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Sanford L Segal* (ssgl@math.rochester.edu), Dept. of Mathematics, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY 14627. *The real inventor of the computer*. Preliminary report.

It is often claimed that the inventor of modern-day computation was the brilliant John von Neumann. However, that title belongs not to von Neumann, but to Konrad Zuse, who invented modern computation in Germany during World War II, but received little military or other support. He was a civil engineer who was annoyed by the lengthy computations required by his profession. In fact his first machines were constructed in his parents' home. Zuse survived the war, and had a substantial career afterwards. The war was the reason his contributions were not known in the US or Britain. He died in 1995. (Received September 08, 2008)