

few months. I suppose it may -- at least, the war against Germany. But in that connection, I should like to ask you two questions. How many of you here were sure, in September of 1940, that the British would be licked and out of the war in a few months? And how many of you were sure, in the summer of 1941, that the Russians would be licked and out of the war in a few months?

And there is another angle to this end-of-the-war business. We are getting nearer to Berlin--yes--but we are still a mighty long way from Tokyo.

We are doing well in the Pacific, we are taking one island after another, and we have licked the Japanese navy whenever it gives us a chance. But it hasn't given us much chance lately, it still exists, and it is a big powerful navy.

As for the Japanese Army, we have scarcely met it. We have fought against a few comparatively small parts of the Japanese Army -- but we all know that we have had almost no contact at all with the main Japanese army of several million well-trained experienced fighters with a fanatic belief in their cause. Our Army says that until we have beaten that Japanese army we will not have beaten Japan.

Our Army points out, in addition, that we shall have to fight five thousand miles or more from our bases of supplies, and fight against an Army that is on its own ground, close to its bases of supplies. We've been so excited by the victories in France and the victories in Russia that we've forgotten, I think, the defeat in China, and just what the fall of Hengyang means. It means that the Japs have at last got what they've been after for nearly three years -- a real line of land communications between their stolen raw material areas in southeast Asia and their industrial areas in the north of China.

I don't say for one moment that we aren't going to beat Japan. But I do say that we aren't going to beat Japan by deciding the war is over, and that we don't need to give every thing we have to beating them. Football teams don't score touchdowns by slowing up on the other team's 10-yard line -- and don't win games by forgetting that even a beaten team can throw forward passes. Did any of you ever see a supposedly beaten team win the game with a flock of forwards in the last quarter because the other team's secondary had thought the game was over?

So, as I said before, we have got a job to do in this community. What can we do? We can do a lot. Committees are being formed