

THE OXFORD
WAR ATLAS

THE FIRST TWO YEARS
SEPT. 1939—SEPT. 1941

By
JASPER H. STEMBRIDGE



OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

J. P. Robinson

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To be returned to
Port Ordnance Officer
Movement Control
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PREFACE

This Atlas is a record in maps of the events of the first two years of the war, down to the beginning of September 1941, and at the same time a reference atlas for the main theatres of war in which operations are now proceeding. The maps illustrate the strategy of the campaigns in Poland, Finland, Denmark, Norway, the Low Countries and France, the Balkans and Crete, Libya, East Africa, Syria, Iraq and Russia; the air war between Britain and Germany; the war on the sea, with maps of the Battle of the Atlantic, diagrams of relative strength of the combatants, naval and mercantile, and maps of the principal naval engagements; and a number of general maps and diagrams dealing with the economic, political and geographical background of the war.

The maps and text have been compiled from numerous official and authoritative sources.

It is intended to follow up this Atlas later with a supplementary volume.

J. H. S.

Dec. 1941

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I. GERMANY, 1919

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By the Treaty of Versailles, Germany lost 27,000 square miles of territory in Europe, with a population of some 6½ millions. She agreed to the following arrangements :

- (1) Alsace-Lorraine to be ceded to France ;
- (2) The Saar Basin to be governed by the League of Nations until 1935, its future to be decided by a plebiscite. (By the plebiscite, held on 1st March, 1935, the Saar Basin was returned to Germany.)
- (3) Eupen and Malmédy to Belgium ;
- (4) Part of Schleswig-Holstein to Denmark ;
- (5) Part of Upper Silesia and East Prussia to Poland, and a small portion of Upper Silesia (120 square miles) to Czechoslovakia ;
- (6) Danzig to be a Free City under the League of Nations ;
- (7) The Rhineland to be demilitarized ;
- (8) Memel to be transferred to the League of Nations. (In 1923 Lithuania annexed Memel.)

In addition Germany forfeited all her colonial possessions, whose area exceeded 1,000,000 square miles and whose population was 12,000,000. Administered by the victorious powers under Mandates from the League of Nations, they comprised :—

In Africa (see map 28).—South-West Africa, German East Africa (now Tanganyika), the Cameroons, and Togoland ;

In the Pacific (see map 47).—The Ladrone or Mari-
anne Islands, the Caroline Islands and the Marshall
Islands, which were transferred to Japan ; and the
following islands south of the equator, namely, the
Bismarck Archipelago, the (German) Solomon Islands,
and part of New Guinea ceded to Australia ; Samoa to
New Zealand ; and Nauru (an islet just south of the
equator with valuable phosphate deposits) to the British
Empire.



1 GERMANY—TERRITORIAL GAINS, 1935 TO AUGUST 1939

2. GERMANY—TERRITORIAL GAINS, 1935 to August 1939

THE map shows Germany's territorial gains between 1935 and August, 1939. The chief events leading up to them, or connected with them, were as follows :

1935.—In March the Saar Basin was returned to Germany as the result of a plebiscite. In the same month Germany introduced military conscription.

1936.—German troops occupied the demilitarized Rhineland.

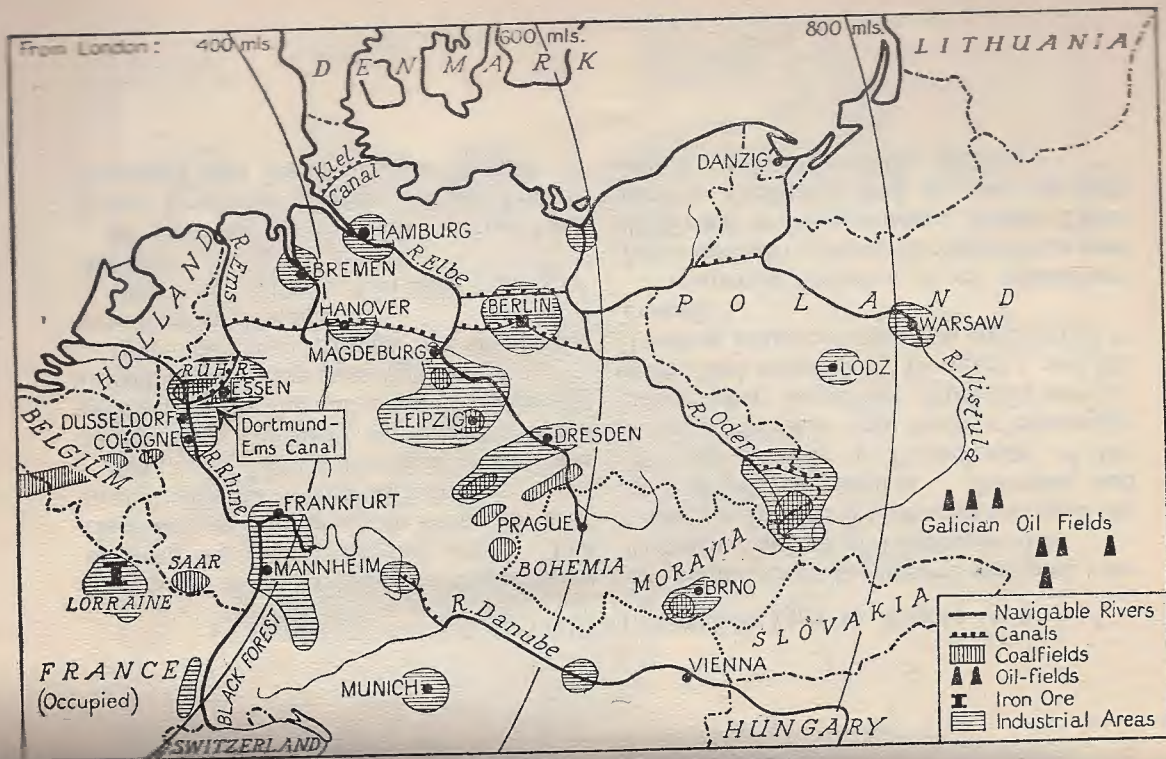
1938.—In March Germany annexed Austria.

In October, as a result of the Four Power Conference (Great Britain, France, Germany and Italy) held at Munich on

29 September, Germany occupied the Sudeten districts of Czechoslovakia.

1939.—In March Germany occupied the rest of Czechoslovakia. Bohemia and Moravia became a Protectorate of the Reich ; Slovakia was made a nominally independent Republic ; Ruthenia was invaded and annexed by Hungary ; and the Teschen industrial area was transferred to Poland.

Meanwhile, yielding to an ultimatum, Lithuania surrendered (in March) the port of Memel and the adjacent Memel Territory to Germany, and so lost her only seaport and outlet to the Baltic.



3 GERMANY—SINEWS OF WAR

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Apart from coal, which yields an export surplus, Germany is deficient in most strategical materials. Her output of iron ore is only sufficient for from 25 to 35 per cent. of her peace-time needs. Half her imports come from Sweden, and, since the fall of France, she has controlled the iron ores of Lorraine. The Ruhr produces more than 70 per cent. of Germany's hard coal (used in the manufacture of steel), an amount equivalent to about 40 per cent. of the output of all German-occupied countries. The Ruhr also produces 70 per cent. of the coke, 70 per cent. of the steel, a large proportion of the synthetic oil, and 40 per cent. of the electricity used by public supply undertakings and private industrial plants in the Reich.

Continental Europe provides Germany with a certain amount of copper, and as much bauxite as she needs for manufacturing aluminium. Of materials used to harden steel, Germany produces manganese, but lacks chrome, and nickel (used in the manufacture of nickel-steel for armour plate) which she formerly obtained from Canada. Germany

manufactures one-third of her petroleum from coal and depends on imports for the balance of her requirements (see map 66). As the amount of *buna* (synthetic rubber) manufactured in the Reich only suffices for 10 per cent. of her normal needs, it cannot compensate for the loss of rubber imported from British Malaya and the Dutch East Indies. Supplies of cotton, obtained from Russia before the invasion of that country, were quite inadequate to replace imports from the United States, Egypt and India.

Since the British air offensive began many of the lighter war industries have been moved from Western Germany to less vulnerable areas. But the heavy iron and steel industries of the Ruhr remain within relatively easy reach of British bombers. Germany makes full use of her navigable rivers and canals, which, except when they are frozen in winter, do much to relieve the war-time congestion on the railways. Hence the value of bombing such waterways as the Dortmund-Ems Canal, a vital link between Western and Eastern Germany, and the strategic Kiel Canal.



4. HISTORICAL POLAND

4. HISTORICAL POLAND

THE Poles, like their neighbours the White Russians, Ukrainians, Czechs and Slovaks, belong to the Slav race. But each of these groups has developed on somewhat different lines and has acquired its own national characteristics.

From the Basin of the Vistula, during the 10th century, the Poles extended west beyond the Oder. But later they were obliged to retreat under pressure from the Germans, and their subsequent expansions were eastwards. By the end of the 15th century,* a Polish-Lithuanian State (whose boundaries are shown on the map) extended from Cracow to the Dnieper Basin, and from the Baltic almost to the Black Sea.

But during the 18th century, Poland was so weakened by internal dissension that she became an easy prey of more powerful neighbours. In 1772 she was attacked by Russia, Prussia and Austria, who, during the Three Partitions of 1772, 1793, and 1795, divided the country between them.

At the Congress of Vienna, 1815, which followed the Napoleonic Wars, the map of Poland was again redrawn, and a Polish State (shaded on the map), centring round Warsaw, was placed under the suzerainty of Russia, who ruled it until the first Great War.

* Until about 1770.



5. THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

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1919-39

In 1919 Poland was reconstituted as a Republic from territories which, before the first Great War, belonged to Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Russia. It was recognized (1) that the new state must include within its frontiers all the lands inhabited chiefly by Poles, and (2) that it must have an outlet to the Baltic. As Danzig had a predominantly German population, it was accorded the status of a Free City, and Poland was given access to the Baltic across a strip of land west of the Vistula, known as the 'Polish Corridor.' The southern frontier of Poland was fixed along the crests of the Carpathians. The western frontier with Germany was drawn mainly on racial lines, though the greater part of the industrial area of Upper Silesia was transferred to Poland irrespective of nationality. The allies originally intended to fix the eastern frontier along the so-called Curzon Line (see map), which marked the eastern limit of the main body of Polish-speaking people. But the Poles objected to this division, and after a war against Russia the eastern frontier was fixed by the Treaty of Riga, 1920, by which large groups of White Russians and Ukrainians were incorporated in Poland.

In September, 1938, Poland annexed from Czechoslovakia the Teschen industrial area.

The Fourth Partition of Poland, 29 September, 1939

The map shows the areas occupied by Germany and Russia as a result of the Fourth Partition of Poland. The frontier followed the Curzon Line along the river Bug, but swung west of this line in the north and south, with the result that in the northern area a number of Poles were transferred to Russia, and in the southern a predominantly Ukrainian population passed under German rule. Broadly speaking, Germany regained territories which, before 1918, were part of the Reich, as well as the principal industrial areas; and Russia secured the greater part of the Galician oil field, and some of the finest agricultural and forest lands in Poland.

The Russo-Polish Treaty, 30 July, 1941

After the German invasion of Russia, a Russo-Polish Pact of Friendship was signed in London by which the Russo-German Partition of Poland was declared void, and Russia and Poland agreed to collaborate in waging war against Hitlerite Germany.



(i) September 1st to 11th



(ii) September 11th onwards

6. THE INVASION OF POLAND, 1939

6. THE INVASION OF POLAND, 1939

THE FIRST PHASE—1-11 September

APART from a narrow strip of seaboard, the only well marked geographical frontier of pre-war Poland was the Carpathians. On the west the one formidable barrier was the Pripet Marshes, on the east and north there were no natural defences. The Poles hoped that the autumn rains would render the roads impassable for tanks and even for light mechanized units. But the rains failed, and when on 1 September the Germans invaded Poland they were able to use tanks, while their light mechanized forces succeeded in pushing forward well in advance of the main body. Towns, airports, and communications were subjected to aerial bombardment by the invaders.

Map 1 shows that the principal lines of attack were (1) from East Prussia and Pomerania towards the base of the Polish Corridor; (2) from East Prussia south in the direction of Warsaw; (3) from Pomerania towards Poznan; (4) towards Lodz; (5) from German Silesia, where a dual thrust was aimed at the Silesian Industrial Areas (see map 5); and (6) from Slovakia towards Cracow.

Within ten days the Germans had occupied the greater part of Western Poland and had cut off Poland from the sea.

THE SECOND PHASE—From 12 September

In the second phase of the campaign the Polish forces were steadily driven back. The Germans began to encircle Warsaw, approaching it (a) from the north, and (b), having crossed the Vistula, from the south.

On the eve of the Russian invasion (17 September) the Germans held the area shown by shading on map ii, and were advancing towards Bialystok, Brest-Litovsk, Lublin, and Lwow. On 18 September the Germans and Russians met at Brest-Litovsk.

The Russians occupied the Polish side of the Rumanian frontier, and, by agreement with the Germans, advanced west to a line running along the rivers San, Vistula and Narew to the frontier of East Prussia.

Warsaw held out until 27 September, and the fortress of Modlin until 28 September, on which day a Treaty was signed between the U.S.S.R. and Germany for the Fourth Partition of Poland.



7. THE RUSSIAN INVASION OF FINLAND

7. THE RUSSIAN INVASION OF FINLAND

FAILING to obtain from Finland concessions similar to those granted to her by the other Baltic Republics (see No. 51), Russia invaded that country on 30 November, 1939.

The invaders had to face the natural obstacles of a terrain infused with 70,000 lakes and 75 per cent. of which was forested. But as the campaign was waged in winter the frozen surface of the lakes and the hard snow-covered ground aided rather than hindered troop movements. Owing, however, to the severe weather many of the Russians, who were less well clad than the Finns, died of exposure. The invaders had far greater reserves of men and munitions than their opponents, and an overwhelming superiority in the air, but Russian raids failed to break the morale of either the Army or the civilian population.

The invasion was concentrated on four fronts :

1. The principal attack was on the Karelian Isthmus, which blocked the way to Southern Finland. The 65-mile wide Isthmus was defended by the Mannerheim Line, which stretched from Lake Ladoga to the coast.

2. Unsuccessful in their attempt to break the Mannerheim Line, the Russians attempted to turn it north of Lake Ladoga.

3. On the Eastern Front the Russians tried to cut Finland's waistline by reaching the Gulf of Bothnia. If they had succeeded they would have cut the country into two parts, and would have prevented communication by rail with Sweden, an important Finnish source of supply. The main Russian thrusts were (i) towards Suomussalmi, on Lake Kianta, and (ii) in the Salla Sector, where their immediate objective was the railhead of Kemijarvi.

4. On the Petsamo Front the Russians advanced overland from Murmansk and disembarked troops near Petsamo. They captured Petsamo, and advanced south along the Arctic Highway to the nickel mine works at Salmijarvi, which were destroyed by the Finns.

In mid-February the Finns were obliged to withdraw from the Mannerheim Line. Soon afterwards the Russians reached Viipuri, and fighting ceased on 13 March, 1940.

8. THE RUSSO-FINNISH PEACE TREATY

THE Russo-Finnish War, which lasted 105 days, terminated on 13 March, 1940. By the *Treaty of Moscow*, Finland lost 16,173 square miles of territory, an area approximately equal to one-third of England.

Lost Territory in Southern Finland. This comprised the Karelian Isthmus, including the Mannerheim Zone and Viipuri, and the shore line of Lake Ladoga, with the Viipuri-Sortavaala Railway. The Karelian Isthmus was one of the most densely peopled parts of Finland. Viipuri (Viborg), the second largest city, handled nearly half Finland's overseas trade, and ranked second to Kotka as the chief lumber-exporting port. Timber, pulpwood, and paper comprised 90 per cent. of Finland's exports.

Russia was granted a 30-years' lease of the Hangö Peninsula for the purpose of establishing a naval, military and air base. Hangö, with the bases in Estonia and Latvia, gave Russia control of the Gulf of Finland, and enabled her to dominate the North Baltic. Finland retained the unfortified Åland Islands: if Russia had obtained these she would have been able to seal the North Baltic, and control the trade of Lulea, the Swedish iron-ore exporting port during summer.

Lost Territories in the North. The map shows that the effect of ceding the main northern area was (i) to push Finland's frontier farther back from the Leningrad-Murmansk Railway, and (ii) to bring the Russian frontier closer to the railhead at Kemijarvi. It was agreed to build a joint railway, over which Russia was to have a right of way, from the White Sea port of Kandalaksha to Kemijarvi. This railway across Finland's waistline would have given Russia direct rail communication with Sweden, and would have facilitated her advance to the Gulf of Bothnia. Finland agreed to cede the Fisherman's Peninsula to Russia, to demilitarize the Petsamo area, and give Russia a right of way across it to Norway. Thus Petsamo, Finland's ice-free port, and the nickel mines in this area, were at the mercy of Russia.



8. THE RUSSO-FINNISH PEACE TREATY



9. THE INVASION OF DENMARK

9. THE INVASION OF DENMARK

DENMARK—KEY TO THE BALTIC

ON 9 April, 1940, the Germans invaded Norway and Denmark. The Norwegian Government refused to submit to a German occupation of their country (see No. 10); the Danes acquiesced under protest.

German troops invading Denmark landed from warships: (i) in the north of the Jutland Peninsula, and at (ii) Middlefart, on the Little Belt; (iii) Nyborg, on the Great Belt; (iv) Korsör, on the Great Belt, and (v) Copenhagen, on the Sound. As the map shows, these ports are situated on one of the vital arteries of Denmark, i.e., the main railway from Esbjerg to Copenhagen. Other contingents crossed the Schleswig frontier at Flensburg and Tönder, both on railways connecting Hamburg with the Esbjerg-Copenhagen line. The occupation of all these strategic points placed the land communications of Denmark in the hands of Germany, and by giving her control of the Kattegat, the Great and Little Belts, and the Sound, enabled her to prevent hostile warships from entering the Baltic from the North Sea. Danish aerodromes, for instance, Aalborg, were also used as subsidiary bases for bombing allied troops in Norway.

During the early stages of the invasion the transport of German troops to Norway was hampered by the British; their destroyers sank a number of warships in the Kattegat, while aircraft bombed and sank transports and supply ships, sealed the entrances to the Baltic by a minefield, and laid mines along the Baltic coast of Germany.

10. THE NORWEGIAN CAMPAIGN



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NORWAY is mainly a mountain plateau cut by valleys and indented by fiords. Between the rugged west coast and the precipitous island-fringe runs the channel, which is used by ships carrying Swedish iron ore from Narvik to Germany. Railways and roads, radiating from Oslo, follow the valleys, but there is no road or rail connection between Trondheim and Narvik. In the Norwegian campaign the mountainous terrain prevented the use of large bodies of troops, and prohibited the allies from constructing landing grounds for aircraft. The Germans invaded Norway on 9 April, 1940.

By their occupation of Narvik, Trondheim, Bergen, Stavanger, and Oslo, the Germans obtained possession of the chief ports and all the air bases in Norway. Hence the allies were (1) forced to land troops at fishing villages, furnished only with jetties, and having no proper facilities for disembarking bodies of men and munitions; and (2) obliged to operate from air bases in England, a return journey of at least 800 miles.

German forces advanced from Oslo to Hamar and thence (i) up the Oesterdal towards Røros, and (ii) up the Gudbrandsdal towards Lillehammer and Dombås.

Allied troops, whose objective was Trondheim, landed (i) at Namsos, advancing south to Steinkjer, and (ii) at Andalsnes, and other points in the Romsdal Fiord area, whence they thrust north-east to Støren. Contingents from Andalsnes also marched south-east, captured Dombås, and proceeded down the Gudbrandsdal to Lillehammer. But, faced by German troops, superior in numbers, equipment and air-power, they were obliged to withdraw, and were evacuated from Central Norway on 30 April.

On the Northern front the allies landed at Tromsø and Bodø, and British warships forced the Germans out of Narvik Fiord. The latter, however, held the town of Narvik until 29 May, when it was captured by the allies, who remained there until they evacuated Northern Norway on 10 June.

