, the price of blood, for the realisation of those aims, and the guarantee of their future achievement. June, 1944, has proclaimed to the world that that Alliance is no temporary diplomatic manoeuvre, but a partnership of life and death of the democratic nations in a great ordeal fighting with the entire strength of their peoples to determine the future of the world. June, 1944, is a victory for Democracy, a victory for the Unity of the Peoples, a victory for all the aims proclaimed in the Teheran Agreement.

THE signal military achievement of the landing in Northern France is visible to all. Just as during these three years the Soviet generals and fighters have smashed the legend of the invincible Nazi armies, so now the Anglo-American generals and fighters have smashed the legend of the impregnable European fortress. In June, 1942, Goebbels's organ, *Das Reich*, could still attempt to claim:

Of course, war on two fronts would be disastrous for Germany. But thanks to his foresight the Fuehrer has correctly estimated the situation. By the time the Anglo-Saxons are ready for their operations, Russia will be put out of commission.

Stalingrad and the long victorious advance of the Soviet armies have smashed that boast. On September 30, 1942, Hitler could still attempt to throw out his swaggering defiance:—

Let me assure Mr. Churchill that wherever he may choose for his next attack he