

## Next Six Weeks May Be Most Critical Period of the Entire War

By VIRGIL PINKLEY  
United Press War Correspondent  
LONDON, Oct. 6.—Adolf Hitler appears to be attempting to prolong the war into the winter of 1944-45 in belief that Germany will be able to face the allies next spring with fresh forces of possibly 750,000 troops.  
This is the conclusion of several excellent sources who believe the next six weeks may be the most critical period of the war—the testing time of Hitler's hopes for another winter and spring of struggle. Allied tactics and strategy are de-

signed to counter Hitler by mounting and releasing such powerful offensives in the next few weeks that German resistance is swamped despite its fanatical character.  
Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's plan is to end the European war this year. But if these plans fall short he can be counted upon to upset the Nazi plans by launching a spirited winter campaign, especially once the Rhine is crossed.  
Eisenhower's plan now—as for months before D-day—is to capture the Rhurland, thus tearing out Germany's vital war production facilities.

Hitler's strategy, as seen here, embraces these considerations:  
ONE—Every year about 1,200,000 Germans reach military age. If casualties in the autumn battles can be held to 500,000, Germany would have a net gain of 750,000 men by next spring.  
TWO—During the winter many divisions could be moved back to the Reich from Finland, Norway, Denmark, the Balkans and Italy and the eastern front could be shortened.  
THREE—Another three to six months might enable German scientists to perfect more secret

weapons such as V-3, V-4 and V-5. Chief obstacles facing allied efforts nullifying the Nazi plans are the fanatical resistance of the Germans, the difficult supply problems involved in arming, feeding, transporting and clothing 2,000,000 to 3,000,000 troops, and the weather, which has been miserable most of the time since D-day.  
Bad weather has frequently neutralized the allies' overwhelming air superiority.  
With good luck, Eisenhower has another two weeks or so in which to mount an all-out offensive and

probably a month to ram it home before real winter weather arrives. Even so, careful military observers believe that if the battle of the Rhine can be won within a month or six weeks it will be possible to knock out the Reich this year. Mobile battle in a country with such fine roads as Germany can proceed regardless of weather.  
Weather affects allied operations most particularly when supplies are being unloaded and moved to the front and also when break-throughs occur. Wet muddy ground prevents the troops from exploiting their successes.

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