11. THE WESTERN FRONT

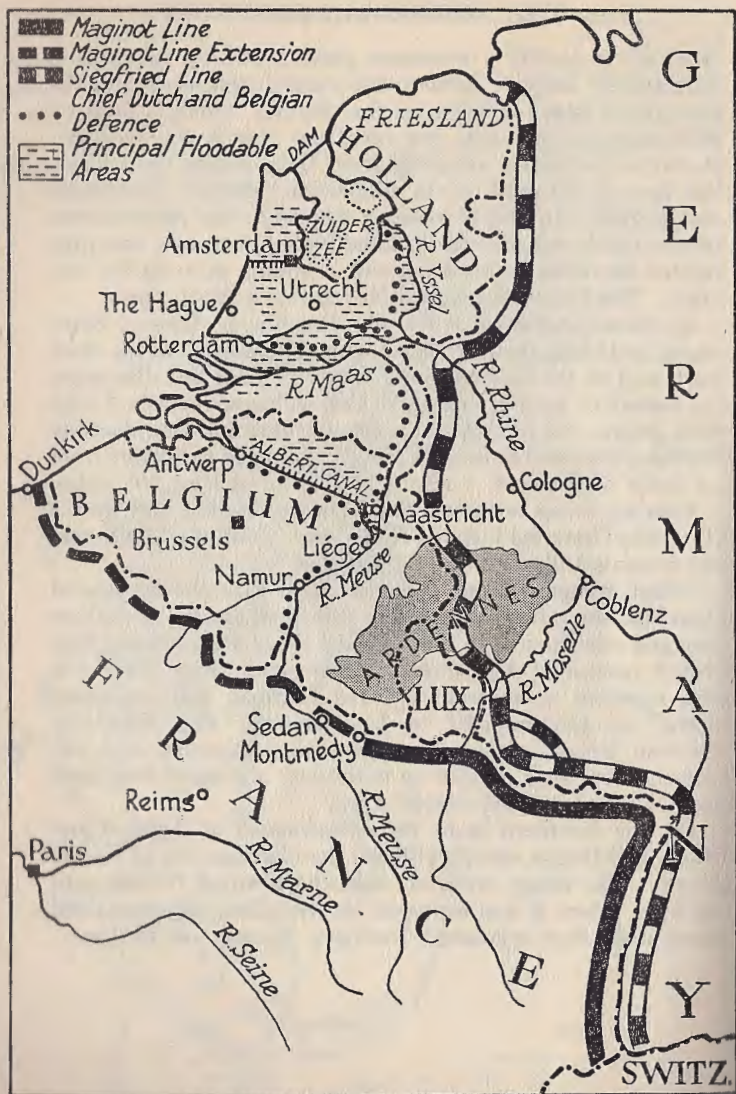
As in the first Great War, the Western Front stretched from the North Sea to Switzerland. The German frontier was protected by the Siegfried Line, or West Wall, the French by the Maginot Line, both being defensive belts of some depth and enormous strength. The Maginot Line proper ran from the Swiss frontier to Montmédy, beyond which the so-called Maginot Extension, along the Franco-Belgian frontier, was merely a deep belt defended by isolated strong points, blockhouses and tank traps.

In view of the strength of the Maginot Line, and the fact that the plain of Holland and Belgium presented fewer obstacles to an invader than the country farther south, it seemed probable from the outset that Germany might attempt to invade France through the Low Countries.

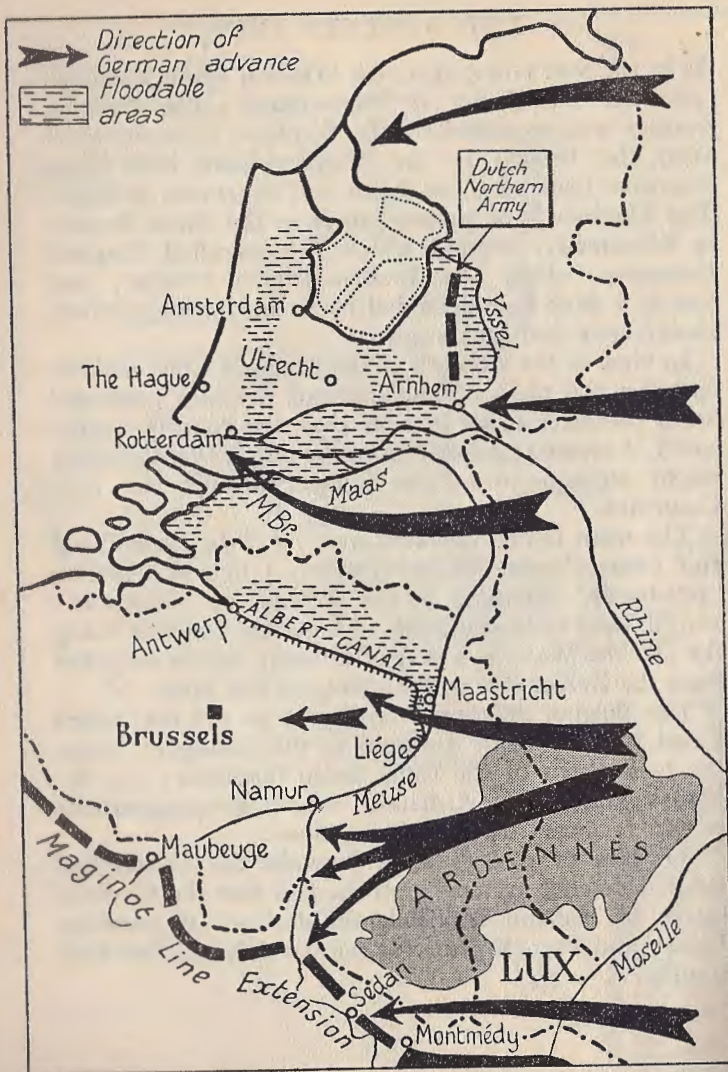
The main Dutch defences were : (1) the rivers Yssel and Maas (Meuse), behind which a line of concrete 'pill-boxes' extended to the fortress of Maastricht ; and (2) belts of land capable of flooding, the chief being the Grebbe Waterline, east of Utrecht, which extended from the Zuider Zee to the mouth of the Maas.

The Belgian defences were based on (1) the Albert Canal running from Antwerp to the Meuse at Liège, the land north of the canal being floodable ; (2) the Meuse, and (3) the Ardennes, where the mountainous terrain favoured defensive operations.

But lack of co-ordination between the Dutch and Belgian defence systems, and the fact that the Governments of Holland and Belgium declined to consider British and French plans for mutual defence, had fatal results.



11. THE WESTERN FRONT



12. THE INVASION OF HOLLAND, BELGIUM AND LUXEMBURG

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ON 10 May, 1940, the Germans invaded Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg. Their mechanized forces were supported by dive-bombers and parachute troops. Open towns were bombed, and civilians fleeing along the roads were machine-gunned.

HOLLAND

While the Germans crossed the frontier, parachute troops landed behind the Dutch lines where, aided by 'fifth-columnists,' they seized aerodromes and disorganized communications.

The Germans overran the north-eastern provinces, which had always been considered indefensible. The Dutch Northern Army meanwhile retired behind the Yssel, where their positions were soon rendered untenable by the capture of the bridge-head at Arnhem. Other German units, advancing south across the Maas, crossed the Moerdiyk Bridge (M.Br. on map), and by outflanking the Dutch waterline defences, had the area north of the Maas at their mercy. After being subjected to intense aerial bombardment, Rotterdam was captured and, to save other cities from destruction, the Dutch capitulated within five days of the opening of hostilities.

BELGIUM AND LUXEMBURG

Crossing the Maas (Meuse) the Germans captured the Dutch fortress of Maastricht, and the Belgian fortress Eben Emael, which guarded the junction of the Meuse and the Albert Canal. Having outflanked the canal, some units advanced west: others captured Liège, and proceeded down the north bank of the Meuse to Namur.

But the main German advance was over the Ardennes, through the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg and the Belgian province of Luxemburg. These forces crossed the Meuse at three points between Namur and Sedan, and also captured Montmédy, the pivot of the Maginot Line and the Maginot Line Extension.



Direction of German Advance ——— Allied line



13. THE BATTLE OF FLANDERS—DUNKIRK

When they had crossed the Meuse, German mechanized forces broke through the Maginot Line Extension between Sedan and Maubeuge. This break, an unparalleled disaster for the allies, compelled them to evacuate Antwerp, and to withdraw to the Schelde.

In the south the allies were forced to retire to positions along the Somme and the Aisne, where Rethel on the Aisne was captured by the Germans.

The German tanks burst through the allied front between Arras and Péronne. They captured Arras and Amiens on 21 May, and on the same day reached Abbeville, at the mouth of the Somme, thus separating the allied forces in the south from those in Flanders.

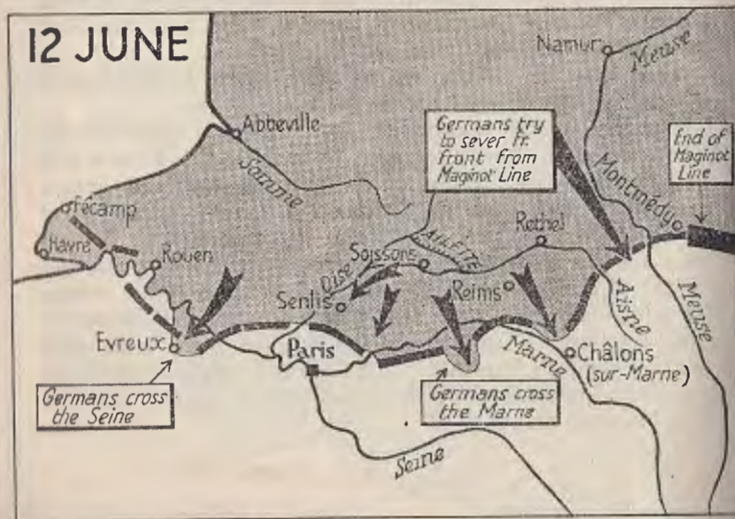
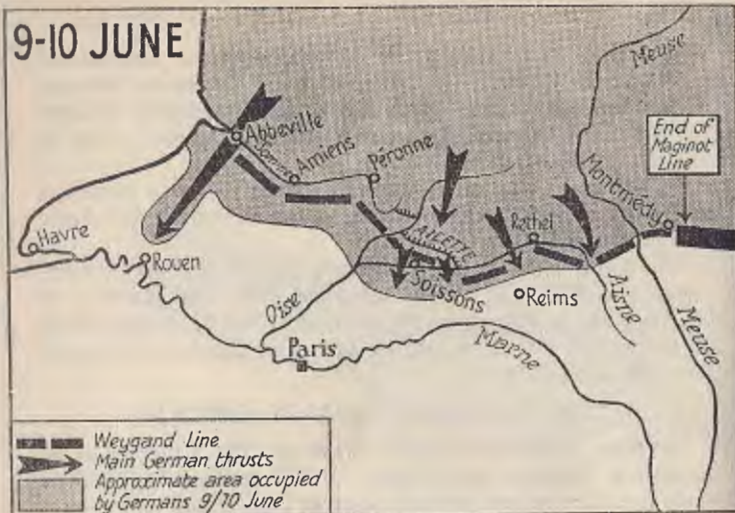
THE RETREAT FROM FLANDERS

German mechanized units swept up the Channel coast capturing Boulogne and Calais. In the north-east the allies were forced to retreat behind the river Lys, Ghent and Courtrai being captured. The allied line in the north now formed a pocket running from Ostend, south of Lille, and then back to the coast between Calais and Dunkirk.

That was the position on 28 May, when King Leopold of the Belgians ordered his armies to surrender.

German forces, numbering 40 divisions (approximately 1,000,000 men), now attempted to encircle the French and British. But fighting one of the greatest rearguard actions in history, the allies retreated on Dunkirk, where naval forces covered the port, which was also defended by flooded areas on the west and east. Protected by naval forces, and by the R.A.F., 224,000 British, and 112,000 Allied troops (of which all but a very few were French) were evacuated from Dunkirk. Nearly 1,000 boats of all types were used to carry them to England. The British Expeditionary Force lost all its equipment, but when the Germans reached Dunkirk they found an empty shell.

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14. THE BATTLE OF FRANCE—THE FIGHT FOR PARIS

At dawn on 5 June the Germans launched their attack on the Weygand Line, a hastily constructed line with isolated strong points, which stretched along the Somme, the Ailette Canal, and the Aisne, to Montmédy. The strongest part of this line was the Somme sector: the weakest that behind the narrow Ailette Canal.

The German assault, preceded by artillery bombardment and accompanied by dive-bombing attacks, was launched along a 120-mile front. The main attacks were: (1) on the Ailette Canal sector, where the enemy crossed the canal, and later the Aisne west and east of Soissons; (2) on the left flank of the allied line, where from their bridge-head at Abbeville the Germans advanced into Normandy, their tanks reaching Rouen on the 9th; (3) on the east, where mechanized units crossed the Aisne on both sides of Rethel, and drove towards Reims.

By the 10th the Germans had advanced beyond the Somme and the Aisne (see map), and the allies were retreating towards the Seine and the Marne.

On the 12th the French armies stood north of Paris, where the Germans advanced down the Oise valley to Senlis, 20 miles from the capital. On the west the allied line ran from Fécamp to the Seine, and then south of that river, which the Germans crossed at several points. In the east the enemy crossed the Marne, and were making a determined effort in the neighbourhood of Montmédy to sever the French front from the Maginot Line.

This was the situation when the French weakly decided to make no attempt to defend Paris. They withdrew on the 13th and on the following day the Germans entered the city.

14. THE BATTLE OF FRANCE—THE FIGHT FOR PARIS



15. THE BATTLE OF FRANCE—DEFEAT

15. THE BATTLE OF FRANCE—DEFEAT

THE fall of Paris saw the French armies disorganised and in full retreat, and before long the Germans, repeating tactics that had been so successful in Poland and the Low Countries, succeeded in breaking up their opponents into isolated groups.

The enemy now occupied the Channel coast from Havre north-eastward. From Evreux (on the main road and railway from Paris to Cherbourg) he pressed west to Cherbourg, south-west to Rennes and thence (a) west to Brest, and (b) south to Nantes, at the mouth of the Seine.

South of Paris the Germans advanced to the Loire, whence they hastened on towards Nevers, and thence east to Le Creusot, the munition centre.

Farther east mechanized units swept from Châlons-sur-Marne up the Marne valley to Chaumont, and across the Langres Plateau into the Rhone-Saône valley, where they reached Dijon, and later Lyons, and the Swiss frontier.

The Maginot Line was pierced (1) north of Metz which was captured on the 18th, and (2) in the south, where Belfort, commanding the gap between the Vosges and the Jura, fell on the same day.

Along the Alps the French were facing the Italians, who had entered the war on 10 June.

Meanwhile, 84-year-old Marshal Pétain, now Premier of France, asked the Germans for an armistice. Hostilities ceased on 22 June, after negotiations had been concluded with Italy.

16. THE CAPITULATION OF FRANCE

ARMISTICE TERMS

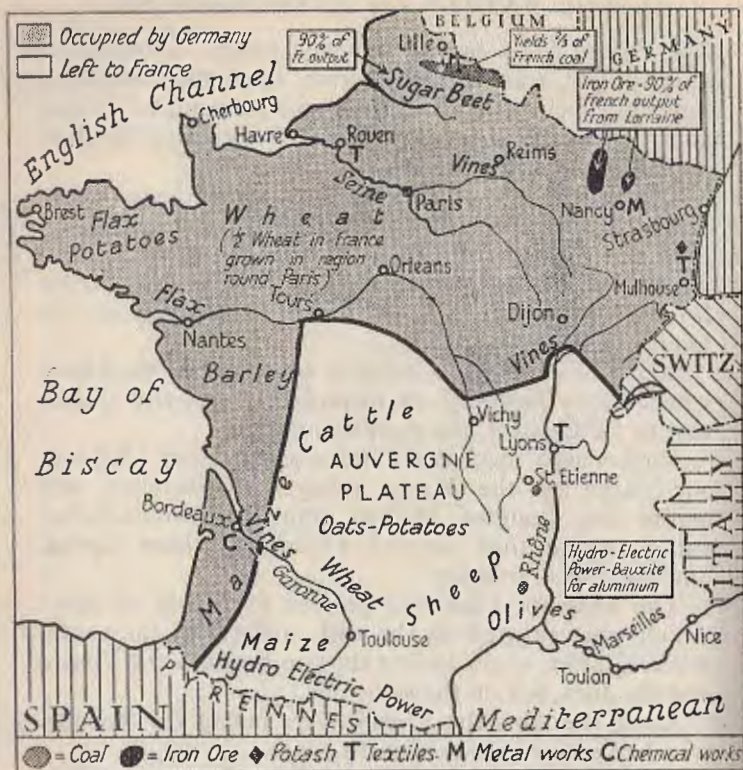
By the Armistice with Germany :

1. The Germans occupied the whole of France north of a line from Tours to Geneva, and west of a line from Tours to the Spanish frontier (see map).
2. The French forces were demobilized and disarmed. All munitions were surrendered.
3. All German prisoners of war were released. (These included some 400 German pilots, mostly captured by the R.A.F., who were thus freed to take part in raids on Britain.)
4. The French fleet was to be recalled to French territory, where it was to be disarmed and interned under German and Italian supervision.

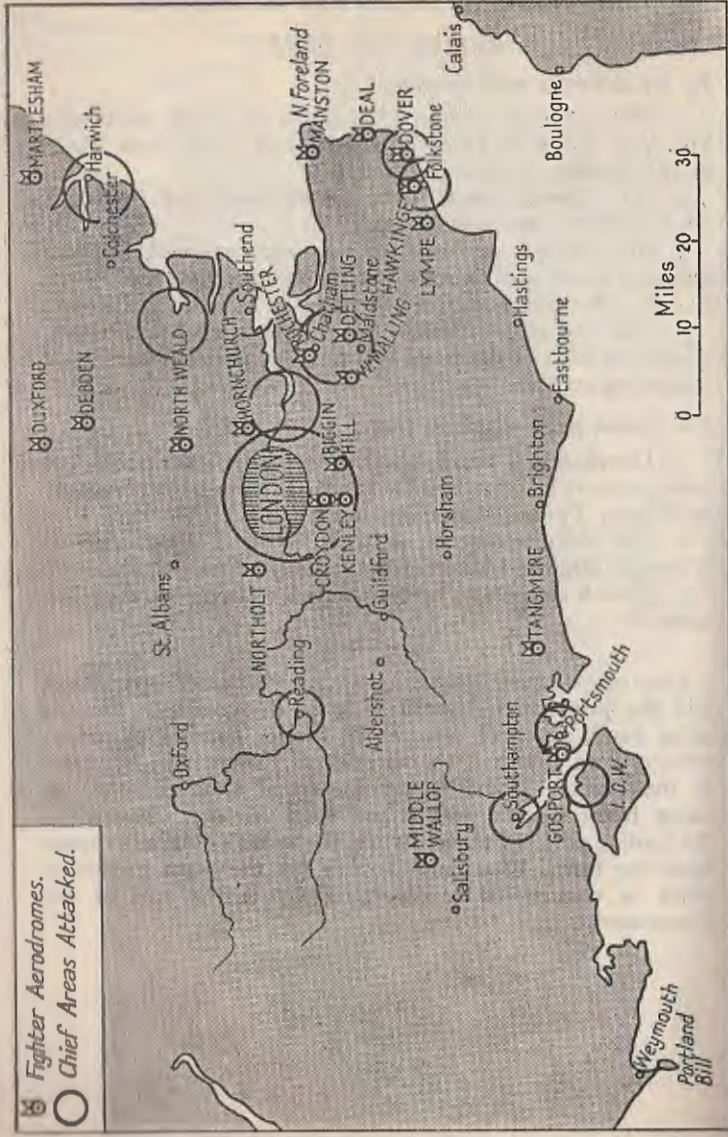
The Italian terms stipulated that :

1. Demilitarized zones, varying in width from 30 to 120 miles, were to be established along the Franco-Italian frontiers in France, Tunisia, Algeria, and French Somaliland.
2. The Mediterranean naval bases of Toulon, Ajaccio (Corsica), Oran and Bizerta (Algeria) were to be demilitarized.
3. French airports to be placed under German and Italian control.

German-occupied France comprises the chief agricultural and the principal industrial areas in the country. On the other hand, much of unoccupied France consists of mountainous land unsuited to cultivation. There are, however, in the French Alpine region, important aluminium works, using hydro-electric power and local bauxite. Marseilles, the leading port in France, Lyons, the world's chief silk manufacturing town, Nice, and Toulon are the most important cities in unoccupied territory. Vichy is the seat of the Government.



16. THE CAPITULATION OF FRANCE
ARMISTICE TERMS



17 THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN—VICTORY

17. THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN—VICTORY

August to October, 1940

AFTER the fall of France the Germans prepared to invade Britain. But before they could land troops it was essential for them: (a) to destroy coastal convoys bringing supplies, (b) to sink or cripple naval units defending Britain, and (c) to secure mastery of the air. From mid-June until early August the Germans carried out daylight raids, whose purpose was to test British defences. These raids prepared the way for the aerial *blitzkrieg*, which consisted of four phases.

(1) From 8 to 18 August, waves of long-range bombers, escorted by fighters, made daylight raids against (a) ports from North Foreland to Portland (see map), (b) merchant convoys, and (c) fighter aerodromes. 697 German aeroplanes were destroyed, compared with 153 lost by the British.

(2) From 19 August until 5 September daylight bombing continued against ports, but the brunt of the attack was directed against inland aerodromes and aircraft factories. This phase cost the Germans 562 planes while the defenders lost 219.

