

HEADQUARTERS 15TH ARMY GROUP

TO THE SOLDIERS OF THE 15TH ARMY GROUP

15th Army Group is resuming the offensive with the object of destroying the German forces opposing us.

In the past year the Fifth and Eighth Armies, composing 15th Army Group, have captured Rome and driven the enemy northward through his Gothic Line and have had their progress stopped only by a combination of mountains, water obstacles and winter weather. The recent period of relative inactivity has now drawn to its close.

As never before we now have an opportunity to deal a decisive blow. With our enemy weakened by recent severe blows on other fronts the shock of a severe attack here will do much to speed his defeat, with consequent saving of lives and hastening of the day of victory over all our enemies.

It is therefore of extreme importance that every individual should devote himself completely to the success of this new offensive. Each man, whatever his job, must at this time give himself up utterly to the execution of these operations in order that every possible advantage will be denied the enemy and every opportunity taken to crush him completely. All must make full use of past training, of ingenuity, of material, and finally, of that courage which is needed to drive the battle home to the enemy in spite of every discouragement which may lie in the path that leads to complete victory.

It is my greatest hope that this will be the last major offensive that will be conducted by 15th Army Group. Whether this is so or not depends on us. If we carry out our attack with maximum fury and with relentless thoroughness so that the enemy is forced to retreat, surrender or die, we may well realize your hope and mine that further major operations will be unnecessary.

And so I call upon all of you to give now, as you have done in the past, the full measure of your devotion to your countries and to the allied cause in order that we may exploit fully the opportunities of the moment. No one knows how great these opportunities are or what success we may obtain if we take full advantage. Hit them with all you've got and with God's help we will have a decisive and perhaps a

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