

Paper No. 9.

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- No. 1. "Resistance to Invasion"
- 2. "The Invasion & Conquest of Britain"
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Independence of Turkey."

THIS WINTER

by

DENNIS WHEATLEY

Note . This paper is upon the subject of maintaining the morale of the Fighting Forces and among the civilian population during the coming months, and was written between August 5th and August 7th, 1940.

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Unless the war takes a totally unexpected turn Britain will be faced during the coming winter with a problem unique in her history. She will have at least 2,000,000 men under arms and yet be unable to employ the bulk of them against the enemy.

Such a situation is bad enough when, as during the early months of the war, considerable forces were stationed abroad on a battlefield where there ~~is~~ *was* little activity. Keenness slackens because of lack of incident to keep the troops keyed up. Officers must risk losing the affection of their men by appearing harsh over trifling lapses or connive at a gradual deterioration of discipline; and the men become open to subversive influences.

Now that this huge force is concentrated at home its mental state is going to be infinitely worse. The men are not even at the front, in the true meaning of the word, and the great majority of them are within a five-hour railway journey of their homes. There is no longer the psychological barrier of having to leave a purely military and possibly devastated area. If they wish to desert they have only to secure a suit of civilian clothes at the nearest village and step on the first train.

It must be remembered, too, that nine-tenths of the men are civilians, who would never have dreamed of entering the Army but for the war. They miss their freedom, families,