Hitler's War Plans.

To-day Hitler devotes himself almost exclusively to the question of foreign policy and so-called "total war".

When and how he will act nobody knows and in his ultimate decisions he is influenced by no one. His entourage, consisting largely of Yes-Men, cowards and underlings, will tell him what he likes to hear - nothing else.

Hitler's aim is clear: to take military action towards the East at the first seemingly favourable opportunity, in order to improve his strategic position for coming out to his final goal: the domination of Europe and the destruction of the "degenerate" British Empire.

To-day Hitler and his collaborators consider England a power of second order unwilling to fight for its existence. This opinion has been largely caused by the so-called British appeasement policy with its repeated offers of political and economic help which have been interpreted as signs of weakness and disintegration.

Hitler, originally an admirer of England, has in the recent editions of "Mein Kampf" substituted the pro-British passages by anti-British ones.

Hitler himself (!) believes that he can win a lightning war against a combine of England, France, Poland, Turkey and Roumania.

Military Preparations.

From the 1st of August all military leave has been cancelled.

Full military preparations are to be completed by the 10th of August. Any time thereafter military action may be expected.

Stores of petrol are being stored along the German-Polish frontier.
Recently substantial bodies of German troops have been sent to Slovakia and fortifications along the Slovak-Polish border are being completed with great haste by German forces.

Forces backing Hitler.

Hitler is primarily backed by those profiting directly from the Party-machine, who number well over a million, mostly representatives of the lower middle-class. The main beneficiaries of the Nazi system are the Reichswehr, whose members enjoy many special privileges such as better housing, better food and less interference in personal freedom than the rest of the people.

Since Hitler has dismissed the outstanding Generals having an independent judgment, such as von Fritsch, Beck and others, the Reichswehr and its leading Generals are prepared to follow Hitler's orders as long as he is successful in spite of their personal misgivings about the final outcome of the war.

A stopping of the hoped-for lightning military advance and "deterioration" of the war into drawn out trench-war would be considered a failure. In this case - but not before - General Staff would probably take matters into its own hands and act independently from Hitler.

Hitler's Difficulties.

(a) Economic Difficulties.

From authoritative quarters it is stated that in case of a war with Poland, Germany's raw material sources will be exhausted within six months, while in case of a war against Poland supported by England and France, they will hardly last for more than three months.

The lack of German supplies is due partly to increased internal consumption and partly to decline of export which Germany has been unable to halt.

This is particularly a lack of motor-fuel and rubber, as a result of which fast driving of motor-cars
has been prohibited. A general prohibition of driving over the week-end has been under consideration but so far not put into effect.

Further, there exists a considerable shortage of copper and coal, so that exports of coal to Italy and Spain are insufficient to live up to the requirements of the barter agreements with these allied countries. Despite all efforts, it has been impossible to increase the coal output.

The supply of food-stuff such as wheat, rye and potatoes is sufficient while there is a pronounced lack of butter, fruit, vegetables, fats and fodder, coffee and tea.

There are increasing financial difficulties. The prices of manufactured goods have been slowly rising while the quality of goods has been deteriorating in spite of all Government efforts to keep prices and wages stable.

The Government has found itself in the awkward position of having to oppose an increase of wages to the combined commands of miners and mine-owners.

It is typical of the deterioration of the financial position that forty percent of all orders placed by the German Government are paid in so-called tax anticipation in order to prevent a too rapid increase of the note circulation.

The German Railway system which Hitler took over in perfect condition, is to-day worn out partly due to the continuous movement of troops and the movement of hundreds of thousands of Party members to the different Party Rallies.

The entire German economic system is suffering from over-organisation. It may sound like a joke but it is a fact that chickens have been killed and cut open by the Gestapo to ascertain whether they have been fed in accordance with the law.

(b) Opposition to the Hitler Regime.

Hitler's opposition may be found among the following:
a. **The Czechs.**

Having felt betrayed by the Western Powers, they were prepared to co-operate with Hitler in his fight against England and France.

However, since the German invasion of the country with its terror, a considerable amount of opposition has arisen, especially among the working-class and intellectuals.

b. **The Working-men in Austria, especially Vienna.**

c. **The Miners in the Ruhr district and the Sudetenland.**

Signs of passive resistance have become noticeable as evidenced by the declining coal output per head, which the Government finds difficult to check even by means of the Gestapo, who are unable to control the men underground.

The same signs of discontent exist, for instance, among the Working-men of the Leuna Works, the leading German chemical factory for the output of synthetic fuel and rubber and synthetic nitrogen.

d. **The Major Part of the German Industrialists and Capitalists** who were originally supporter of Hitler, are greatly concerned about the growing Communist tendencies of the Hitler Regime.

Through terror they dare not act and the Chief of the Gestapo commenting on their attitude said "As long as these Capitalists have one more mark left to lose, they will obey orders."
(1) The aim of Hitler and his immediate entourage is the domination of Europe by Germany coupled with the undermining and if necessary destruction of the British Empire. As long as he is in control no peaceful European settlement is possible due to his desire for ever increasing power.

(2) The German people at large will follow Hitler as long as he is successful. Any set back in his foreign policy will greatly weaken his following.

(3) Amongst Army and Party Leaders there have always been moderates who have warned Hitler each time before he embarked on a new act of aggression. However, due to his continued series of successes they have lost all influence. British official overtures of friendship to the Nazi Government have helped to silence these voices of moderation.

(4) Many of the Army Leaders and Economic Experts are convinced that a war with England and France will be lost by Germany within a few weeks, primarily due to the lack of economic resources. However, they are unable to prevent the outbreak of a war since Hitler alone has the final decision in matters of foreign policy.

(5) Although these moderate elements are opposed to a war which would endanger the future of the whole nation, it is impossible for them to remove Hitler and the Nazi system in peace-time due to the political terrorism.

(6) Should, however, war break out and Hitler fail in his proposed lightning military advance he could be removed because in war time the executive power in the country would be in the hands of the military. In such a case Army Leaders together with the moderate elements in the Party are prepared to take over the Government and to negotiate a peaceful settlement of the European problems including the restoration of Czecho Slovakia.
In this connection it is interesting to know that Goering has recently emphasized his opposition to the bombing of London and Paris in order not to poison the atmosphere of a future peace conference.