(3) In the third phase (6 September to 5 October) attacks were concentrated on London. This phase was characterised by daylight raids by bombers, with fighter escorts, and night attacks by single bombers operating at 25,000 to 30,000 feet. Much damage was done to docks, public buildings, and private houses.

(4) From 6 to 31 October, London was again the main target of the Germans. But they changed their tactics, and instead of using long-range bombers, sent over waves of fighters and fighter-bombers, which operated mainly at night and flew at great heights. Bombing was more indiscriminate than previously, but the weight of bombs dropped was much less than in August and September.

Towards the end of October the battle began to die away. By 31 October it was over. Considerable damage had been done, and in London alone 1,700 persons, chiefly civilians, had lost their lives in daylight raids, and 12,581 in night raids. During the Battle of Britain at least 2,375 enemy aircraft were destroyed, but even more important was the fact that the Germans had been unable to land troops, and so had failed in their main objective—the Invasion of Britain.



18. THE GERMAN AIR OFFENSIVE AGAINST BRITAIN
1940-1941

18. THE GERMAN AIR OFFENSIVE AGAINST BRITAIN, 1940-1941

THE Battle of Britain marked the beginning of a strategical German air offensive against Britain, and a counter offensive by Britain against Germany. The Germans had the advantage by reason of numerical superiority in aircraft, and their possession of the French coast of the English Channel. Practically all the industrial centres in the Midlands and South Wales lie within 200 miles of German-occupied air bases, but the Rhineland cities are at least 300 miles, and Berlin is about 600 miles, from British aerodromes. For a German bomber to hop across the Channel to London is a matter of minutes. For a British bomber, passing over enemy territory, to reach Berlin is a matter of hours.

The German bombers, operating mainly at night, made their heaviest attacks on ports and industrial areas, though there was much indiscriminate bombing, especially over South-East England. Southampton, Portsmouth, Plymouth, the Metropolitan area, the Midlands, notably the Birmingham and Coventry districts, South Wales, Liverpool and Merseyside, Clydeside, and Belfast all suffered severely. But the German attempt to disrupt Britain's war effort was a failure, and British fighters, anti-aircraft guns and barrage balloons all took an increasing toll of the enemy.

Meanwhile the growing power of the Royal Air Force enabled it to strike more and more at industrial centres, and communications in Germany and occupied territory, a task for which it was well suited, for it had always paid great attention to strategical bombing. The *Luftwaffe*, on the other hand, was built up primarily on the concept of tactical bombing, with a view to giving close support to the Army.



19. NAVAL BASES IN NORTH-WEST EUROPE

19. NAVAL BASES IN NORTH-WEST EUROPE

THE map shows the principal British, Irish, German, German-occupied, and Russian naval bases.

Portsmouth, Weymouth and Plymouth being especially vulnerable to air attack, the British Home Fleet is based in Northern waters. An additional burden is placed on the Royal Navy because it is not allowed to use naval harbours in Eire. Cobh and Berehaven would be of immense value in protecting the southern entrance to the Irish Sea, and the route to the Bristol Channel; and Lough Swilly in defending shipping lanes to the Clyde, the Mersey, and north-west ports. These three bases were transferred to Eire in 1938. On the plea of neutrality Eire refuses to allow Britain to use them, though she must fully realize that her existence as an independent state depends on a British victory.

The German North Sea bases and the strategic Kiel Canal have been subjected to frequent attacks by British aircraft. But German U-boats can operate from Norwegian harbours, and from Atlantic bases in Occupied France, such as Brest, which has sheltered the *Scharnhorst*, the *Gneisenau* and other German warships.

As Germany holds the entrances to the Baltic Sea, the activities of the Russian fleet are of necessity limited. Russia acquired Oesel, Dagö, Baltiski, and Hangö, in order to guard the approaches to the Gulf of Finland and Leningrad, which is protected by Kronstadt. The capture of these important bases by the Germans would immobilize the Red Fleet, though light craft would escape by the Stalin (or Baltic-White Sea) Canal (see map 48) to the White Sea,



20. ITALY

20. ITALY

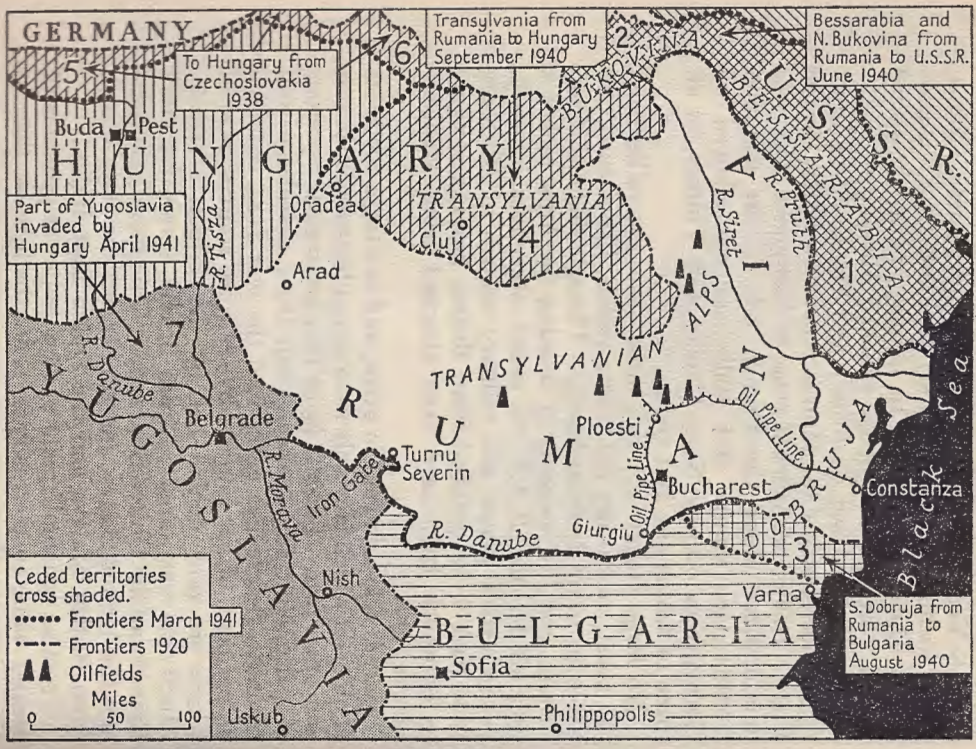
AFTER the War of 1914-18 Italy obtained from Austria: (1) the Venezia Tridentina; (2) the Venezia Giulia, which included Trieste, and (3) Zara and certain islands off the Dalmatian coast. In January, 1924, she seized Fiume. In April, 1939, she annexed Albania.

Italy declared war on Britain and France on 11 June, 1940, shortly before the capitulation of the latter. By the Franco-Italian armistice a zone 50 kilometres wide was demilitarized along the French side of the common frontier (see map). But Italy was not allowed by Germany to occupy Nice, Corsica and Tunisia, to all three of which she laid claim.

No large Italian city lies more than 100 miles from the coast, and many are ports, which, like Genoa, are liable to naval bombardment. Though distance from Britain, and the necessity of crossing the Alps, makes it difficult for the R.A.F. to attack objectives in Italy, yet industrial plants and military centres in Northern Italy have been bombed from British bases, and those in Southern Italy have been attacked from Mediterranean bases.

Italy is self-sufficient in grain, and is a large producer of olive oil which is widely used as a substitute for butter and other fats. But she lacks four strategical materials of paramount importance—coal, iron, petroleum and rubber. Before her entry into the war Italy obtained 85 per cent. of her imports by sea from sources most of which are now denied her by the British blockade. Much coal was imported from Britain, scrap iron from France and the United States, petroleum from Venezuela and the United States, and rubber, via the Suez Canal, from British Malaya and the Dutch East Indies.

From an economic point of view Italy was probably of greater value to Germany as a non-belligerent than as a combatant; from a military point of view she is a liability rather than an asset.



21. TERRITORIAL CHANGES IN THE BALKANS

21. TERRITORIAL CHANGES IN THE BALKANS

THE map shows the territorial changes that took place in the Balkan area between 1938 and the middle of 1941. During this period Rumania lost practically all the lands she gained after the first Great War. She was forced to cede (1) Bessarabia and (2) Northern Bukovina to the U.S.S.R.; (3) the southern part of the Dobruja to Bulgaria; and (4) Transylvania to Hungary.

By obtaining virtual control of Hungary and Rumania in November, 1940, and of Bulgaria in March, 1941, the Germans were able to use these countries as a base from which to invade Greece and Yugoslavia.

On the dismemberment of Czechoslovakia Hungary received as her share of

the spoil the southern portion of Slovakia (5 on map), and Ruthenia (6). In April, 1941, she invaded Yugoslavia (with whom she had signed a Pact of Friendship a month previously) and occupied the Danube-Tisa triangle (7 on map).



22. THE ITALIAN INVASION OF GREECE

22. THE ITALIAN INVASION OF GREECE

THE Italian invasion of Greece was part of the Axis plan to gain control of the Eastern Mediterranean and the Suez Canal, preparatory to extending the war into the Middle East.

The Italians, who expected an easy victory over the ill-equipped Greeks, crossed the Albanian frontier into Greece on 28 October, 1940. As will be seen by the map their main thrusts were (1) from Koritza towards Florina, on the route to Salonika, and (2) from Santi Quaranta southwards along the Adriatic coast, and up the Kalamas valley to Janina, whence a road ran through mountainous country to the Plain of Thessaly. The Italians failed in their dual thrusts, and by mid-November the Greeks, supported by the Royal Air Force, took the offensive.

The second phase of the campaign (17 November to 6 April) saw the Italians driven back, and the Greeks advancing into Albania (1) across the Kalamas River and along the coast to the Italian supply base of Santi Quaranta; (2) from Janina, through Argyrokastrò, and down the valley towards Tepelini, which the Italians continued to hold; (3) to Klisura, and then in the direction of Berat; (4) from Florina along the road to Koritza (captured 28 November) and Pogradets.

But the severe winter weather held up the offensive, though in spite of Italian counter-attacks the Greeks held their positions until early in April, when the Germans came to the rescue of their allies.

To be returned to
Port Ordnance Officer,
Movement Control,
LIVERPOOL



23. THE INVASION OF YUGOSLAVIA AND GREECE

23. THE INVASION OF YUGOSLAVIA AND GREECE
 THE adherence of Yugoslavia to the Tripartite Pact was followed by a military *coup d'état*: Prince Paul, pro-German Regent, was deposed, King Peter assumed power, and a Government was set up pledged to preserve the independence of the country. These events were followed on 6 April by the German invasion of Greece and Yugoslavia.

OPERATIONS AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA

The German attack on Yugoslavia began with the bombing of the open city of Belgrade. From Bulgaria German mechanized forces, supported by aircraft, advanced towards the Vardar valley, where they captured (1) Nish; (2) Uskub, by a pincer movement (see map), whence continuing west to the Albanian frontier they drove a wedge between the Yugoslav and Greek armies; and (3) Monastir.

In the north, units from Southern Germany captured Zagreb, a day after Hungarian troops had crossed into Yugoslavia and occupied frontier regions adjacent to the Danube.

Meanwhile the Italians seized ports on the Dalmatian coast, and their advance units from Fiume made contact with the Germans from Zagreb.

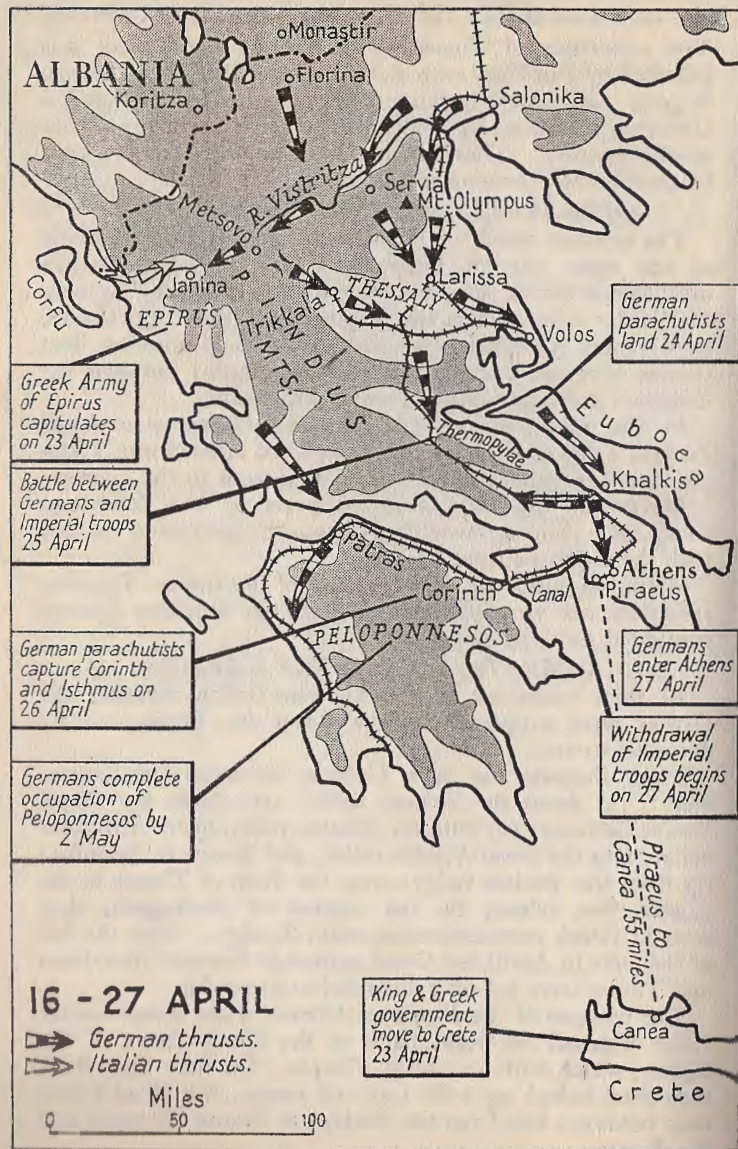
Within a week of the opening of hostilities Yugoslav resistance was virtually at an end, though desultory fighting continued until 18 April.

OPERATIONS AGAINST GREECE

In their resistance to the German-Italian invasion the Greeks were supported by the Royal Air Force, and by Imperial troops.

From Bulgaria the main German advances into Greece were: (1) down the Struma valley, and across the Rupel Pass to Salonika; (2) from the Struma valley, by the Strumitza valley, into the lower Vardar valley, and thence to Salonika; (3) from the Maritsa valley across the Plain of Thrace to the Aegean Sea, where, by the capture of Dedeagach, they severed Greek communications with Turkey. With the fall of Salonika (9 April) the Greek armies in Eastern Macedonia and Thrace were cut off and forced to surrender.

The collapse of the Yugoslav defence in the lower Vardar valley exposed the right flank of the Greek Army of the Epirus, which withdrew from Albania. On their right flank they then linked up with Imperial troops, the allied forces then holding a line from the Adriatic to Mount Olympus and the Aegean.



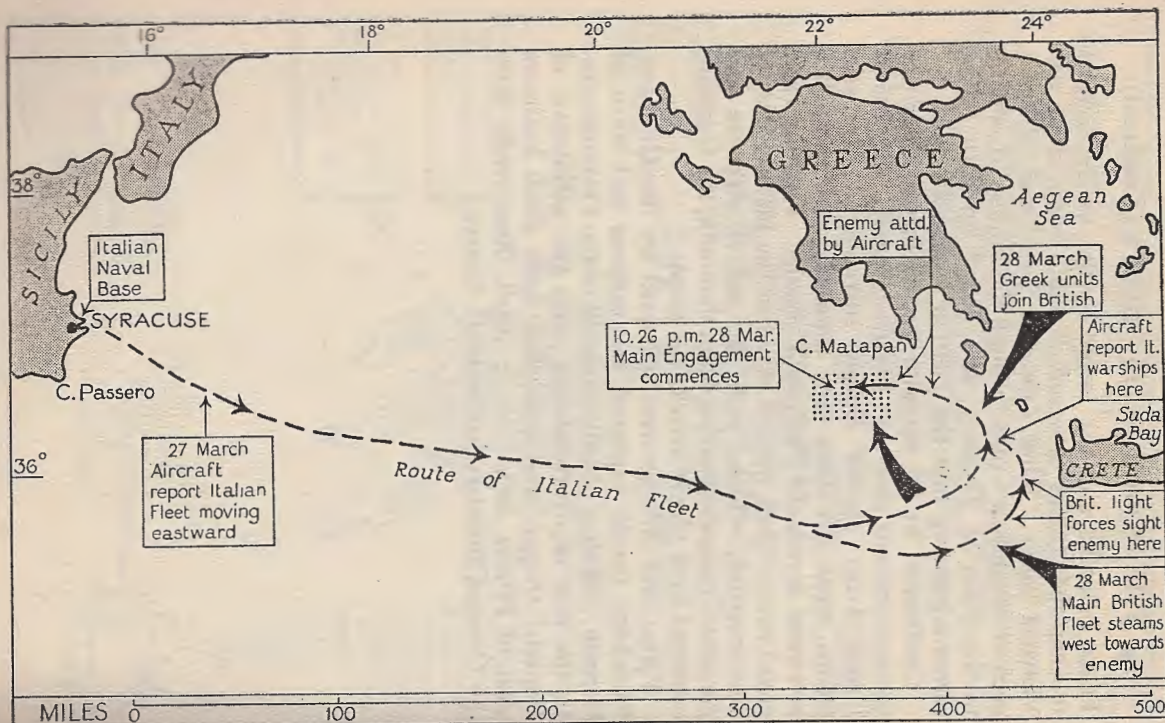
24. THE INVASION OF GREECE (Continued).

24. THE INVASION OF GREECE (Continued).

FROM Salonika and the lower Vardar valley German mechanized forces proceeded south-west along the Vistrizta valley. They captured Serbia and Metsovo, each commanding a pass through the Pindus Mountains to the Plain of Thessaly, and linked up with Italian forces advancing into the Plain from Janina.

Confronted by far superior enemy forces, their rear communications cut by hostile aircraft, the heroic Greek Army of the Epirus surrendered. Imperial troops, their left flank now exposed, were compelled to retreat across the Plain of Thessaly. Fighting rearguard actions they made a stand in the historic Pass of Thermopylae, which, with the aid of airborne and parachute troops advancing from the south, the Germans captured by a pincer attack (see map).

Patras and Athens were occupied by the Germans. Parachute troops captured the isthmus and town of Corinth, and thus obtained control of the Peloponnese. In the face of overwhelming odds the withdrawal of Imperial troops, who embarked from small harbours west of Piræus, began on 27 April, three weeks after the German invaders had entered Greece.



25. THE BATTLE OF CAPE MATAPAN

25. THE BATTLE OF CAPE MATAPAN

ON 27 March, 1941, British reconnaissance aircraft reported Italian warships east of Cape Passero (Sicily), travelling east. On the morning of 28 March British light forces sighted, south-west of Crete, a 35,000 ton Italian battleship of the *Littorio* class (subsequently identified as the *Vittorio Veneto*), accompanied by cruisers. Aircraft also reported another enemy force to the north of this position. After being sighted the Italian vessels proceeded in a westerly direction at high speed. Meanwhile the main British fleet steamed westward, and a Greek naval squadron proceeded to take up a strategic position between Crete and the Greek mainland.

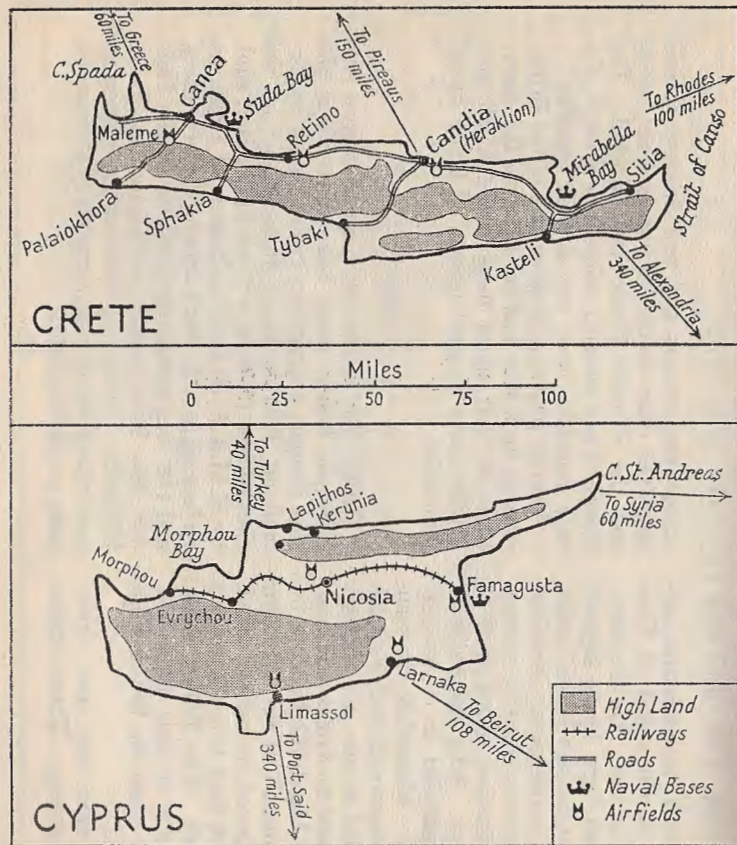
During the day of 28 March the Italian ships were so damaged by aircraft of the Fleet Air Arm that they were forced to reduce speed. This allowed the British fleet to make contact with them by nightfall. The Italian ships, unaware of the proximity of their opponents, were proceeding in line when the British ships cut across their course.

