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With the collapse of the German Army's defences in France, the European war situation has developed with astonishing rapidity. The enemy has already recaptured most of Belgium, has thrust a spearhead into the AACHEN region and at the same time, is rushing another column into Holland. The force of this drive appears to be strong enough for them to attempt to fight their way to the northern tip of the SIEGFRIED line and skirting these fortifications to launch an invasion of the German homeland itself.

The Germans on their part, appear to have concentrated the flower of their mechanized units and are making desperate efforts to stop this onslaught. Further, though there is a comparative lull in the fighting in the.....region, it is believed that this is only because the enemy's supply lines have become unduly long and because they are now marshalling all their forces and preparing to launch a final general offensive.

On the other hand, the Polish front may flare into a crisis at any moment, and in the Baltic, the Red Army has already taken TALLIN and is closing in on RIGA; thus the fighting here is narrowing down. Also, with the Finnish capitulation, the U.S.S.R. is showing that she has the power to make her bid for supremacy in the Baltic Sea.

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On top of all this, the situation is that even in the Balkans, the Germans are being pressed and the fate of Hungary too is a matter of grave concern. As for the allied attacks, as seen from this country, Germany is carrying on an isolated struggle, hemmed in on four sides, with the ring of steel being gradually drawn tighter and tighter. Even granting that the Germany Army is an iron.....in numbers it is already insufficient by far. (According to various reports, it appears that since June this year Germany has already lost over 500,000 men). Pitted against a foe who has unlimited material at his command, the equipment of the Germany Army is inadequate. In tanks, for instance, there are some who say that the ratio is one to seven, and it is considered that in particular, the overwhelming force arrayed against them by the allied air arm has caused the Germans to deploy their last reserves of manpower.

In such a situation, unless there are some extraordinary developments, one is forced to the conclusion that already the Germans simply do not have the power to crush and drive back the enemy which is investing them on four sides.

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Of course, as far as we are concerned, we hope that our German allies will put up a bitter fight all along the line at this juncture to weather the storm and successfully pull through the present grave emergency, and further, that she will go on to recover the offensive and thus frustrate the plans of the enemy who is presently straining every nerve to bring about a decision with one mighty blow. It is only natural that we should pray that the war in Europe would thus revert to a long drawn out struggle, but when we look at the actual situation, we see that Germany is now being pressed back to where she is practically fighting her final battles: vital battles on which the question of just how long she will be able to hold out may well hinge.

In Germany itself the powers that be are tightening their control and suppressing any outbreak by main force, so that right up to the end there is very little possibility of an opposition government appearing on the scene. It is moreover considered that there is little likelihood of a surrender of the German Army en masse. It is far more likely