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Public Optimism Over Length Of War in Europe Shows Marked Decline Since January

Largest Number Think Hitler Will Not Be Defeated Until Next Year

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PRINCETON, N. J., March 30.—Public thinking about the length of the war has taken a sober turn in recent weeks. With the bloody battle of Italy making slow progress, the number of people who think Hitler's Germany will be defeated this year is much smaller than was the case two months ago.

The consensus of guesses today, as revealed in a nation-wide survey by the Institute, is that the European war will not end until next year. This marks a significant change in public estimates. As of last January, a large majority of Americans thought the war would end in 1944. General Dwight Eisenhower had just made the same prediction.



The public estimates today are shown in the replies to the follow-

ing question put to a cross-section from coast to coast by the Institute:

“How much longer do you think the war with Germany will last?”

PUBLIC'S GUESSES

War With Germany

Will end first half of	
1944	2%
Second half of 1944	31
First half of 1945 .	39
Second half of 1945	7
In 1946	12
In 1947 or later . .	2
Unwilling to guess .	7

It will be noted that the number who look for an end to the European war sometime this year totals 33 per cent. In an identical survey in January the number who gave that estimate was considerably larger—58 per cent.

Another indication of the extent to which recent events have



sobered the public is that a total of 14 per cent think the European war will not end until 1946, or 1947 or later. In January such estimates totaled only 6 per cent.

WAR WITH JAPAN

The consensus of guesses concerning the war against Japan is about the same today as it was in January. The largest number look for the Pacific war to end in either 1945 or 1946.

PUBLIC'S GUESSES

War With Japan

Will end in 1944 . .	6%
In 1945	33
In 1946	32
In 1947 or later . .	21
Unwilling to guess .	8

The median average of all estimates is one year for the war against Germany, two years for the war against Japan.