

1941 MAY SEE WINNER NAMED IN GREAT WAR

By DeWITT MacKENZIE
Associated Press Writer

This new year should give us a fair chance—not unlikely within the first half—to determine the ultimate winner of the European war.

As a matter of fact I imagine most readers already have made up their minds—perhaps with the help of a bit of wishful thinking—as to where the laurels will rest. Still, we shall be smart to remember that the favorite doesn't always win.

While we can see certain tendencies, the only thing we can be dead sure of to my mind is that neither side has won this war yet. It's still anybody's victory.

However, the wheel of fortune is spinning fast and we may see a radical change in the situation in a short time. Actually there is a possibility that the conflict may be ended this year, though I certainly am not predicting that, as it also is possible that it may be protracted.

I believe we should be able to pick the champion if and when Herr Hitler has tried his projected invasion of England, against which the Britons are guarding night and day. The consequences of that operation will be so far-reaching that he is likely either to emerge the conqueror of Europe, or a badly beaten man who may still hang on for a time but ultimately must succumb.

Invasion of England is, in my view, the only chance of a very quick decision. If the Nazi chief finds this too risky, we shall have to await other major moves and the conflict will be drawn out.

There is indication that Hitler will make the invasion gamble if he thinks there is a possibility of success. Most neutral military experts think the odds are heavily against him. So far as appears now, the only way he could achieve it would be to produce sufficient air superiority to crush England before trying to land troops.

Last week after I had spoken in New York before the American Association of Teachers of Journalism, a member of the audience came to me and said:

"A year ago I heard you state you thought grains of wheat would have more to do with the outcome of the war than would bullets, that is, that economic strangulation would be the winning factor. Do you still believe that?"

I told him yes. The British blockade which is raising havoc with axis resources is far stronger than it was a year ago. The whole continent now is blockaded as the result of the Nazi occupation of neutral countries.

The British ministry of information in a year-end review stated that sea-power was the hub upon which the whole allied cause revolved during the war. I believe sea power will continue to be the theme song of the allies to the end. Naturally, naval operations will have to be supplemented with land offensives.

At the same time Hitler's fierce submarine counter-blockade is causing the British much concern. Premier Churchill has said still heavier U-boat attacks must be expected this year. Despite this the government asserts there is no cause for despondency. This seems to be a fair statement of the position.

Britain enters the new year with a steadily increasing strength which gives her confidence to face a Germany whose might undoubtedly has reached its apex. The British task of arming has progressed so well that Churchill says "By efforts now being made and by the great supplies which are reaching the United States, we hope we shall become well armed during 1941."

That is two years sooner than most experts had expected a few months ago—a remarkable achievement. Germany, as Churchill pointed out, reached the culminating point of production at the end of last year.

DOUBLE TROUBLE
EASTON, Pa., (AP)—George Wolf, 51, says he already has had his share of trouble for 1941.

Wolf was taken to a hospital after a car struck and severely injured him. A friend went to get Wolf's parked automobile—but came back to report it had been stolen.

EARLY BIRD
WASHINGTON, Conn., (AP)—An unusually mild winter enabled first selectman, Leo Pick-nit to celebrate New Year's day by starting his spring plowing four months ahead of time. Pick-nit plowed a field just to see whether it could be done, and says that, come spring, all he'll have to do is go over it with a harrow.

Grim Satisfaction But Not Complacency Mark Summary Of 1940 Defense Efforts

By EDWARD E. BOMAR
WASHINGTON, Jan. 2 (AP)—A year-end stock-taking occasioned by the holiday lull provided ground today for grim satisfaction, but not complacency, over the progress made in a twelve-month period toward putting the nation in arms.

In the midst of a world situation of "terrible urgency" with its plea to speed up quickly the

production of warplanes and other munitions, officials were able to summarize these definite advances realized within a year toward the goal of total defense:

The army has more than doubled its manpower and is on the eve of a second doubling. Some 600,000 officers and men already are in uniform, contrasted with 215,488—all regu-

lars—in service at the end of 1939.

New tanks, rifles, motor vehicles and other arms and supplies are actually being received now at a rate suggestive of the volume to come, even though, like warplanes, they lag far behind the combined requirements of the United States and Great Britain.

The navy in a year has expanded in personnel in uniform from 158,814 last January 1 to a present total of nearly 250,000 officers and men, including the marines and reservists called to active duty.

The fleet has been reinforced by 21 new warships and several score auxiliaries. Its commanders rate it the world's strongest, although the transfer of 50 aging

destroyers to Britain reduced the number of combat vessels to 321, and not for four years is the projected two-ocean navy expected to be ready.

In air strength, several hundred new warplanes have been put into service within the year, as a prelude to the delivery of thousands "on order."

The army counts some 500 as first line combat planes, aside from several times as many training craft and outmoded fighters and bombers. Exact numbers are confidential. A year ago virtually none was rated officially a match for new war-tested Nazi and British craft, because of lack of such equipment as leak-proof fuel tanks and armor.

The navy and marine corps air

forces numbered 2145 planes in service a year ago. Eleven months later the total was up exactly 390.

Full twice as many youths are in training as army and navy pilots he were a year ago.

Production of planes has been almost doubled, although lagging behind schedules proven to have been too optimistic for the overburdened industry. The output will be about 700 per month, by the estimate of William S. Knudsen, arms production chief, compared with 351 in January, 1940. A year earlier the total was just 157.

Light tanks for the army's new armored divisions are rolling off assembly lines now at the rate of four or more a day. Less than a year ago the war de-

partment acknowledged possession of just ten of late design, aside from obsolescent models. Mass production of 25-ton medium tanks and heavy monsters of 55 tons or more is only in the make-ready stage.

New camps and cantonments for an army of 1,400,000, hardly thought of a year ago as a peacetime possibility, are three-quarters or more completed.

New facilities for warship and merchant shipping have been added at almost every port. Actual work is well along on the first of a billion-dollar string of government munitions plants.

Eight new Atlantic offshore bases acquired from Britain have been surveyed, some are under construction, and troops

have been ordered to the base in Newfoundland.

The Douglas company of California recently received war department orders totaling \$37,000,000 for the construction of a huge fleet of transport planes.



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