At 10.26 p.m. the fleet went into action. The result was devastating. Three Italian

10,000 ton cruisers and two destroyers were sunk, two other destroyers were probably sunk, and the *Vittorio Veneto* was crippled. The British Fleet escaped without a scratch, the only casualties being two aircraft 'missing.'

Aircraft played a decisive part in the British victory, for if they had not deprived the enemy ships of their speed these would in all probability have escaped instead of being forced into action.

Before the Battle of Cape Matapan the principal Italian naval losses were: (1) the *San Giorgio*, a 9,232 ton cruiser, sunk by aircraft off Tobruk, on 11 June, 1940; (2) the *Bartholomeo Colleoni*, a 5,000 ton cruiser, sunk by H.M.A.S. *Sydney*, north-west of Crete, on 19 July, 1940; (3) four battleships, two cruisers, and two fleet auxiliaries damaged by the Fleet Air Arm in an attack on Taranto on 11/12 November, 1940; (4) some twelve destroyers and torpedo boats, and nearly thirty submarines sunk on various dates.



26. THE BATTLE OF CRETE, 20 TO 31 MAY, 1941

27. CYPRUS

26. THE BATTLE OF CRETE, 20 TO 31 MAY, 1941

In November, 1940, the British occupied Crete. Seven months later the Germans, operating from Greece, launched their attack on the island, which they captured in eleven days.

Following intensive aerial bombardment, which included the dive-bombing of British forces, the invaders dropped parachute troops, and later landed men by troop-carrying planes and gliders, near Suda Bay, Canea, Retimo, Candia (Heraklion), and Maleme, the chief of the three airfields in the island.

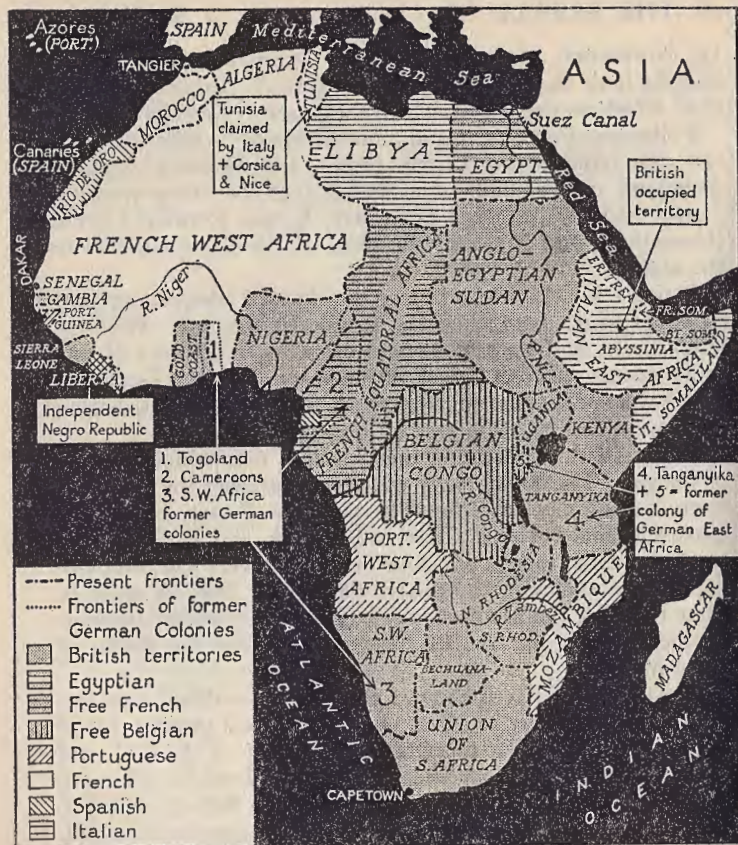
It was not lack of aerodromes, but lack of adequate ground defences which compelled the Royal Air Force to withdraw from Crete, and operate from Alexandria, a distance of 340 miles, compared with Greek airfields used by the Germans, which were only some 60 miles away. British difficulties were also intensified by a shortage of long-range fighters.

Throughout the invasion the Germans maintained mastery of the air. The Royal Navy was able to prevent the Germans from landing any large number of troops by sea, but in the narrow waters between Crete and Greece, and in the Straits of Canoso, two cruisers and four destroyers were lost, and two battleships and several cruisers damaged. Yet, in spite of these reverses, the Mediterranean Fleet was relatively stronger compared with the Italian Fleet than before the Battle of Cape Matapan.

The Battle of Crete showed that (1) in confined seas unsupported air power can beat unsupported sea power; (2) to ensure success Britain must achieve mastery of the air; and (3) well protected aerodromes are essential both for offensive and defensive purposes. It showed also (4) that at night it is better to close in with parachute troops after they have landed, rather than fire at them in the air, because gun flashes draw the attention of dive-bombers.

27. CYPRUS

CYPRUS, a British colony, is about half the size of Wales. Strategically placed in the Eastern Mediterranean, it is 40 miles from the coast of Turkey, and 60 miles from the coast of Syria. Famagusta is a naval base, and there are a number of airfields, whose defences—in view of the Battle of Crete—have been greatly strengthened.



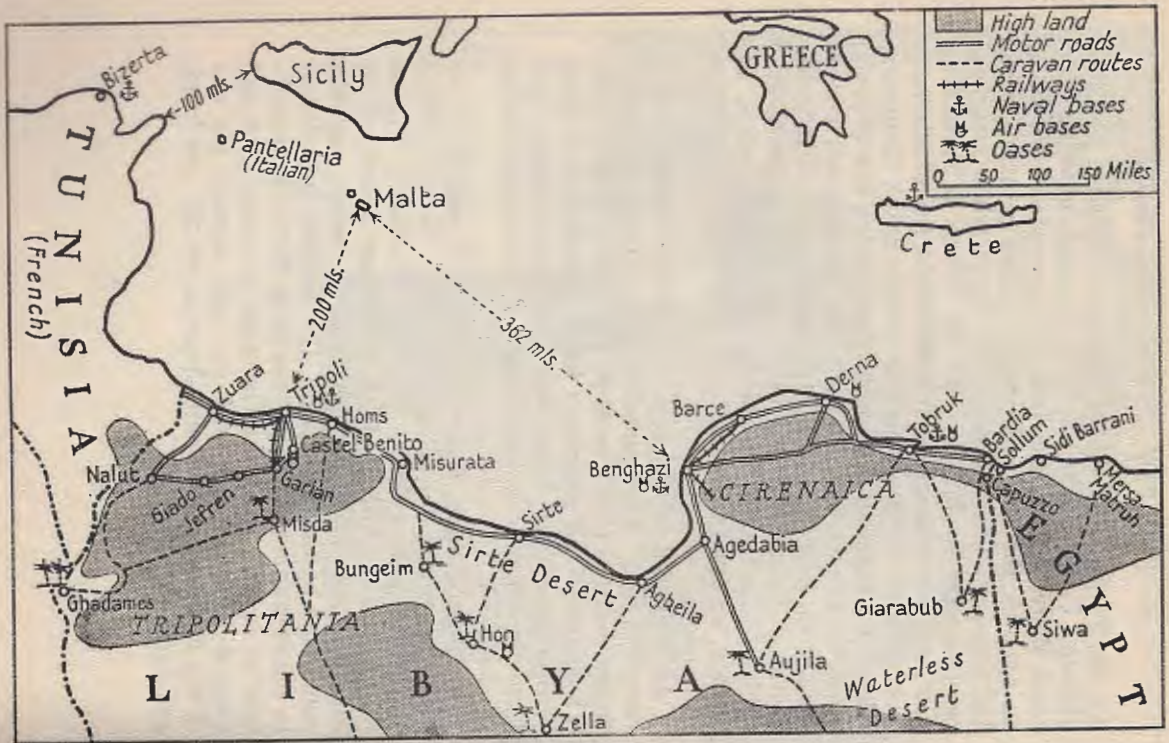
28. THE PARTITION OF AFRICA

28. THE PARTITION OF AFRICA

IN the Partition of Africa between European powers, Britain, France, Belgium and Portugal obtained the chief shares. After the Italian Conquest of Abyssinia in 1935-36, the only independent states in Africa were the negro republic of Liberia, and Egypt, whose frontiers are protected by Britain. By the Treaty of Versailles, Germany surrendered the following colonies, which were administered by the occupying powers under Mandates from the League of Nations: Togo, which was divided between Britain and France; the Cameroons, ceded mainly to France, and a strip adjacent to Nigeria to Britain; South-West Africa to the Union of South Africa; German East Africa (now Tanganyika) to Britain, except for a small area which was transferred to Belgium.

After the fall of Belgium in 1940 the Belgian Congo remained free. In September, 1940, French Equatorial Africa declared for General de Gaulle and Free France. Thus, to-day an unbroken belt of British and allied territory stretches from South Africa to Egypt, and from the Atlantic across Central Africa to the Indian Ocean.

In August, 1940, General de Gaulle's expedition to Dakar to secure the allegiance of the Senegal proved abortive. This colony, like the remaining French possessions in Africa, all of which are controlled by the pro-Nazi Vichy Government, is being gradually penetrated by the Germans. The distance from Dakar to Brazil is approximately the same as that from Somaliland to India. Were the Germans to secure West and Central Africa, they would not only menace the rest of the continent, but South America on the one hand, and India on the other.



29. LIBYA

29. LIBYA

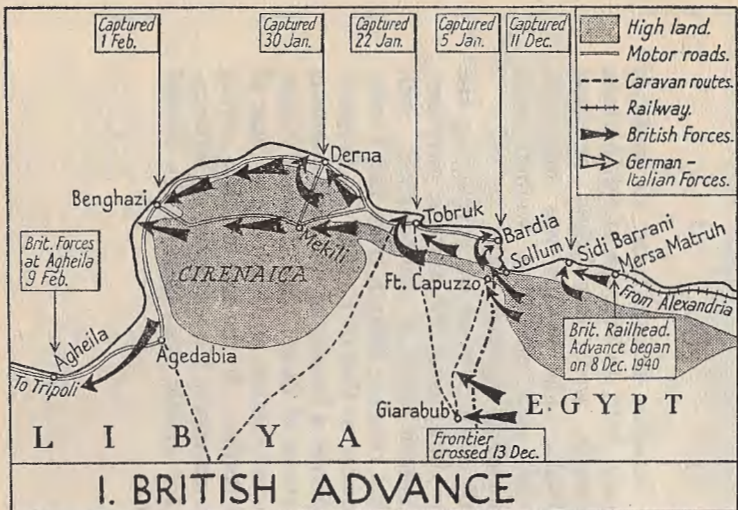
ITALY seized Libya from Turkey in 1911. Of its 900,000 inhabitants, 90,000 are Italians and the rest Africans, of whom 770,000 are Moslem Arabs, and the remainder Jews.

Libya is about four times the size of Italy. Yet the only fertile portions are the coastal belts of Cirenaica and Western Tripolitania, separated by the Sirte Desert, part of the Sahara, in which most of the country lies. As there are no streams and practically no rain, cultivation depends on irrigation from sub-soil water or artesian wells. Settlement is confined to the coastal zone, where Benghazi and Tripoli are the chief towns, and to the scattered oases.

In 1938, under a mass migration scheme,

1,800 families, drawn from all parts of Italy, and with an average of ten persons per family, were established on new farmsteads. The voyage was somewhat prolonged and men and women were transported in separate ships.

Partly with a view to developing the country, but mainly for strategic purposes, the Italians built a motor road, with branches running inland, from the Tunisian frontier to that of Egypt. In Western Tripolitania a branch of this road connects the fortress of Zuara with those of Nalut, Giado and Garian, and with the air base of Castel Benito. In the east of Libya, owing to the extremely barren interior, fortifications are mainly restricted to the coastal region.

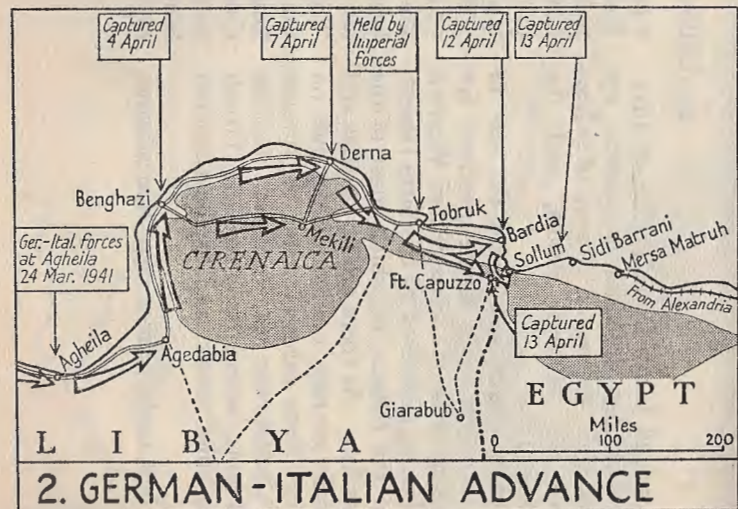


30. THRUST AND COUNTER-THRUST IN LIBYA

THE BRITISH ADVANCE

THE capitulation of France, by freeing Libya from attack from French North Africa, enabled the Italians to turn their attention to Egypt, where, in September, 1940, they crossed the frontier and captured Sollum and Sidi Barrani.

But by December the Imperial forces in Egypt had received sufficient reinforcements to enable them to take the offensive. On 8 December they began to advance from the Egyptian railhead of Mersa Matruh. Strongly supported by sea and air the land forces captured the ports of Cirenaica by a series of pincer movements. As will be seen from Map A their progress was rapid. Within two months they covered the 500 miles to Benghazi, and reached Agheila. More important they took 116,000 prisoners at the cost of only 2,000 casualties. Had they possessed sufficient forces to continue their drive from Cirenaica into Tripoli, Imperial troops might have conquered the rest of Libya. But the necessity of sending reinforcements to Greece prevented their so doing, and also compelled them to hold Cirenaica with light forces.



THE AXIS COUNTER-THRUST

Meanwhile the Germans dispatched reinforcements to Tripoli to aid their defeated allies. On 25 March, Axis troops occupied Agheila, and within 20 days had overrun Cirenaica and taken the Egyptian frontier town of Sollum. But they failed to capture Tobruk. From this port, British and Australians throughout the summer continued to make sorties against their opponents, with a view to testing their strength, and their nationality.

Partly because of the great heat, activities during the summer of 1941 were mainly limited to frontier encounters.

In August and September many convoys were sent from Italy to North Africa, and though British aircraft and submarines took steady toll of enemy vessels, numbers managed to reach Libya. Decisive battles may yet be fought in this area, for Egypt is one of the bastions of the Middle East, and its loss, with that of the Suez Canal, would make it difficult for the allies to hold Palestine and Syria, and even Iraq and Iran.

31. THE CONQUEST OF ITALIAN EAST AFRICA

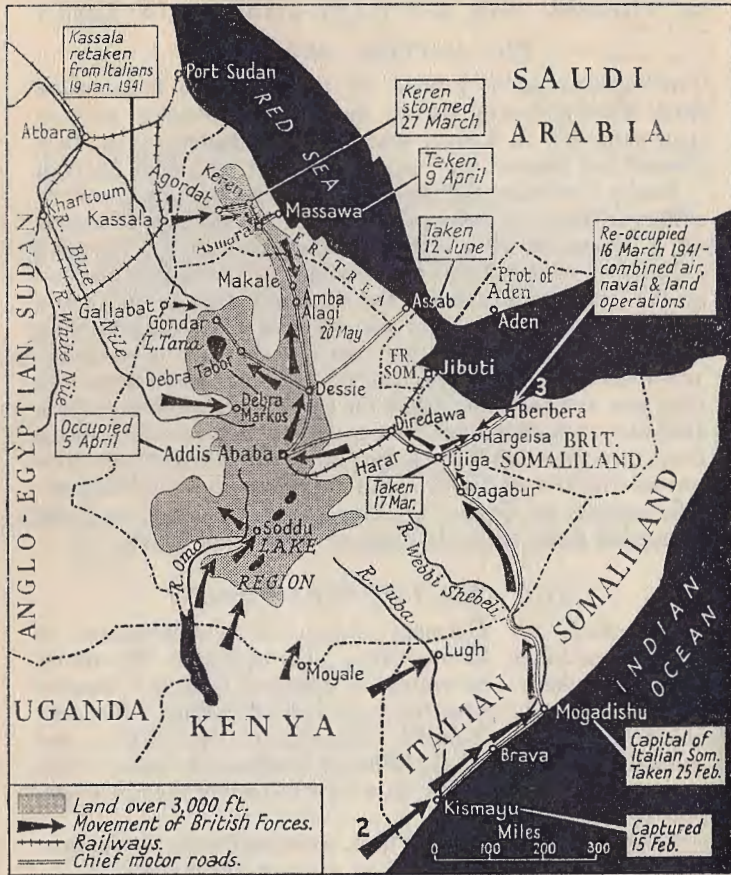
BRITISH sea and air power played a decisive part in the conquest of Italian East Africa: the former because it prevented the Italians from sending reinforcements to their beleaguered colony; the latter because early in the campaign the Royal Air Force and the South African Air Force secured command of the air.

After the fall of France the British were obliged to evacuate British Somaliland and the Kassala district of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. But by January, 1941, they were able to take the offensive.

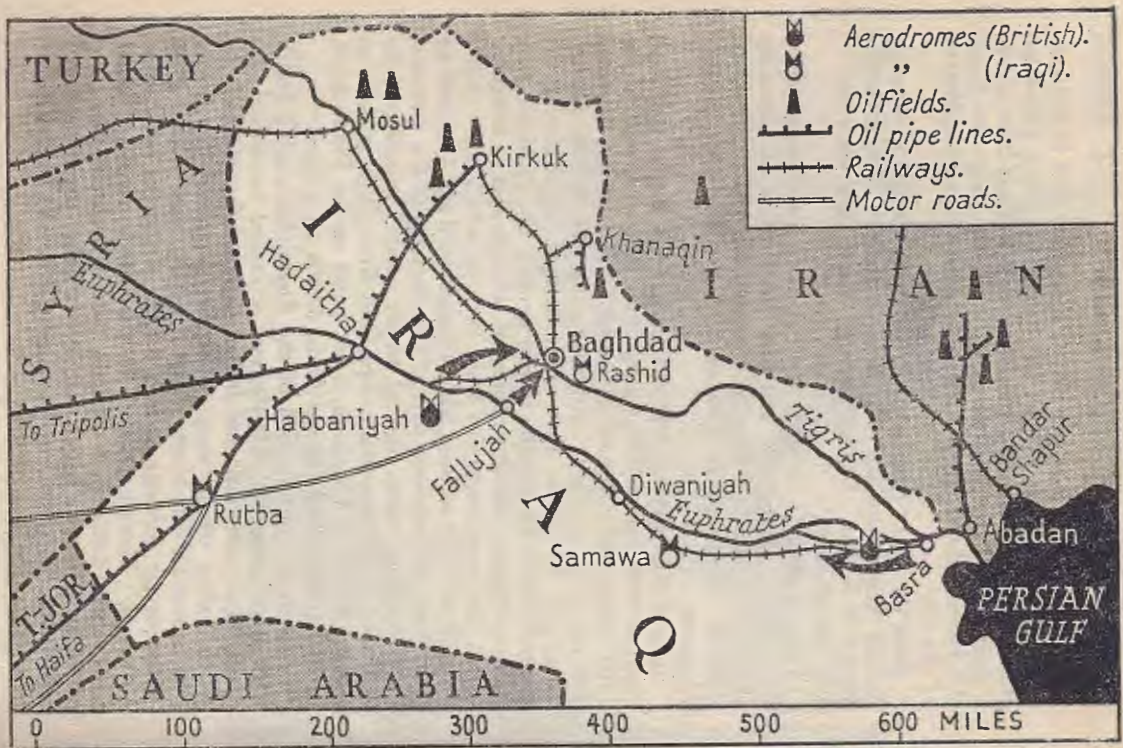
From Kassala (1 on map) they advanced into Eritrea, seized the railhead of Agordat, and took the fortress of Keren by storm on 27 March. Then they pressed forward and captured Asmara, the capital of Eritrea, and the Red Sea port of Massawa.

In mid-February mechanized forces from Kenya (see 2 on map) entered Italian Somaliland, took Kismayu, crossed the Juba River, and occupied Mogadishu, after having traversed 300 miles in 10 days. Advancing up the Webbi Shebelle valley into Abyssinia, they occupied Dagabur, covering the 700 miles from Mogadishu in two weeks. On 17 March they captured Jijiga. Columns then struck eastwards to Hargeisa, where they contacted units from Berbera, which, by a skilful piece of timing, had been taken by combined sea, land and air operations the previous day. The opening of the Berbera-Hargeisa-Jijiga route enabled much needed supplies to be furnished to the Imperial troops, who, from Jijiga, pressed on through Harar to Direddawa, a key-point on the Jibuti-Addis Ababa Railway, and entered Addis Ababa on 5 April.

A fortnight after the fall of the Abyssinian capital South African columns took Dessie, and advanced towards Amba Alagi, headquarters of the Italian Commander-in-Chief, on which Indian troops were also converging from the north. The surrender of Amba Alagi in May was followed by 'mopping-up' operations in the Lake Region of south-west Abyssinia. Though delayed, because the torrential summer rains rendered transport difficult, these operations were completed by 4 July, on which date Debra Tabor capitulated. In September, 1941, the only remaining centre of Italian resistance was in the Gondar area.



31. THE CONQUEST OF ITALIAN EAST AFRICA



32. REVOLT IN IRAQ

32. REVOLT IN IRAQ.

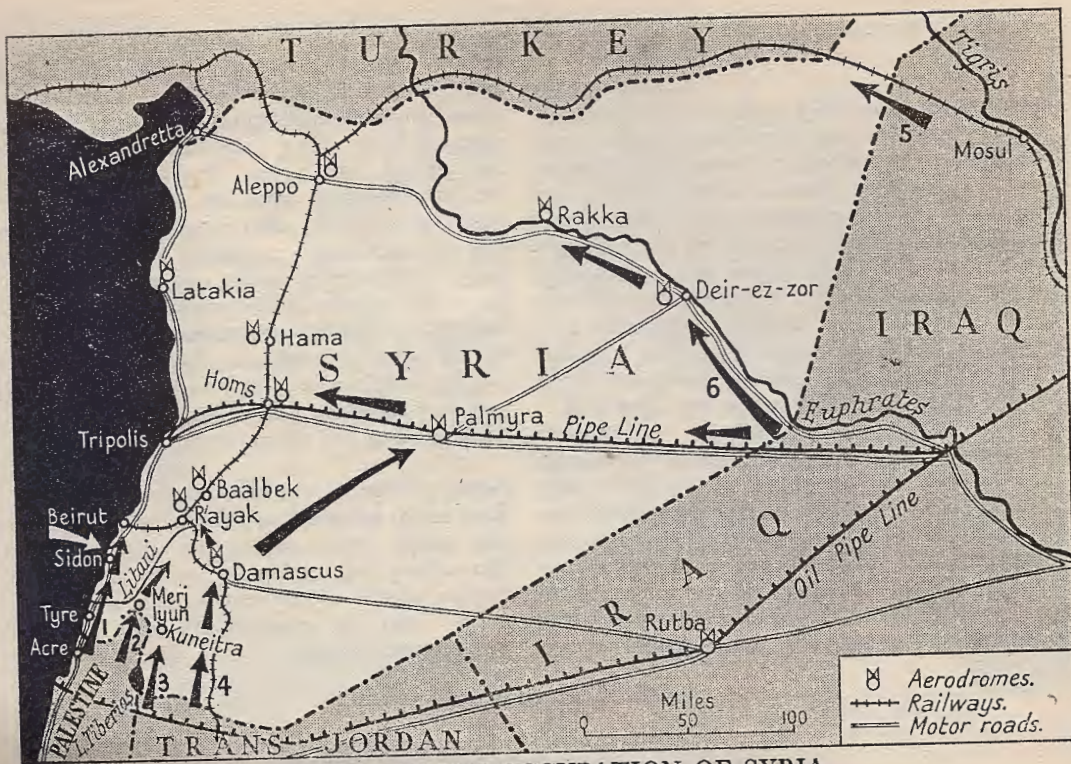
EARLY in April, 1941, a pro-German clique overthrew the Government of Iraq. Two weeks later British and Indian troops landed at Basra in accordance with the Anglo-Iraq Treaty of Alliance (1930) under which the British were authorised to maintain forces near Basra, and aerodromes in the vicinity of Basra, and at Habbaniyah.

Open revolt broke out at the beginning of May, when Iraqi troops unsuccessfully attacked the R.A.F. aerodrome at Habbaniyah. Meanwhile British troops occupied strategic points in Basra; a column advanced up the Euphrates valley; and air-borne reinforcements were sent to the besieged garrison at Habbaniyah. The R.A.F. took the offensive. They bombed the aerodrome at Rashid, near Baghdad, and that at Rutba (on the air route to India and the pipe line to Haifa), where they forced the garrison to surrender. They also attacked Aleppo, Palmyra, and other Syrian aerodromes, which were being used by German aircraft which were assisting the Iraqi rebels. Troop

concentrations were bombed at Diwaniyah and Fallujah, which was captured by the British on 21 May. From Fallujah, British forces advanced on Baghdad. The rebellion was quelled on 31 May, on which date an Armistice was signed in Baghdad. British troops entered the capital on the following day, and shortly afterwards occupied Mosul and other strategic centres.

Not only did the Vichy Government allow the Germans to use Syrian airfields, but they supplied the Iraqi rebels with war material.

A successful rebellion in Iraq would have enabled the Germans (1) to seize the Iraqi oilfields; (2) to secure the Iranian (Persian) oilfields, and the great oil refinery at Abadan at the head of the Persian Gulf; (3) to cut off the Turkish supply route followed by the railway from Basra to the Bosphorus; and (4) to gain control of the Iranian Railway from Bandar Shapur (on the Persian Gulf) to Teheran, and the Caspian.



33. THE BRITISH OCCUPATION OF SYRIA

33. THE BRITISH OCCUPATION OF SYRIA

THE pro-German policy of the Vichy Government forced Britain to occupy Syria. Partly because of the mountainous terrain, but mainly for political reasons, the British advance into the country—after its initial stage—was slow.

At dawn on 8 June British, Australian, Indian and Free French forces, with strong air support, crossed the Syrian frontier from Palestine and Transjordan. They advanced in four columns (see map):

(1) along the coast road to Tyre, across the river Litani to Sidon, which, after fierce fighting and a bombardment by the Royal Navy, was captured on 15 June by Australian forces, who then continued towards Beirut;

(2) through Merj Iyun, where the Vichy French offered stubborn resistance;

(3) from a point near Lake Tiberias to Kuneitra, and on towards Damascus, on which columns were also advancing along

(4) the Amman-Damascus Railway.

(Damascus fell on 21 June. About this date mechanized units advanced into Syria from Iraq.)

(5) from Mosul along the railway to the Turkish frontier;

(6) up the Euphrates Valley to Deir-*ez*-Zor, which was taken on 3 July by Indian troops, who then advanced towards Rakka, and

(7) along the trans-desert route to Palmyra, which was also the objective of armoured columns from Damascus. The occupation on 3 July of this important aerodrome, on the oil pipe line from Iraq to Tripoli, opened the way to Homs, a key point on the Damascus-Aleppo Railway.

The Vichy French asked for an Armistice, which was signed at Acre (Palestine) on 13 July. By its terms (1) the British right of occupation was recognized; (2) the Vichy French troops were allowed to keep their personal arms and equipment; and (3) were given the choice of either being repatriated to France, or of joining the Free French forces. The Vichy authorities tried, however, in every way to prevent the last-named condition from being fulfilled.



34 ALLIED ACTION IN IRAN

34. ALLIED ACTION IN IRAN

IRAN is an arid and mountainous country seven times the size of Great Britain. Extending from the Caspian to the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean, it occupies a key position in the Middle East, for its frontiers abut on those of the U.S.S.R., Turkey and Iraq, Afghanistan and British Baluchistan. Moreover it is a leading producer of oil, which, from the fields in the Karun Valley area, is piped to a refinery at Abadan.

Iran was a centre of German intrigue, but in spite of repeated protests by the British and Russians, the Government refused to expel the Nazi Fifth-columnists, and, on 25 August, 1941, allied forces entered the country.

British and Indian troops crossed the frontiers at three points: (1) from Basra they moved down the Shatt-el-Arab, and, with naval and air support, captured Abadan; (2) other forces landed at Bandar Shapur, whence they proceeded along the Trans-Iranian Railway, while columns covering their left flank moved up both sides of the Karun River to Ahwaz. But even before Ahwaz fell, air-borne units had been dispatched to the neighbouring oil fields to protect British subjects there. (3) In the west, troops advanced into Iran from the

rail-head of Khanaqin, and, having occupied the oil installations at Naft-i-Shah, proceeded to Shahabad, also the objective of units from the immediate south. Columns then moved through the Paytak Pass (P.P. on map), which had been evacuated by 8,000 Iranian troops, and, on 29 August, occupied Kermanshah.

Meanwhile Russian forces advanced along a front extending from the Caspian to the Turkish border: (4 on map) to Urmia, whence they moved farther south and cut communications with Turkey; (5) along the railway to Tabriz, the rail-head; (6) parallel to the Caspian, where from Pahlevi, they continued along the coast and contacted units landed by sea at various points; (7) in the north-east Russian troops crossed the frontier and occupied Meshed.

By 30 August all Iranian resistance had ceased and the Allies, whose advance units met at Kazvin and Sehrich on 1 September, were able to consolidate their positions.

Control of Iran (a) enabled British and Russians to establish a common front; (b) opened up communications between Russia (via the 870-mile Trans-Iranian Railway, etc.) and the Persian Gulf, the only sea route by which supplies can reach the U.S.S.R. at all seasons.



35. TURKEY

35. TURKEY

TURKEY is primarily an agricultural country with sufficient coal and iron for her own needs, and a surplus of chrome—that valuable steel-hardening metal—for export. Her strategic importance lies in her position athwart the route from Europe to Asia, which to-day makes her a buffer state between German occupied Europe and the Middle East.

After the first Great War Turkey lost most of her European territory, as well as Mesopotamia, Syria, and Palestine. She was also forced to demilitarize the Dardanelles zone, but in 1936, by the Montreux Convention, she was allowed to refortify this vital artery leading from the Mediterranean to the Black Sea.

In 1939 Turkey concluded an alliance with Britain and France, and even after the collapse of the latter she remained faithful to her Treaty with Britain. But the conquest of Yugoslavia and Greece, and the occupation of Crete and other Aegean islands by Germany; the British failure to seize the Italian Dodecanese Islands, and her inability to furnish her ally with war

material, all diminished Turkey's confidence in the power of Britain to protect her from a German attack.

Hence, in June, 1941, Turkey concluded a Non-aggression Pact with Germany, though the Anglo-Turkish Treaty remained in being. The signing of this Non-aggression Pact was the signal for the invasion of Russia, for, by it, Germany protected the right flank of her armies from a possible Turkish attack, and, until the occupation of Iran (see No. 34), prevented British forces in the Middle East from establishing contact with the Red Armies.

The allied occupation of Syria and Iran removed a menace from Turkey's southern and eastern frontiers. Moreover, British control of Iraq, the Persian Gulf route, and the Iraqi portion of the Basra-Baghdad-Bosphorus Railway, by making Turkey less dependent on the goodwill of Germany, should ensure that she will display a friendly, or at least, an impartial neutrality, towards Britain and Russia.



36. THE MEDITERRANEAN

36. THE MEDITERRANEAN

THE principal powers in the Mediterranean are Spain, Italy, France and Britain. Gibraltar, Malta, and Cyprus are British colonies; Palestine is administered under a Mandate; Egypt is an ally of Britain, who is responsible for her defence.

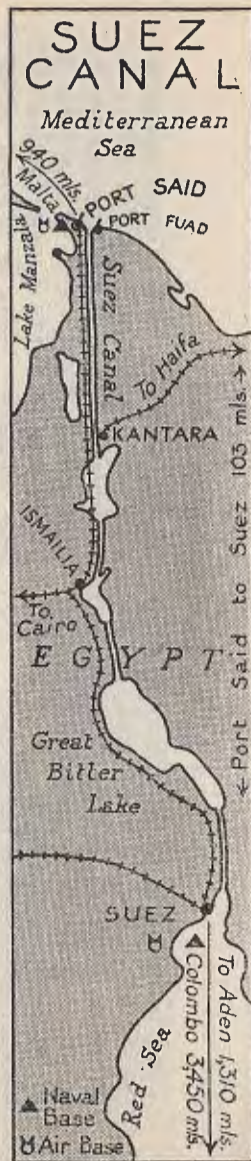
In normal times the bulk of Britain's trade with India, British Malaya, Australia and New Zealand passes through the Mediterranean, as does all her trade with Egypt, Palestine, the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, and Iraq.

By her control of Gibraltar and the Suez Canal, Britain commands both entrances to the Mediterranean, and so is able to cut off most of Italy's sea-borne trade, including her supplies of oil, nearly half of which usually pass through the Straits of Gibraltar.

Since the capitulation of France and the

neutralization of Bizerta, Toulon and other naval centres, Gibraltar is the only base available to Britain in the Western Mediterranean, and it would be menaced if Spain were to fortify Tangier, which she now occupies. Malta is exposed to air attacks from Sicily. So too is shipping travelling through the Sicilian Channel, which, however, is still used by British convoys to the Middle East. In the Eastern Mediterranean, the British fleet is based on Alexandria, though there are also bases at Haifa, the terminus of the oil pipe line from Iraq, and at Famagusta in Cyprus.

Though the Axis powers hold the majority of the naval bases in the Mediterranean, Britain retains her mastery of this sea, which is one of the principal highways of the Empire.



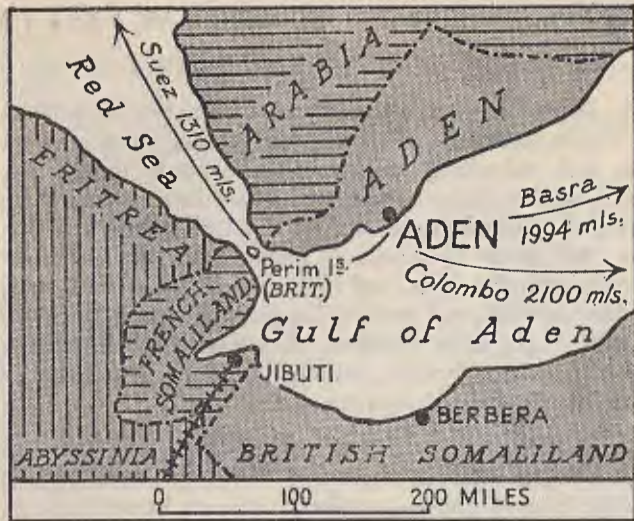
BRITAIN'S LIFE-LINE TO THE FAR EAST (1)

GIBRALTAR, MALTA, THE SUEZ CANAL

37. *Gibraltar* guards the entrance from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean. This British fortress, naval and air base, and refuelling station, on the route to the Far East, is said to have been transformed into an island by cutting a strategic canal across the low isthmus which joins the Rock to Spain. The Straits of Gibraltar are only 15 miles wide, and if the Spanish port of Ceuta, and the international port of Tangier, occupied by Spain in June, 1940, were fortified, they would minimize the importance of Gibraltar, which would be also open to attack by German troops from Spain.

38. *Malta*, midway between Gibraltar (980 miles) and the Suez Canal (940 miles), owes its importance to its strategic position between Sicily (60 miles), and the coast of Africa (180 miles). Only exceptionally strong anti-aircraft defences (see Crete No. 26) have enabled the Maltese islands to resist continuous air attacks by the Italians and the Germans. Between 10 June, 1940 (when Italy entered the war), and 31 August, 1941, Malta was raided nearly 800 times.

39. *The Suez Canal*, a vital link in Britain's life-line to India and the Far East, is 104½ miles long. In normal times 70 per cent. of the European trade of India, and 25 per cent. of the import and 50 per cent. of the export trade of Australia, passes through the canal, while the bulk of New Zealand cargoes use this route in preference to that via Panama. There are naval and air bases at Port Said and Suez, the former being 1,920 miles from Gibraltar, the latter 1,310 miles from Aden, and 3,480 miles from Colombo, the port-capital of Ceylon.

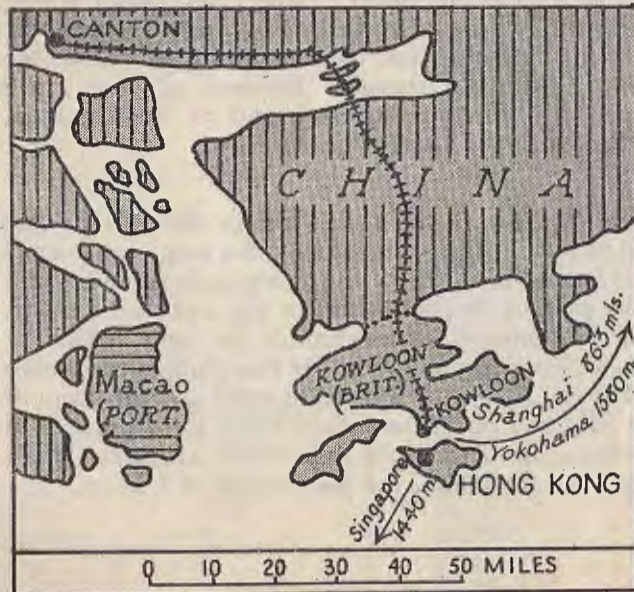


BRITAIN'S LIFE-LINE TO THE FAR EAST (2)

ADEN AND HONG KONG

40. *Aden*, a peninsula on the coast of Arabia, about 100 miles east of the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb, guards the southern approach to the Red Sea. A key-point on the route to India, the Persian Gulf and the Far East, it is the most heavily defended British naval and air base between Gibraltar and Bombay. Perim Island in the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb has been strongly fortified by the British in recent years.

41. *Hong Kong*, a British Crown Colony, lies off the mouth of the Canton River, almost midway between Japan and Singapore. Until the Japanese Invasion of China (see No. 45) Hong Kong was the chief entrepôt port for Southern China. A naval base, it is the headquarters of the China Squadron. In February, 1941, the military authorities announced that if attacked, Hong Kong would be defended with all available resources.



BRITAIN'S LIFE-LINE TO THE FAR EAST (2)



BRITAIN'S LIFE-LINE TO THE FAR EAST (3)

BRITAIN'S LIFE-LINE TO THE FAR EAST (3)

42. SINGAPORE

SINGAPORE, on an island at the southern end of the Straits of Malacca, is connected by rail with the mainland of British Malaya. It is almost equi-distant from India, Hong Kong and Australia, in whose defence it plays a vital part. Singapore is 3,000 miles from Tokyo (about as far as Liverpool is from New York), but little more than 600 miles from Saigon in French Indo-China, where the Japanese have secured naval and air bases.

Large sums have been spent on the defences of Singapore, which is now the principal British naval and air base in the Far East, and the only base east of Suez where big warships can be maintained and repaired. In February, 1941, and subsequently, its garrison was reinforced by Australian troops. Minefields have been laid in Malayan waters, the air force has been augmented, and the defences of Malaya strengthened, with a view to protecting it from a possible Japanese attack from Thailand (see Greater East Asia, No. 46).



43. THE EASTERN GROUP OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

43. THE EASTERN GROUP OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

EAST and south of the Suez Canal are British territories, whose area equals two-thirds that of the Empire, and which have a population of 500,000,000.

The Indian Ocean is the link that binds this Eastern Group together. The defence of the various countries rests mainly on the Royal Navy, which holds strong bases, notably at the Cape of Good Hope (Simon's Town), Aden, and Singapore, which guard the approaches to the Indian Ocean from the Atlantic, the Red Sea, and the Pacific respectively. There are other naval and air bases at Perim Island, the Bahrein Islands in the Persian Gulf, Mombasa (Kenya), Trincomalee (Ceylon), Penang (Malaya), and Hong Kong.

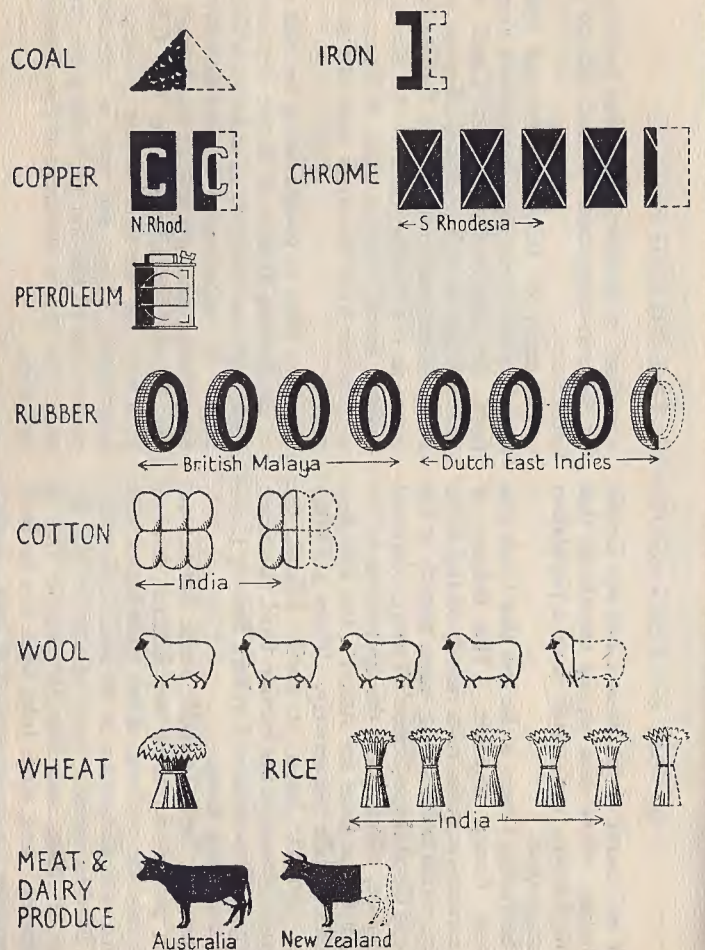
Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and India provide for their own internal defence, and since the outbreak of war their forces have served with distinction in the Middle East and the Mediterranean. India shares in the defence of Aden, and, like Australia, in that of Singapore; and, since July, 1941, she has been responsible for the protection of Iraq. India's

war effort is, however, somewhat handicapped by the non-co-operative attitude of the Congress Party.

The entry of Italy into the war made it necessary to divert British merchant shipping from the Mediterranean-Suez Canal route, and in order to relieve Britain of some of her heavy obligations it was decided that the British forces in the Middle East, North Africa, and Malaya, should draw as much of their supplies as possible from countries east and south of Suez.

With a view to co-ordinating the war effort of the Eastern Group of British Territories a conference was inaugurated at Delhi in October, 1940. It was attended by representatives of the different countries and by an observer from the Dutch East Indies. In the following February an Eastern Group Council was established, whose aim was to intensify the prosecution of the war by making the greatest use of the varied resources of the participating countries.

EASTERN GROUP



44. THE RESOURCES OF THE EASTERN GROUP
Each Symbol Represents 10 per cent. of World Production

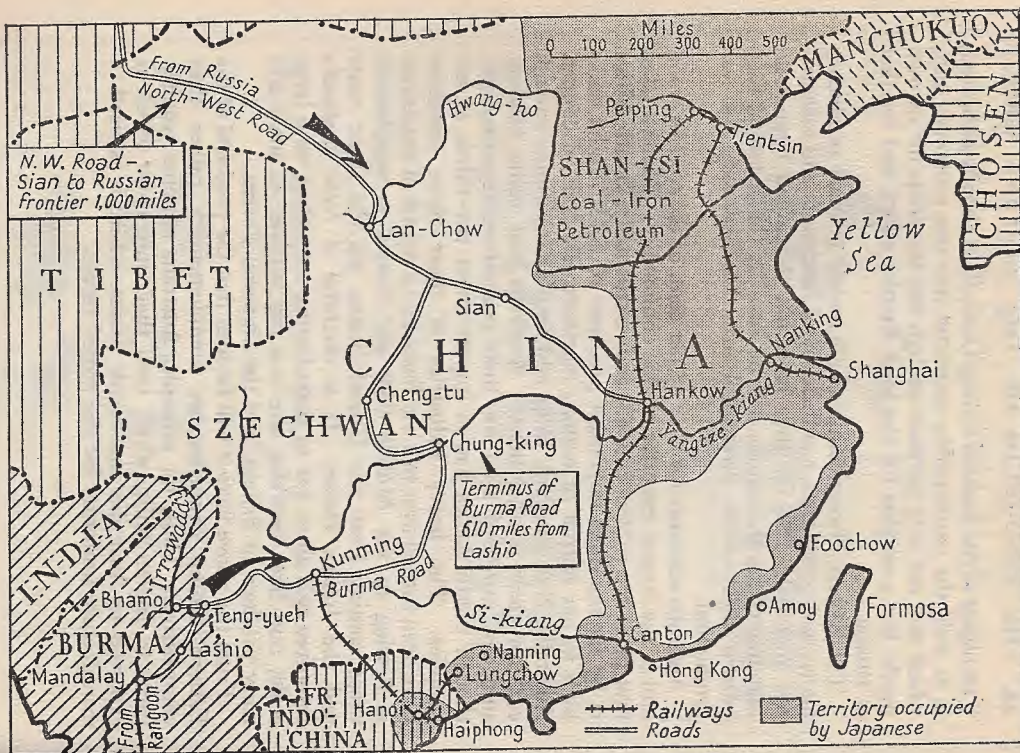
44. THE RESOURCES OF THE EASTERN GROUP

THE object of the Eastern Group Council, as already indicated, is to weld the participating countries into one economic unit, which will not only produce enough war materials for its own needs, but a surplus for the joint Empire effort, and for that of Russia.

The Eastern Group countries are mainly primary producing lands, with more than a sufficiency of foodstuffs and essential raw materials. So far they have not developed large-scale manufacturing, though, as will be seen by the diagram, they possess most of the strategical materials necessary for war production.

Australia accounts for over 25 per cent. of the world's wool, and is the largest exporter of this commodity. Malaya takes first place for rubber and tin, and, incidentally, South Africa is by far the most important producer of gold. India ranks high in her output of cotton, Northern Rhodesia of copper. Australia, New Zealand, India and South Africa mine enough coal for their normal needs. Australia and India produce sufficient iron and steel for their peace-time requirements, though South Africa has to import about two-thirds of her supplies. The heavy industries of these three countries have been turned over to a war basis, and a stream of munitions is flowing to the Middle East and Russia to supplement those coming from the United States, via the Cape route and the Indian Ocean. It is doubtful if New Zealand's resources will allow her to manufacture munitions on a large scale, but, like Australia, she is a big supplier of meat and dairy produce to Britain, and the Imperial Forces.

From the above facts it will be seen that the products of the Eastern Group countries are complementary rather than competitive. Thus, for example, Australia supplies woollen yarns to Indian mills, which turn them into cloth which is exported to Australia and South Africa, where it is used to manufacture uniforms for the armed forces.



45. THE INVASION OF CHINA—THE BURMA ROAD

45. THE INVASION OF CHINA—THE BURMA ROAD

In 1932 Japan, having seized Manchuria and the adjacent provinces of China proper, set up the puppet state of Manchukuo. In 1937 she invaded China. By the end of that year she had secured control of (1) Peiping, the former capital, and Nanking, the present capital of China, Shanghai and Hankow; (2) the principal railways; (3) the middle and lower courses of the Hwang-ho and the Yangtze-kiang; and (4) the rich Shansi coal and iron area. The Chinese Government retreated into the interior, where they established their war-time capital at Chungking in the province of Szechwan.

By her control of ports, railways and

waterways, Japan cut off Free China from the sea. Until the beginning of 1941 supplies reached unoccupied China (1) by the Indo-China-Yunnan Railway from Haiphong, a route no longer available owing to the Japanese control of French Indo-China; (2) by the Burma Road, opened in 1939; and (3) by the North-West Road from Russia. Of the two highways now connecting China with the outside world the Burma Road is the shortest and most valuable. In 1939 the monthly average of lorry-carried cargoes transported over this road was 7,000 tons, compared with 20,000 tons carried during the whole year over the North-West Road.



46. GREATER EAST ASIA

46. GREATER EAST ASIA

THE map shows in dotted shading those parts of Eastern Asia and Oceania which Japan proposes to incorporate in her 'Co-prosperity Sphere' of Greater East Asia. This area extends from Japan west to Burma and east to the 180th meridian. Ultimately Japan wishes to include Australia, New Zealand, and India in Greater East Asia, which would give her control of a region containing half the population of the world.

Meanwhile Japan is already master of Manchukuo and Eastern China (see map 45); of French Indo-China, which, by permission of the pro-Axis Vichy Government, she occupied in July, 1941; and holds a strong position in Thailand (Siam). From Thailand she would be able to attack (1) by land the adjacent countries of Burma and British Malaya, and (2) by sea the great British naval and air base of Singapore (see No. 42).

Possession of the Dutch East Indies and British Malaya would go a long way towards making the Japanese Empire self-supporting in those strategical raw materials she lacks, namely, rubber, oil, tin, and certain other metals.

Japanese policy, which aims at self-sufficiency for Greater East Asia, is akin to that of Germany, and is essentially totalitarian in character. Thus primary producing lands would be grouped around Japan, an industrial state, who would not only exercise economic control over her satellites, but, under modern conditions of mechanized warfare, would be able to hold the less developed countries in subjection.



47. THE PACIFIC POWERS

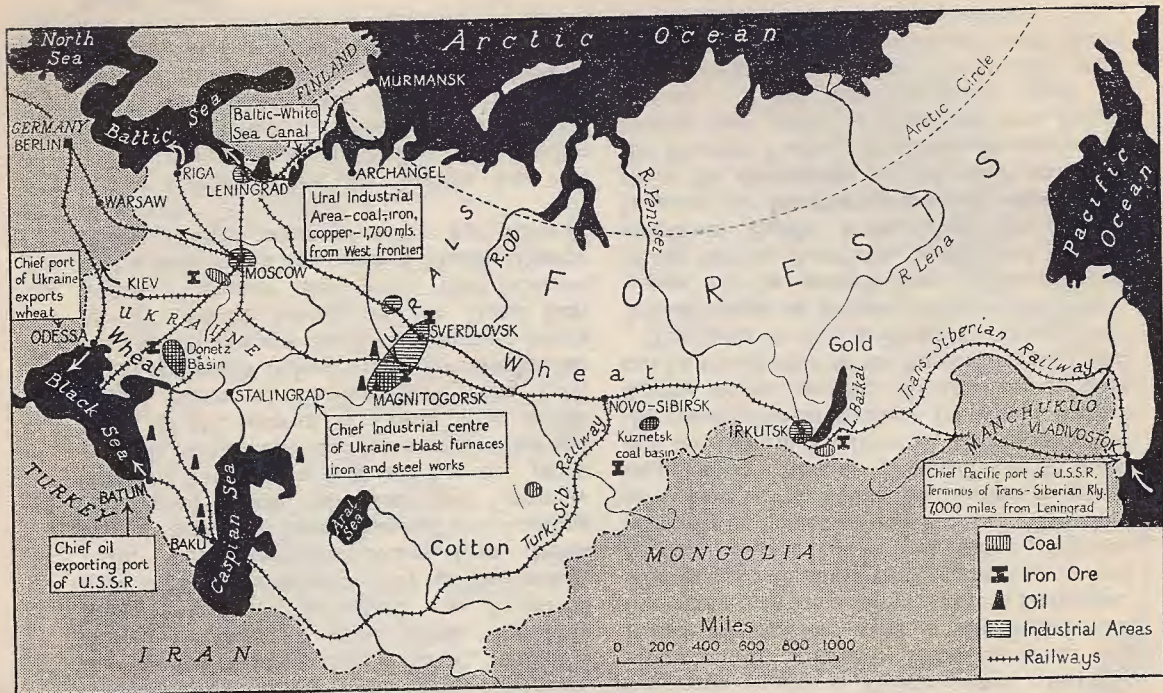
47. THE PACIFIC POWERS

The dominant powers in the Pacific are Japan, the United States, the U.S.S.R., and the British Empire. Of these, Japan, the only purely Asiatic state, signed the Tripartite Pact with Germany and Italy in September, 1940. The Empire stretches from Japan Proper to the Caroline, Marshall and Ladrone (Marianne) Islands, obtained from Germany after the First Great War (see No. 1). Japan controls Manchukuo, and the coastal region and much of the interior of China. She is the virtual master of Thailand and (since July, 1941) of French Indo-China, a favourable base from which to attack the Burma Road—China's life-line—British Malaya and the Dutch East Indies. Camranh Bay gives the Japanese fleet a base within 800 miles of Manila (Philippines); Saigon brings it within 630 miles of Singapore.

The United States, like Britain, has vast commercial interests in China. Her Pacific possessions include the Hawaiian Islands, with the naval and air base of Pearl Harbour; the Philippines, with the naval and air base of Manila; and isolated islands, such as Wake and Guam, naval and air bases on the trans-Pacific route.

Canada is also a Pacific power. But the interests of Australia, New Zealand, and British Malaya, are more closely linked with that ocean than those of the northern Dominion. The defence of these three countries, as well as that of the Dutch East Indies, depends primarily on Singapore (see No. 42). The chief naval base in the Dutch East Indies is Sourabaya (Java). Russia's principal Pacific naval and air base is Vladivostok, the terminus of the trans-Siberian Railway by which (except during winter—see No. 48) American supplies can be transported to the Russo-German front.

The Japanese fleet is stronger than any force Britain could at present maintain in Pacific waters, but its strength does not exceed that of the British, American, Dutch, and Russian combined Pacific fleets. And though the Japanese air force is numerically superior to those the democratic powers could spare for the Western Pacific, her planes are inferior in quality and range to American and British aircraft. Long-range bombers, based on Vladivostok, could reduce Tokyo and other Japanese towns, all of which are built chiefly of wood, to ashes in a single night.



48. THE U.S.S.R.

48 THE U.S.S.R.

SOVIET Russia, the largest compact political unit in the world, has 170,000,000 inhabitants. Only the British Empire exceeds it in size, and only the British Empire and China have a larger population. Formerly an agricultural country, Russia has been industrialized during the last decade: in 1939, 40 per cent. of the occupied population were engaged in industry compared with nearly 60 per cent. in agriculture. Each industrial area is accessible to a coal-field, to water-power, and to waterways. Chief among them is the Donetz Basin, in the Ukraine, 400 to 500 miles from the western frontier. Fortunately the newer industrial areas are situated in the region stretching from the Urals into Siberia, where they are remote from land and air attacks. The Caucasian oil fields lie between the Caspian and the Black Sea, but another oil field has recently been opened up in the Southern Urals.

As the Mediterranean-Black Sea route is no longer available, supplies from Britain, the Empire, and the United States can only reach Russia: (1) via Murmansk and the White Sea ports, 1,800 to 2,000 miles from Britain through hostile waters; (2) from the United States across the Pacific and the Sea of Japan—a

potentially dangerous area—to Vladivostok, which means a sea journey of 6,000 miles and a rail haul to the Russia front of another 7,000 miles; and (3) via the Cape and the Indian Ocean to the Persian Gulf, 15,000 miles from Britain, 16,000 from the United States. The Persian Gulf route is the only one that is open throughout the year.

While developing her industries Russia built up a gigantic war machine. At the time of the German invasion she had 8,000,000 men mobilised, 10,000,000 ready to be called up, and a Home Defence Force (corresponding to the British Home Guard) of 20,000,000. Even if the Red armies are forced to evacuate Leningrad, Moscow, the Ukraine, and the Caucasus region, they can draw supplies from the Urals and Siberia. The great strength of the U.S.S.R. lies in its enormous area, and, following the example of the Chinese, the Russians should be able to hold out against an invader faced with ever lengthening lines of communication, the hostility of guerrilla bands, and ultimately, like Napoleon's *Grande Armée*, with the rigours of a winter, made even more terrible by Stalin's 'scorched earth' policy.



49. THE UKRAINE AND THE CAUCASUS

49. THE UKRAINE AND THE CAUCASUS

THE UKRAINE

OF Russia's 170,000,000 inhabitants some 40,000,000 live in the Ukraine, the principal agricultural and industrial area in the Soviet Union. In normal times the Ukraine supplies 20 per cent. of Russia's wheat, as well as vast quantities of barley, oats, rye and sugar-beet. In the heart of this region lies the Donetz Basin, which produces 60 per cent. of the coal, 60 per cent. of the iron ore, 50 per cent. of the steel, and 70 per cent. of the aluminium manufactured in the U.S.S.R. Important industrial centres are Kiev, the capital of the Ukraine, Kharkov, Stalingrad, Dnepropetrovsk, and Odessa, the chief port.

Formerly industrial plants in the Central Ukraine were supplied with power from the huge power station at Zaporozje (south of Dnepropetrovsk), where a gigantic dam, crossed by roads and railways, had been built to harness the waters of the Dnieper. But in August, 1941, when the Germans were approaching it, the Russians blew up the dam (a) to render useless to the invaders the industrial plants dependent on it, and (b) to prevent them crossing the Dnieper at this point.

THE CAUCASUS

Russia accounts for 10 per cent. of the world's oil. No less than 75 per cent. of her output comes from the Baku wells, whence it is piped to Batum, on the Black Sea. From Grozny oil is piped to the refining centre of Armavir, and thence to (1) Tuapse, on the Black Sea, and (2) through Rostov-on-Don, to Trudovaya in the Donetz Basin. Oil is transported into the heart of Russia (1) up the Volga and then by other waterways to Leningrad, and (2) via the Black Sea to Kherston, on the Dnieper, and by river and canal as far as Brest Litovsk, on the Bug. Before the invasion of Russia, oil was sent to Germany either by inland waterways or by rail. The former are frozen in winter, and the amount of oil that can be carried by rail is limited, partly because of poor communications between Russia and Germany, partly through an insufficient number of tank cars, and partly on account of delays due to differences in gauge between Russian and German lines, and mechanical breakdowns.

Apart from oil there are in the Caucasus region deposits of coal, iron, nickel and manganese.

U. S. S. R.

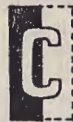
COAL



IRON



COPPER



CHROME



PETROLEUM



BAUXITE



COTTON



WOOL



WHEAT



50. RUSSIA'S RESOURCES

RUSSIA has enormous forest, agricultural and mineral wealth. Except in the south, the climate restricts agriculture to quickly maturing crops, such as oats, rye, and sugar-beet, for all of which Russia is the world's chief producer. She also leads in the production of barley and wheat, flax and hemp. She lacks rubber and most tropical products, but Asiatic Russia and the Caucasus region yield enough cotton for normal needs.

Unlike Germany, the U.S.S.R. is self-sufficient in most of the materials essential for modern warfare. As a world supplier she takes fourth place in her output of coal, second for iron, and second for steel. On the margin of the Donetz coal-field are mines yielding iron ore of very high quality. Of steel-hardening metals the U.S.S.R. has plenty of manganese and chrome, but lacks nickel and tungsten. She produces a moderate amount of copper and bauxite, but is deficient in tin. She ranks next to the United States for petroleum, and second to South Africa in her output of gold.

50. RUSSIA'S RESOURCES. Each Symbol Represents 10 per cent. of World Production



51. THE EXPANSION OF THE U.S.S.R., 1939-40

51. THE EXPANSION OF THE U.S.S.R., 1939-40

THE map shows in dotted shading the territories acquired by the U.S.S.R. between September, 1939, and July, 1940.

The Russo-German Non-aggression Pact, signed on 23 August, 1939, precipitated the invasion of Poland. After the partition of that country, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania each signed a Treaty of Mutual Assistance with Russia, who, in return for guaranteeing their independence, was granted the right to establish naval and air bases at Baltiski, and on the islands of Dagö and Oesel off the coast of Estonia, and at Libau and Windau in Latvia (see Finland, No. 7). But the independence of the three Baltic Republics was short-lived, for in July, 1940, they joined the Soviet Union.

After her invasion of Finland (see Nos. 7-8) Russia obtained permission to lease the Finnish naval and air base of Hangö.

In July, 1940, Rumania was forced to cede Bessarabia to the U.S.S.R.

But Russia's westward expansion, made possible by the connivance of Germany, came to an abrupt end in June, 1941, when Hitler's armies marched into the U.S.S.R.



52. THE INVASION OF RUSSIA (1)

52. THE INVASION OF RUSSIA (1)

22 June to 31 July, 1941

ON 22 June, 1941, the Germans, aided by the Finns, Rumanians and Hungarians, attacked Russia along a 1,500 mile front extending from Finland to the Black Sea.

Russia's main defences were (1) a line, lightly held, along her 1939-40 frontier, and (2) the Stalin Line, an area of considerable depth, protecting her 1938 frontier. The forested terrain, with its rivers and swamps, lent itself to defensive action, but there was no rigid front, and, except along the Finnish front, the fighting was zonal in character.

On the Finnish front (1 on map) the invaders attempted to advance (a) between Lakes Ladoga and Onega in order to cut the railway to Murmansk, and the Stalin Canal, and (b) across the Karel'ian Isthmus to Leningrad, towards which, from the Baltic zone (2 on map), the Germans drove north and south of Lake Peipus.

The principal German advance was in the Central Sector (3 on map), where early in the campaign they occupied Russian Poland, and from Brest Litovsk proceeded through the historic Baranovitch Gap, north of the Pripet Marshes, to Minsk, captured on 1 July. In this phase the Germans covered about 20 miles a day. After a pause they started the second wave of their offensive, but stubborn resistance reduced their progress to under 10 miles a day. A three-pronged thrust, across the railway from Leningrad to the Ukraine, carried them to Smolensk. This became the apex of a huge salient, whose northern arm extended to Lake Peipus and whose southern one ran through Bobruisk to the Pripet Marshes. By driving this wedge towards Moscow, the Germans hoped to separate the Russian armies in the north from those in the south and so compel a retreat along the whole front.

On the Southern front (4 on map), i.e., south of the Pripet Marshes, the enemy drove through Jitomir towards Kiev, the capital of the Ukraine. From Jitomir the battle zone ran south-west to the 1938 frontier along the Dniester, and down that river to the Black Sea.

Towards the end of July the second offensive wave spent itself, but the Germans had not succeeded in reaching their main objectives—Leningrad, Moscow, Kiev, and Odessa—and, more important, had failed to disintegrate the Red armies.



53. THE INVASION OF RUSSIA (2)

53. THE INVASION OF RUSSIA (2)
 1 to 31 August, 1941

DURING August the Germans, using their now familiar methods of tank warfare, continued to advance by narrow thrusts, which paved the way for wider infiltration. But even so the invaders did not control the whole area through which they passed. Isolated towns, such as Tallinn (only captured on 28 August) held out, and in their rear the Germans were attacked by armed groups and guerrillas.

As will be seen by the map, the Germans covered far less ground in August than during the preceding five weeks. This was mainly due to the stubborn resistance of the Russians, but partly to increasing difficulties of transport. On both sides the losses were enormous. But those of the Russians were obviously greater, for a retreating army must leave behind its wounded, and cannot make good its losses in tanks, guns, munitions and stores, whereas an advancing army can retrieve them.

In the *Central Salient* (3 on map) the main German thrusts were in the north and south, i.e., on the flanks of a front extending from the Gulf of Finland to the Black Sea.

On the *Northern Front* (3 on map), where Leningrad was, of course, the main objective, (a) German units advancing (i) west and north, and (ii) east of Lake Peipus, joined forces and captured Kingisepp on the Tallinn-Leningrad Railway; while (b) other armies striking (i) north of Lake Ilmen captured Novgorod, and (ii) south crossed the Lovat River.

On the *Southern Front* (4 on map) the main weight of the German attack was delivered in the south, where, having crossed the Dniester, the invading armies entered the Ukraine. They (a) invested Odessa, (b) advanced down the Southern Bug valley and occupied the naval base of Nikolayev, and Kherson, and (c) driving west towards the great bend in the Dnieper, behind which the Red Armies retired, captured Dnepropetrovsk, but failed to secure the dam and power station at Zaporozje, which were blown up by the Russians. Farther north the Germans captured Gomel, commanding railways to Kiev and Moscow, and thrust in the direction of Bryansk.

The *Finnish Front* (1 on map). On the 16 August the Finns took Sortavala, and on 30 August Viipuri, whose fall opened the way to the Karelian Isthmus and Leningrad.

But after ten weeks' fighting, the Red Armies, despite their enormous losses, were still standing up to the Germans.



54. EUROPE UNDER THE HEEL OF THE NAZIS

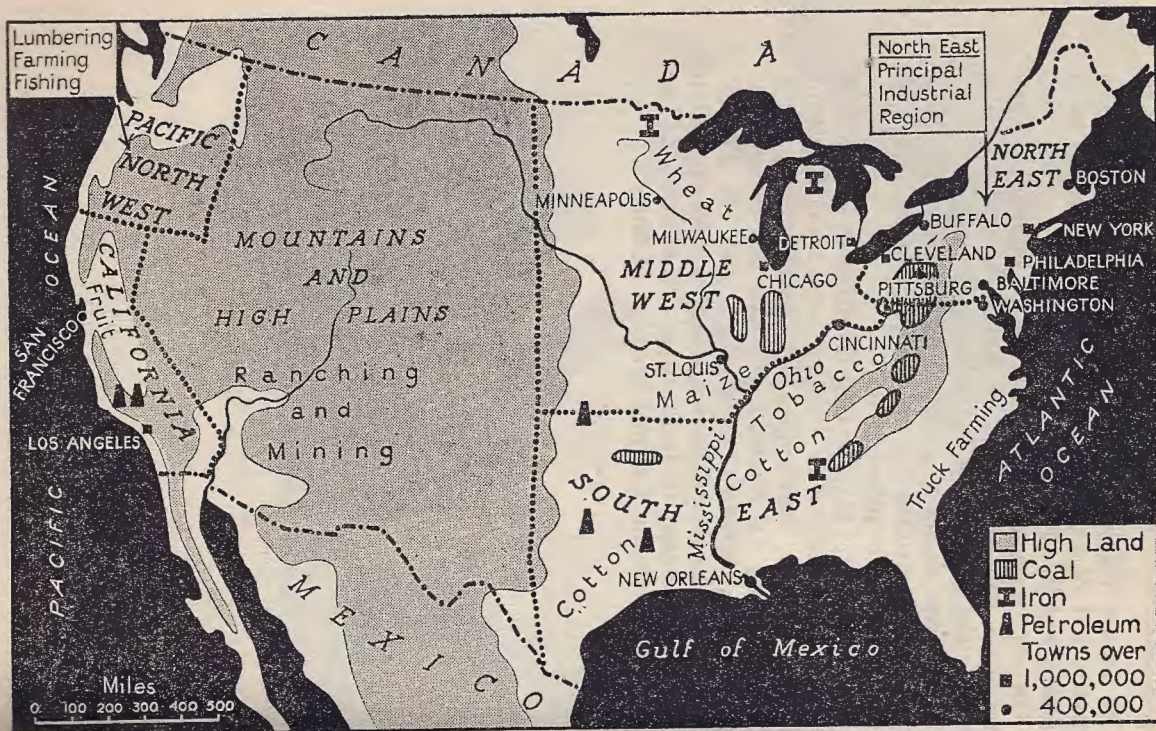
54. EUROPE UNDER THE HEEL OF THE NAZIS

THE events leading up to Hitler's Conquest of the greater part of Continental Europe have already been summarized (see No. 2).

On 24 August, 1939, Germany signed a Non-aggression Pact with the U.S.S.R., which cleared the way for the Invasion of Poland a week later.

The map shows the countries subsequently conquered or controlled by Germany, with the dates of their invasion or submission.

In September, 1941, the only countries in Continental Europe not occupied or invaded were: (1) Sweden; (2) Switzerland, surrounded by Axis territory; (3) Vichy France; (4) Spain, a pro-Axis non-belligerent; (5) Portugal, Britain's oldest ally; and (6) Turkey, who, though an ally of Britain, signed a Non-aggression Pact with Germany in June, 1941, and so removed the last obstacle to the German invasion of Russia.



55. THE UNITED STATES

55. THE UNITED STATES

THE United States, which has an area of nearly 3,000,000 square miles, may be divided into a number of regions of varying economic importance, which are shown on the map.

The national income, i.e. the total value of goods and services, which, in 1939, was estimated at 70 billion dollars (say, £15,000 million), is equal to that of Continental Europe, excluding the U.S.S.R., and twice that of Great Britain and the Dominions.

The output of a factory worker in the United States is double that of one in Britain, and three times as much as one in France. Moreover, an American farmer produces enough food to feed eleven people, for every eight fed by a British or German farmer, and three by a Polish farmer. Again, in the United States, three persons can supply the needs of one man in the armed forces compared with seven workers required for this purpose in less advanced countries. These facts make it evident that in the United States a greater proportion of people can be spared for the

production of war material than in Britain, or Continental Europe.

The *Lease-and-Lend Act* (11 March, 1941) made available for Britain such supplies of war material and essential commodities as were not required for the immediate defence of the United States. In June, 1941, American industry was put on a war basis. But as yet (September, 1941) industry is by no means fully mobilized. The delay is due mainly to (1) the shortage of skilled labour; (2) an insufficient number of machine tools, i.e., tools and machines used for making machinery; (3) a shortage of aluminium owing to the demand by aeroplane manufacturers; and (4) lack of aeroplane engines. But the greatest difficulty of all is due to the fact that there are not enough ships to carry the goods to Britain. In mid-1941 it was estimated that the combined output of American and British yards was inadequate to replace losses caused by enemy action, but the rate of sinkings has since diminished.

UNITED STATES

COAL



IRON



COPPER



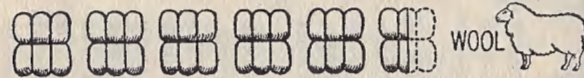
BAUXITE



PETROLEUM



COTTON



WOOL

WHEAT



MAIZE

MEAT &
DAIRY
PRODUCE



56. RESOURCES OF THE UNITED STATES

VAST natural resources, coupled with a productive capacity unequalled by any other nation, except Canada, have made the United States the leading industrial country in the world. She is self-sufficient in, and an exporter of, most essential foodstuffs. Of strategical materials the United States mines from 35 to 45 per cent. of the world's coal, 40 per cent. of the iron ore, 40 per cent. of the copper, and 10 per cent. of the bauxite. She produces 60 per cent. of the petroleum, generates about 30 per cent. of the electricity, and manufactures nearly 50 per cent. of the steel. She also supplies more than 50 per cent. of the cotton.

On the other hand the United States lacks rubber, most of which is imported from British Malaya; tin, which is imported from British Malaya and Bolivia; and steel-hardening metals, such as chrome, manganese, tungsten, and nickel which she imports from Canada.

The United States imports tropical foodstuffs, such as cane-sugar and coffee, from tropical Latin America, and from countries in the British Empire, which supply tea (India and Ceylon), and cocoa (Gold Coast).

As about half the strategical raw materials required by the United States are imported from Canada and other parts of the British Empire, it is obvious that the defence of that Empire is closely bound up with the defence of the United States itself.

56. RESOURCES OF THE UNITED STATES

Each Symbol Represents 10 per cent. of World Production



57. ATLANTIC DEFENCES OF THE UNITED STATES

57. ATLANTIC DEFENCES OF THE UNITED STATES

In September, 1940, negotiations were concluded by which the United States acquired from Britain the right to lease eight new naval and air bases. Those in Newfoundland and Bermuda were given by Britain, and those in the Bahamas, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Trinidad, Antigua and British Guiana were transferred to the United States in exchange for 50 over-age destroyers.

As will be seen by the map, these bases, together with the existing ones belonging to the United States, Britain and Canada, form a crescent of defence stretching from Newfoundland, through Bermuda and the West Indies, to British Guiana.

Newfoundland stands sentinel over the northern approach to Canada and the United States. Bermuda, the principal defensive pivot of the eastern seaboard, is only a few hours' flight from Halifax, Nova Scotia, New York, and other coastal cities. The West Indian bases leased by Britain, with Key West in the Florida Channel, Guantánamo in Cuba, and bases in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, will help to guard the sea lanes leading to the Panama Canal, which is of vital strategic importance to the United States, for it allows her fleet to operate in the Pacific as well as in the Atlantic Ocean.

In April, 1941, the United States was granted the right to establish naval and air bases in the Danish island of Greenland, which it took under its protection for the duration of the war. In the following July, U.S. naval forces landed in Iceland to supplement and eventually to replace the British forces, who had been responsible for the defence of the island since May, 1940. In his Message to Congress, announcing the above fact, President Roosevelt stated that America could not permit Germany to acquire strategic bases in the Atlantic, which would threaten (1) Greenland and the northern part of North America, (2) shipping in the Atlantic, and (3) would prevent the flow of munitions to Britain.



58. CANADA'S WAR EFFORT (1)

58. CANADA'S WAR EFFORT (1)

THOUGH Canada ($3\frac{1}{2}$ million square miles) is the largest single unit in the British Empire, she has a population of only 11,300,000. Yet the Dominion is so rich in natural resources, and in the energy of her people, that she exercises an importance out of all proportion to the number of her inhabitants.

The Canadian Army numbers a quarter of a million plus a reserve for home defence of 173,000. Of the 50,000 men in the Royal Canadian Air Force the majority are employed in the *Empire Air Training Scheme*, which turns out 10,000 pilots, and 20,000 gunners and observers each year. Sixty per cent. of the men under training are Canadians: the remainder come from Britain, Australia, New Zealand, and the United States. In addition 22,000 persons are engaged in aircraft production.

Since August, 1940, Canada and the United States have had a *Joint Defence Board* to co-ordinate the defence of the Western Hemi-

sphere, and to aid Britain, the outpost of that hemisphere against German aggression. The Board have arranged (1) for a chain of strategic air bases to be constructed from the frontier of the United States across Canada to Alaska via (a) Vancouver, and (b) Edmonton to Fort St. John, and then across Yukon (see map); (2) the joint defence of Eastern Canada, whose north-eastern approaches are dominated by Newfoundland, where the United States has acquired the right to construct a naval and air base on the peninsula of Avalon; (3) for the pooling of naval shipyard facilities; and (4) for the deepening of the St. Lawrence between Lake Ontario and Montreal (see map), so as to provide a 27-foot channel from Lake Superior to the Atlantic. This project is also designed to furnish power.

Co-operation between Canada and the United States will play a vital part in the ultimate victory of the Democracies.

59. CANADA'S WAR EFFORT (2)

		Millions of Dollars						
		0	1000	2000	3000	4000	5000	6000
National Income	1940-41	War Exp.						
	1941-42	War Expenditure						
Output of War Material	1917							
	1940							
	1941							

PRODUCTS

COPPER



NICKEL



WHEAT



Each symbol represents 10%
of World production

59. CANADA'S WAR EFFORT (2)

APART from her enormous forest resources, Canada is the granary of the British Empire, and the leading wheat-exporting country in the world. She is also a great industrial nation with vast mining and manufacturing resources. Somewhat under 30 per cent. of her occupied population is engaged in forestry, agriculture and fishing; somewhat more than 30 per cent. in industry; and about 30 per cent. in trade, commerce, and the professions.

Canada's war effort is being steadily expanded and 150 new factories devoted to the production of munitions, aircraft, machine tools, etc., have been constructed or are nearing completion. Shipyards are working to capacity.

Of essential war materials Canada produces a limited amount of coal and oil (Turner Valley Oil Field), but her industries rely mainly on hydro-electric power, in the output of which the Dominion ranks second only to the United States. Canada produces about 90 per cent. of the world's nickel. Nickel-chromium steel is the most important of all special engineering steels, and nickel is essential for the manufacture of those special engineering steels required for aircraft armour plate. Some 10 per cent. of the world's copper is mined in Canada.

In the financial year 1940-41, 33 per cent. of Canada's national income was devoted to war expenditure. In 1941-42 nearly 50 per cent. was ear-marked for the same purpose. In 1917, the peak year of the first Great War, Canada exported 388 million dollars worth of war material. But in 1940 her output was 1,000 million dollars, and in 1941 it is expected to reach a total of 1,500 million dollars. The Dominion is not only providing her own war materials, but is exporting vast quantities to Britain and other theatres of war.

60. LATIN AMERICA






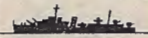




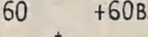
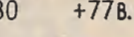
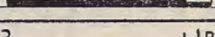

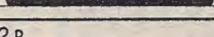
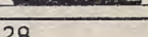



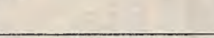




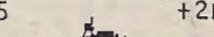

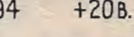
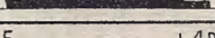
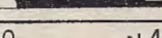
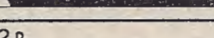
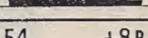
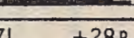


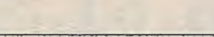


60. LATIN AMERICA

WITH the exception of British Honduras, the Guianas, the Falkland Islands, and certain islands in the West Indies belonging to Britain, France and Holland, Latin America consists of a number of republics of which the chief are Mexico, and the A.B.C. states—Argentina, Brazil and Chile. These republics have been able to preserve their independence through the operation of the Monroe Doctrine (1823), which refused to allow future colonisation of the Americas by European powers, but whose enforcement depended mainly on the protection of the British navy.

Until recently Pan-American co-operation, under the leadership of the United States, aimed at keeping internal peace in the Americas. Now it is concerned with the preservation of the Western Hemisphere from outside attack. The Latin American Republics are primary producing lands, and their defence against a powerful aggressor rests chiefly on the United States, which alone possesses the necessary economic and industrial resources. A crescent of naval and air bases around the Caribbean Sea guards the approaches to the Panama Canal, but south of Georgetown (British Guiana) the only naval base is in the Falkland Islands, which protects the approach to the passage round Cape Horn, the one link between the Atlantic and the Pacific should the Panama Canal be closed.

More dangerous than immediate attack is German and, to a lesser extent, Italian infiltration. There are in many of the republics large colonies of Germans, who have preserved their own language, schools, and culture, and who hold Nazi ideas. They have considerable commercial influence. In 1939 out of 45,000 miles of air lines, 20,000 were controlled by German and Italian companies. The planes were often flown by German military pilots, and the lines served as 'arteries of totalitarian propaganda and espionage.'

There is a big demand for the products of tropical America in the United States; but oil from Venezuela, and grain and meat from Argentina and Uruguay, which compete with U.S.A. products, are marketed in the United Kingdom and Continental Europe (excluding the U.S.S.R.). If Germany were to control Europe she would be able to force commercial agreements on Latin Republics, and to use these agreements for political and military penetration.

	BATTLESHIPS & BATTLE CRUISERS	CRUISERS	AIRCRAFT CARRIERS	DESTROYERS	SUBMARINES
BRITAIN	14 +9B. 	58 +19B. 	6 +6B. 	173 +43B. 	58 +18B. 
FRANCE	7 +7B. 	19 +18B. 	2 +1B. 	60 +60B. 	80 +77B. 
U.S.S.R.	3 +1B. 	5 	2B. 	28 	150 +72B. 
U. S. A.	15 +8B. 	37 +6B. 	5 +2B. 	220 +30B. 	94 +20B. 
GERMANY	5 +4B. 	10 +4B. 	2B. 	54 +8B. 	71 +28B. 
ITALY	6 +2B. 	22 +12B. 	 	71 +8B. 	108 +26B. 
JAPAN	9 +4B. 	39 +?B. 	6 +2B. 	118 +?B. 	64 +?B. 

B. = Ships being built in 1939.

6I. NAVAL STRENGTH

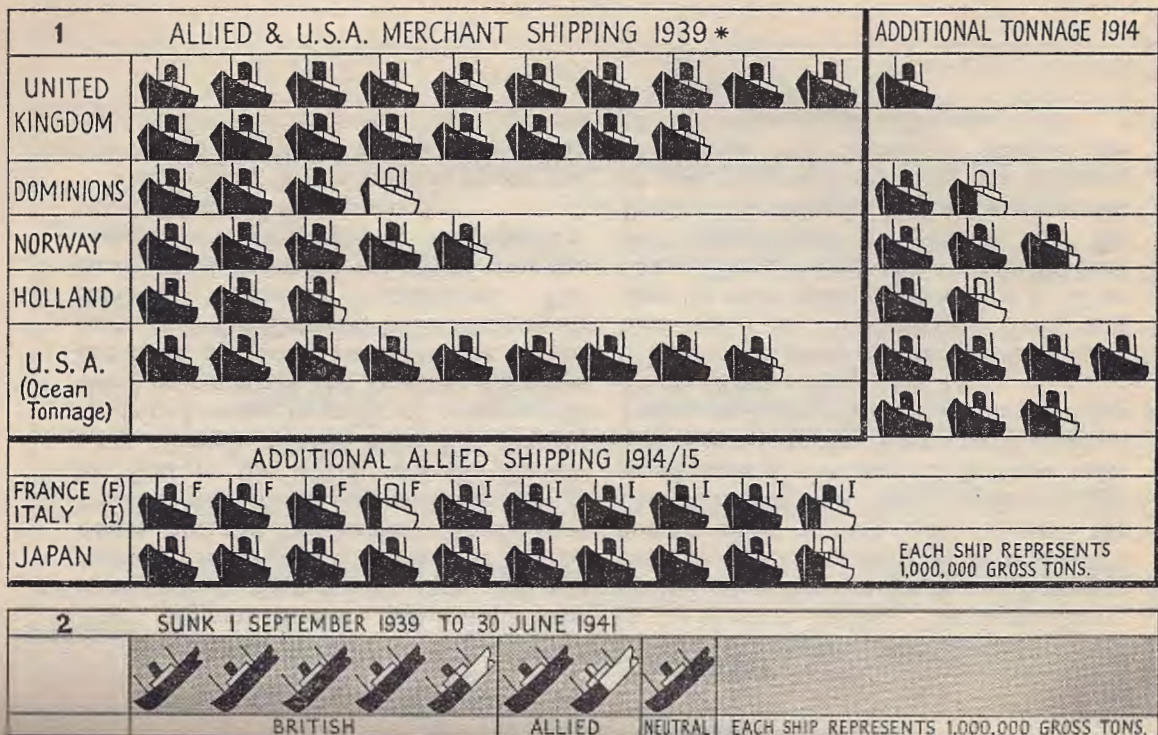
6I. NAVAL STRENGTH

THE diagram shows the comparative strength, in September, 1939, of the British, French, the U.S.S.R., the United States, and the Axis navies. At the outbreak of war Britain possessed the strongest fleet in the world, and the French navy, though smaller than the British, contained some magnificent vessels. Of the Axis countries, the Japanese navy was the most powerful, but both the Italian navy, and the German, built since 1929, included formidable battleships. The Soviet fleet consisted mainly of over-age vessels, but since 1939 it has been reconstructed and strengthened.

The German fleet is based in Home and 'Occupied' territorial waters; the Italian fleet in the Mediterranean; the Japanese

in the Western Pacific. The Royal Navy, on the other hand, must not only protect convoys, blockade enemy ports, and attack enemy ships in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, but must patrol and fight in all parts of the world. In these tasks it is assisted by the Australian, Canadian, Indian, and New Zealand navies, and the South African Naval Service.

In recent years enormous sums have been spent on the American Navy, and there is now under construction a 'Two Ocean Fleet,' which will operate in both the Atlantic and the Pacific. In the Battle of the Atlantic, U.S.A. naval patrols, by observing and reporting the presence of U-boats and Commerce Raiders, are giving invaluable aid to Britain.



62. MERCHANT SHIPPING AND THE WAR

62. MERCHANT SHIPPING AND THE WAR

FIGURE 1 shows the gross shipping tonnage possessed by the principal mercantile powers (excluding Germany—4,482,000 tons) in 1914. In the first Great War the whole of this shipping—roughly 70,000,000 tons—was at the disposal of the Allied and Associated Powers. In 1939 the amount of British, Allied and Neutral shipping so available (shown in the smaller oblong) was only 38,000,000 tons. Moreover this figure includes the United States, whose ships are prohibited by the Neutrality Act (see No. 63) from entering belligerent waters. It does not, however, include France (3,000,000 tons in 1939), whose merchant vessels, since her capitulation in June, 1940, have been at the disposal of Germany rather than Britain.

Figure 2 shows the amount of British, Allied and Neutral shipping sunk (7,000,000 gross tons)* between 1 September, 1939 and 30 June, 1941.† These losses include: (1) those caused by direct attacks on merchant shipping by U-boats, commerce raiders and aircraft, i.e., periodic losses which may be

* Includes French shipping up to June 1940.

† No figures issued at regular intervals after 30 June, 1941.

expected to continue; and (2) those incidental to naval operations, such as the evacuation of Dunkirk, Greece, and Crete, which may be termed non-recurring losses. Up to 30 June, 1941, the British, Allied and Neutral shipping sunk by enemy action was far greater than the replacements from British and American yards. To remedy the deficiency the United States, under the Lease-and-Lend Act (see No. 55), assigned more than 2½ million tons of shipping to carry supplies across the North Atlantic, as well as a considerable amount for use in other spheres, such as the Cape route to the Middle East. In 1941 the United States expects to build 1,000,000 tons of merchant vessels, and an additional 6,000,000 tons in 1942, in which year Canada will also construct 1,000,000 tons. This tonnage, together with the output of British yards, should be sufficient to replace periodic losses (see 1 above), and to ensure enough ships to carry supplies to Britain. To offset it Hitler would have to sink 500,000 tons a month, compared with the monthly average of 324,000 tons sunk during the first twenty-one months of the War.



62 THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

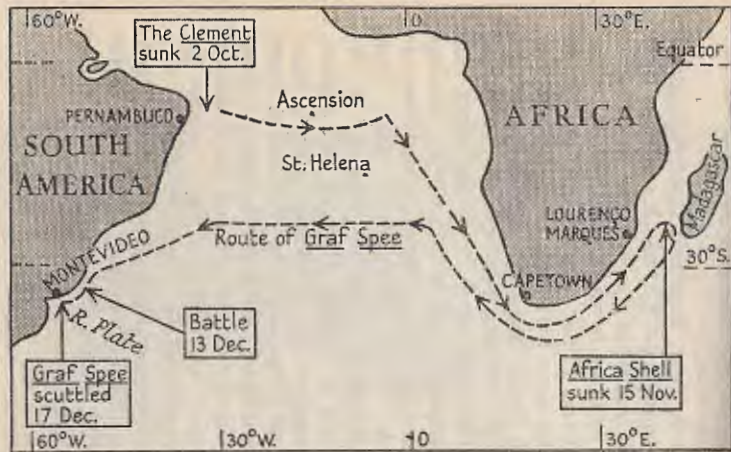
The Battle of the Atlantic is being waged with increasing intensity. On the one hand are the British Navy and Air Force, whose duty it is to protect convoys bringing to Britain essential supplies mainly from Canada and the United States: on the other are German U-boats, surface raiders and aircraft, whose aim is to prevent these supplies from reaching their destination. The transfer to Britain by the United States of 50 over-age destroyers did much to strengthen the British Navy (see No. .57)

Even at the outbreak of war conditions were less favourable than in the War of 1914-18 when, apart from greater tonnage, the British Navy had in the Atlantic the assistance of France and the United States. France is under the heel of Germany, and by the 'cash-and-carry' amendment to the United States Neutrality Act, goods cannot be conveyed to Britain in American vessels, which are prohibited from entering belligerent waters. In 1914-18, the Atlantic coasts of Europe were in allied or neutral hands: now from Norway to the Franco-Spanish frontier they are in the possession of Germany. Eire—the only neutral state in the Empire—by refusing to allow

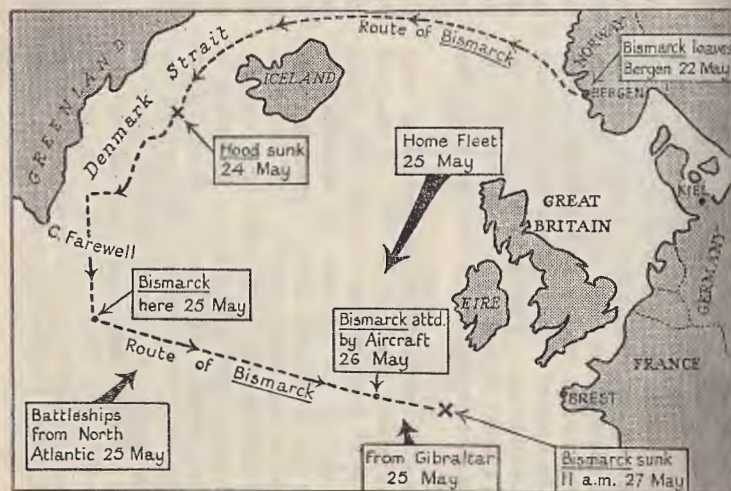
Britain to use her harbours also adds to the dangers that confront the Royal Navy.

In March, 1941, President Roosevelt signed the Lease-and-Lend Act, which made available to Britain such supplies of war material as were not required by the United States for her own defence. The present problem is to ensure the safe transport of these supplies across the North Atlantic. And it is a crucial problem, for, during the first six months of 1941, three ships were sunk for every one built in American and British yards. To ease the situation the United States formed Neutrality Patrols, which, since April, 1941, have given warning to peaceful shipping of the whereabouts of hostile U-boats and raiders. The occupation of Greenland (April, 1941) and Iceland (July, 1941) by the United States ensures that these islands are not used as naval and air bases by the enemy, and has facilitated the formation of 'shipping lanes' across the western portion of the North Atlantic.

Outstanding naval engagements in the Battle of the Atlantic have been (1) the Battle of the River Plate, December, 1939; and (2) the sinking of the *Bismarck*, 27 May, 1941.



64. THE BATTLE OF THE RIVER PLATE



65. THE END OF THE BISMARCK

SCUTTLED AND SUNK

64. THE BATTLE OF THE RIVER PLATE

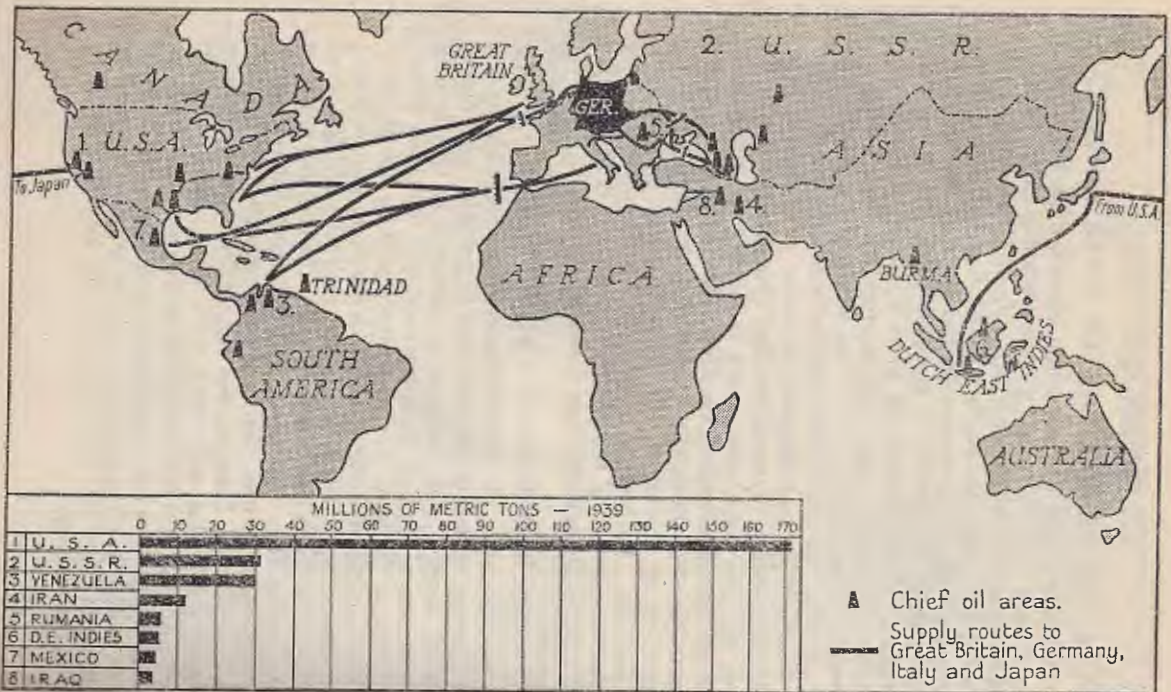
A COMMERCE raider (subsequently identified as the 10,000 ton, 11-inch gun, German 'pocket-battleship' the *Admiral Graf Spee*) sank the British merchantman *Clement* off Brazil on 2 October, 1939, and another British ship, the *Africa Shell*, 180 miles N.E. of Lourenço Marques on 15 November.

Early on 13 December, as the *Graf Spee* was cruising off Uruguay, she was sighted by H.M.S. *Exeter*, a 10,000 ton, 8-inch gun cruiser, who was escorting the French steamer *Formose*. The *Exeter* called to the 6-inch gun cruisers *Ajax* and *Achilles*, but before they could assist her she was damaged by the *Graf Spee* and compelled to retire. The *Ajax* and the *Achilles*, now within range of the *Graf Spee*, forced her between them and the coast, and closed in on her on either side. Though severely mauled the *Graf Spee* managed to reach Monte Video at midnight. Ordered to leave this port by 8 p.m. on 17 December, she weighed anchor at 6.30 p.m. on that day. But instead of engaging the British ships, who lay in wait for her off the estuary of the Plate, the *Graf Spee* was scuttled by her crew five miles off shore.

65. THE END OF THE BISMARCK

ON 22 May, 1941, air reconnaissance showed that the 35,000 ton German battleship *Bismarck*, and the cruiser *Prinz Eugen*, had left Bergen. On the night of the 23/24th the German vessels were sighted by British warships in Denmark Strait. At dawn on the 24th they were intercepted by the *Prince of Wales*, and the *Hood* who, in the engagement that followed, was blown up. Throughout the 24th the British ships remained in touch with the enemy, but the next day they lost contact with their opponents, and the *Prinz Eugen* escaped.

Meanwhile, British forces moved towards the enemy. On the 26th the *Bismarck* was sighted by Catalina scouting aircraft 500 miles west of Land's End. Later she was bombed by aircraft and compelled to reduce speed. Early on the 27th when she was 400 miles west of Brest, the *Bismarck* was attacked by destroyers. Soon after she was engaged by battleships, and at 11.01 was sunk by torpedoes fired by H.M.S. *Dorsetshire*.



66. PETROLEUM SUPPLIES

PETROLEUM SUPPLIES

The map shows: (1) the chief petroleum producing areas in the world; (2) the output of the leading countries in 1939; and (3) the routes by which oil reaches Britain, Germany, Italy and Japan.

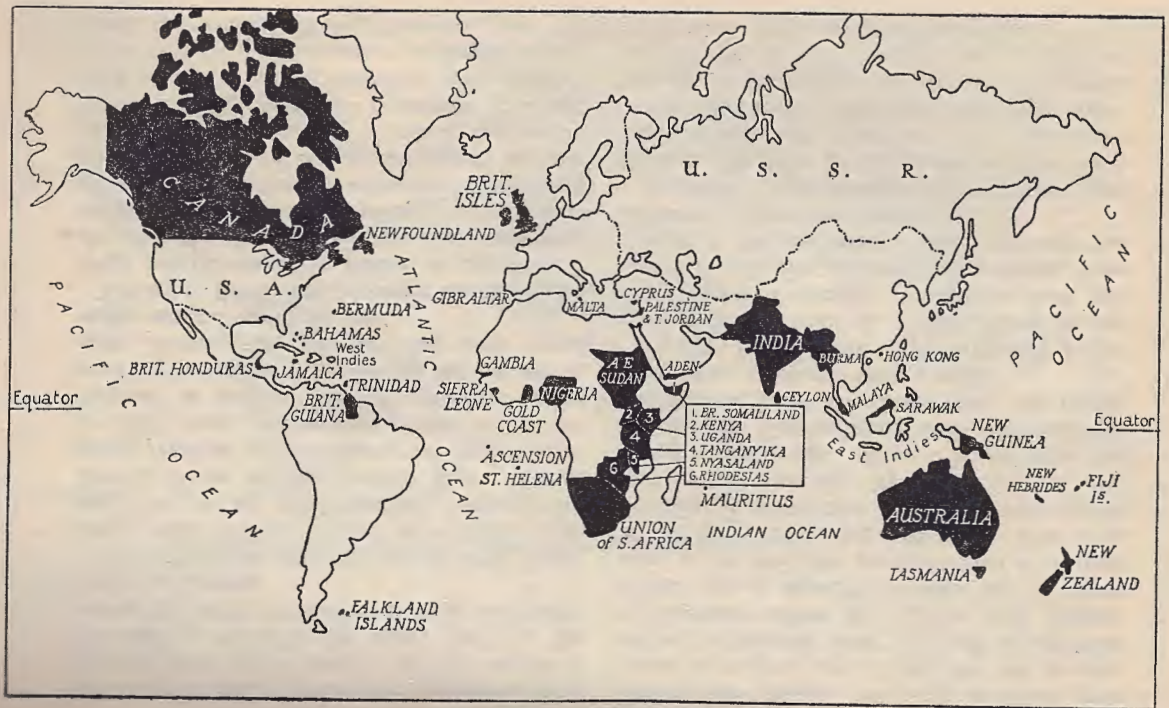
Britain imports most of her oil from Venezuela, the United States and Iran. Iraq and Iran are the chief sources of supply for British forces in the Middle East. Ocean-going tankers have a capacity of from 10,000 to 18,000 tons, and in 1940 Britain had at her disposal a tanker fleet of 5,800,000 gross tonnage, an amount insufficient for her needs, even allowing for the fact that each vessel makes several voyages a year.

Owing to the British blockade Germany and Italy are unfavourably placed as regards oil. At the outbreak of war Germany had enormous reserves, subsequently increased by the seizure of stocks in occupied countries. But these supplies must now be running short, and her annual war requirements are about 20,000,000 tons. In 1937, Germany consumed 7,500,000 tons of oil, of which one-third was obtained from coal, and the balance imported mainly from the United States, Rumania, and the

Dutch East Indies. In 1939 Rumania produced 6,500,000 tons of oil, but her present output is probably less. The oil is conveyed to Germany either by Danube tank barges, which have a capacity of from 500 to 1,000 tons, or by rail, the standard load of a train of 50 tank-cars being 500 tons. But it is doubtful if more than 1,500,000 tons can be transported annually by the Danube, and 600,000 tons by rail. Even if Hitler were able to seize the Caucasian oil wells, he would be fortunate if he could obtain from this region more than 1,000,000 tons a year.

In 1939 Italy imported approximately 40 per cent. of her oil from the United States, 25 per cent. from Venezuela, Colombia and the Dutch East Indies, and some 20 per cent. from Rumania, the last named being the only one of these sources now open to her.

Normally Japan imports the greater part of her oil from the United States and the Dutch East Indies, but when in July, 1941, she occupied French Indo-China both these countries imposed an export embargo on oil, though in the case of the United States it did not apply to all grades of petrol and oil fuel.



67. THE BRITISH EMPIRE

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'THE British Empire may be said to comprise all those territories for whose government the member-states of the British Commonwealth of Nations are responsible.' It covers 13,335,000 square miles, or more than one-fifth of the land surface of the globe, and contains 495 million people, or one-fourth of the human race. Exploration and conquest have played their part in building up the Overseas Empire, which includes the Dominions, equal partners with Britain in the Commonwealth, and the Colonial Empire, whose population is somewhat greater than that of the French Colonial Empire, next in size to that of Britain.

The British Empire consists of:

1. Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
2. The Dominions of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the Union of South Africa, and Eire, only associated with the Commonwealth for external purposes. Up to 1933 Newfound-

land was regarded as a Dominion, but, since that date, owing to mismanagement, her Dominion status has been suspended.

3. India, which, by the passing of the India Act in 1935, attained a large measure of self-government. By this Bill, Burma was separated from India and became an independent state within the Commonwealth.

4. The Crown Colonies and Protectorates, which are controlled by the Imperial Government acting through the Colonial Office. Some of the Colonies, such as Southern Rhodesia, are virtually self-governing; others are governed almost entirely through the Colonial Office.

At the outbreak of war the whole of the Empire, with one exception, sprang to arms. That exception was Eire, which continues to maintain relations with Germany and Italy, with whom the rest of the Commonwealth is engaged in a life and death struggle.

THE SECOND GREAT WAR: MAJOR EVENTS DURING THE FIRST TWO YEARS.

The German Invasion of Poland was followed by Declarations of War against Germany by Britain, all the Dominions (except Eire), and France.

Invasion of Poland (1) by Germany 1 Sept. 1939, (2) by Russia 17 Sept. Russo-German Partition of Poland 29 Sept. 1939.

Russo-Finnish Campaign 30 October 1939 to 13 March 1940.

German Invasion of Denmark and Norway 9 April 1940. Allied forces sent to assist Norwegians, evacuated from Norway by 10 June.

Mr. Churchill succeeded Mr. N. Chamberlain as P.M. 10 May.

German Invasion of Holland, Belgium and Luxemburg 10 May 1940. Holland capitulated 14 May. Belgian armies surrendered 28 May. Dunkirk evacuated between 30 May and 3 June.

Battle of France began on 5 June 1940.

Italy declared War on Britain and France 10 June.

France signed Armistice (1) with Germany 22 June, (2) with Italy 24 June.

Battle of Britain 8 August to 31 October 1940.

Italians invaded Greece 28 October 1940.

German Invasion of Yugoslavia and Greece 6 April 1941. Resistance ceased (1) in Yugoslavia 18 April, (2) in Greece 27 April.

Battle of Crete 20 to 31 May 1941.

Libya. British Conquest of Cirenaica 8 December 1940 to 18 February. *German Counter-Thrust* 24 March to 13 April.

British Conquest of Italian E. Africa. Italians occupied Brit. Somaliland August 1940. British advance into Italian E. Africa began 19 January 1941. Conquest virtually completed by end of June 1941.

Revolt in Iraq 2 to 31 May 1941.

Occupation of Syria began 8 June. Armistice signed 13 July 1941.

German Invasion of U.S.S.R. began on 22 June 1941.

French Indo-China. On 26 July 1941 Vichy Government concluded an agreement by which Japan was allowed to establish naval and air bases, etc., in this country.

Iran. British and Russian forces entered Iran 25 August. Hostilities ceased on 28 August 1941.

Major Naval Engagements. (1) *Battle of the River Plate* 13 December 1939; (2) *Battle of Cape Matapan* 28-29 March 1941; (3) *North Atlantic—Hood sunk* 24 May and *Bismarck* 27 May 1941.

United States. (1) 4 Nov. 1939 'Cash-and-Carry' amendment to Neutrality Act. (2) 18 Aug. 1940 United States and Canada set up *Joint Defence Board*. (3) 3 Sept. 1940 Negotiations concluded by which U.S.A., in exchange for 50 over-age destroyers, acquired right to lease *Naval and Air Bases* from Britain. (4) 1 March 1941 *Lease-Lend Act* signed. (5) 10 April 1941 *Greenland* taken under protection of U.S.A. (6) 7 July 1941 the President stated that U.S. naval forces had arrived in *Iceland*, which had been protected by Imperial forces since May 1940. (7) In August 1941 President Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill met 'somewhere in the Atlantic,' and formulated the *Eight-Point Atlantic Charter*, which enunciated the Peace Aims of Britain and the United States.