

Without Oil the Wheels of War Must Stop

As long ago as 1904 Lord Fisher declared that the countries which control oil supplies will control the world. