

LET'S FACE THE FACTS

No. 5

**Address to the Men and Women
of Canada**

BY

COLONEL HENRY BRECKINRIDGE

over a national network of
the Canadian Broadcasting
Corporation, Sunday night,
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tion of the Director of Public
Information for Canada

Text of Colonel Henry Breckinridge's address over the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation national network Sunday night, August 18th, follows:

Fellow Citizens: I am not a citizen of the British Commonwealth of Nations, but I claim to be a citizen of the Commonwealth of Humanity. I dare say more than "fellow citizens." I dare say "my brothers and my sisters." For all who love liberty are brothers and sisters.

I salute Canada. Every dweller in this western hemisphere should salute her. For the moment she is our only representative in the most dire battle ever fought for freedom. May it not be said much longer that Canada is the only nation of the west fighting for the most priceless heritage of the west—liberty!

I could well imagine myself a Canadian irritated at hearing a citizen of the United States speak. I can fancy myself asking, "Why does he not back his words with actions?" "If he speaks for any considerable number of his fellow countrymen, why does not his country join the fray?"

The first reason I am speaking is because I have been courteously invited. Another is that I shall speak no word on this occasion which I have not uttered publicly in different form many times in the United States. Suffice it finally to say in this connection that it would give me great satisfaction to serve against the Nazi with the armed forces of my country. Meanwhile, I honor those who have followed the example of Kermit Roosevelt and have translated into action the sentiment and opinion of millions of Americans.

Only a few times in all recorded history has western civilization faced a crisis like the present. At Thermopylae and Marathon, Greek valour saved the original fountain head of our culture. Had Greece gone down, the Oriental

way of life and thought would have prevailed. In all probability, premature death would have struck the grace, beauty and freedom of thought which was Greece.

In 453 Rome fell to the Barbarians and for centuries night shut out the light of civilization. The small flame escaped extinction in the isolated and enduring sanctuaries of the church. Perhaps, the present danger is more like the moment preceding the Fall of Rome and the beginning of the Dark Ages than any other day of history.

In 732 Charles Martel and European chivalry saved Christian civilization from the Moor at Tours.

During the Thirteenth Century the Golden Horde of the Mongols ravaged from the coasts of China to Hungary, Russia and India, conquering most of the known world.

In the Fifteenth Century the Turk recoiled from his unsuccessful siege of Vienna.

On all these occasions the spirit of the western man has risen to save by a hair's breadth his culture and his freedom. Rivers of blood were shed, but civilization did not die.

NO REBELLION POSSIBLE

The danger today is greater than any that has gone before. The reason is simple and should be clear to every intelligent mind. In preceding crises, arms were simple, easily hidden, widely and individually owned. As late as the American Revolution the Minute Man at Bunker Hill was about as well armed as the British Regular. Today, a people conquered and disarmed is at the mercy of the conqueror—a victim ready for permanent and hopeless slavery. The unarmed man cannot rebel successfully against airplanes and tanks. The radio brings instant news of disaffection and carries the ruler's orders at a speed of 186,000 miles a second.

From the nearest air field fly the squadrons to rain death and obliteration upon the defenseless population. It is conceivable today that a single conqueror can rule the world.

Hitler is the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse rolled into one insatiable tyrant. The banner over him is blood. He consolidated his domestic power by the synchronized murder on a single day in 1934 of all his German rivals. Treachery is the basis of all his diplomacy. As he destroys one victim he lulls to sleep with sweet assurances the next on his list. The British Commonwealth of Nations and the American Nations stand alone between him and the total conquest of all the free peoples of the earth. If America sleeps and Britain fails, America will awake to its doom. The world cannot survive half slave and half free. Hitler knows this and relentlessly pursues his ravaging race to destroy the last citadels of freedom. He must destroy liberty or liberty will destroy him. He rightly recognizes this as a war of annihilation. We too should recognize it and my deepest conviction is that my country should furiously organize its vast latent power into unassailable and irresistible military might for the utter defeat of the Scourge of Satan that has been loosed upon humanity.

INVINCIBILITY IS MYTH

The cult of the invincibility of the Nazi is a myth. He invents none of the instruments with which he enslaves his own people and attacks all the rest of the western world. The tank is based on the caterpillar tread invented by an American for farm work and first used in war by the British at Cambrai in the last World War. The airplane is an American invention; the submarine, also, and the machine gun. In the last war the Nazi's predecessor did give poison gas to the world. He initiated the submarine mur-

der of non-combatants at sea and also contrived the murder of Edith Cavell. Now the Nazi adds to these foul accomplishments the persecution of the Jews, the harassing of the Catholics and Protestants, the aerial bombardment of civilians, the enslavement of whole peoples and the widespread treacheries of his Fifth Column agents.

The Nazi employs the inventions of other men to destroy humanity. Take him out of his cross-country armoured engines and he is no better than any other average man and decidedly inferior to the run of mine Canadian or American. Match him in the air with equal numbers and he will succumb. In the last war it was conclusively demonstrated that in the air and on the ground, man for man, the Canadian was his master. If the Canadian airman really gets at him in the present conflict the minions of Hitler's air force will exult in bitterness the crime of their slaughter of women and children. The place to destroy Hitler is in Germany; not America.

Another myth is the isolation of the American Continent. The fool and the knave point to the 3,000 miles of Atlantic water as an insulation against the wars of Europe. They acclaim the broader Pacific as a protection against Asia. Every bright school boy knows that Iceland and Greenland are easy stepping stones for the modern giant, Aviation. Seven years ago the Italian Balbo reconnoitered the route from Rome to Chicago with twenty-four planes. He did it easily and without incident. Greenland nearly touches

Canadian territory in the north and one point of Greenland is actually east of Iceland. Hitler knows all this. The German von Gronau also reconnoitered this route and the German Udet is an expert on Iceland's strategic location for controlling the air and sea lanes of the great circle course between Europe and America in the northern latitudes. Denmark owns Iceland and Greenland, and the Nazi has conquered Denmark. You know St. Pierre and Miquelon off your coast and you know the Nazi has conquered France who owns these islands.

WHAT OF NEGOTIATION?

Finally, we are advised by the American friends of Hitler (and I am ashamed to say they exist), to be prepared to negotiate agreement with him. I should prefer to make a treaty with a poisonous snake. Hitler's pledged word, on each occasion that he has pledged it with an innocent and honourable neighbour, has been but a preparation for plunging his serpent fangs into the living body of his deluded victim. What man in his right mind would negotiate with him? The only hope of humanity is the destruction of Hitler; not his appeasement. Better make a pet of a tiger or set a wolf to guard young children than trust this fiend in human form so long as the breath of life is in him. Should we stand by until the assassin has murdered every other member of our family and plan to negotiate agreement with him when he has completed his orgy of crime?

Hitler prates of race, in the face

of his own seamy lineage and childless sterility. Well, we know something of race in Canada and the United States. We have accepted the Word of God where it is written that He "made of one blood all the Nations of Man." We have learned that men of differing race, colour, language and religion can live together in peace and co-operation. The German race is as complex a mixture as the population of the United States. Hitler's mad mouthings blaspheme God, fly in the face of the plain facts of ethnology and deny the history of the hitherto happy life of the American Continent.

Canada, I salute you. You have cast out doubt and fear. You have accepted the inescapable challenge and willed that freedom must live; that the danger of death is preferable to the certainty of defeat and slavery. Each nation of the western hemisphere should follow your example. Right or wrong, every one of our American nations for a century has lived on the basic fact that the British fleet controlled the Atlantic. Self-interest, intelligence and courage dictate that we give Britain unstinted aid. It doesn't even matter whether or not we like the English. Embattled Britain is our last outpost against the unleashed forces of destruction, slavery and hell. Glory to the man and nation that give successful resistance to the menace. My prayer for you is that you endure and win. My hope for my own country is that the United States draw its sword for freedom and humanity. Children of Montcalm, heirs of Wolfe, God speed you!