

**America is on its way! From now on, it will roll in only one direction - towards Tokyo!**

When General Douglas MacArthur reluctantly left the Philippines, he assured his heroic warriors on Bataan that 'he would return'. Today, with all due caution, it can be predicted that the fulfillment of that historic promise is under way. To men of the American Legion who, having seen action themselves in some of the greatest engagements in the world's history, know what it means to dislodge enemies firmly entrenched, in strategic positions, it is unnecessary to point out the magnitude of the job ahead, or the probable cost.

Needless, too, is it to emphasize to such a group as this the far-reaching import of what is happening in the Southwest Pacific, where the United Nations, switching with dramatic suddenness from the defensive to the offensive have taken the initiative over a vast area, and apparently have the ships, and planes and men to retain it. For in offensive measures, and only in them lies the seed of ultimate victory!

Finally, it is worth citing that the first successes in the Solomons, some of the preparations for which took place here in our own State, at Solomon's Island, Maryland, are tremendously significant because of the human, psychological factors involved. On such factors depend America's whole hope for Victory. The success proved, first, that America and the United Nations have learned the technique of Victory. The coordination of sea and land and air forces indicate how well Allied military and naval leaders have absorbed the lessons of war as it has been developed today.

The successes demonstrated forcibly, for all the world to note, that the American fighting man of today, trained through he was in the arts of peace rather than in the ways of war, is more than a match, in mechanical skill, in daring, in raw courage, for German or Jap.

The action in the Solomons brings up to date the record of Valley Forge and New Orleans, of Gettysburg and San Juan Hill, of Chateau Thierry and Belleau Wood. It proclaimed anew to all the world what the men of the American Legion and their brothers in arms has proven so thoroughly nearly a quarter of a century ago - that, much as the people of America hate war, they hate dictators and treachery infinitely more and will fight to the death against them.

It gave unmistakable evidence that America's young manhood of today, the sons and grandsons of that fighting clan of 1917-1918, not only will fight, but that they will fight with all the fury that any slave-driven hordes can muster, and with a final, decisive spark of valor that only men raised in the atmosphere of liberty can achieve when their priceless freedoms are ruthlessly attacked, and seriously menaced.

Yes the successes in the Solomons have served notice that America rebels against the humiliations of Hong Kong and Bataan, of Singapore and Java. Its people rebel against the tragic sight of fine American boys and valorous American women lined up in miserable surrender before grinning Japanese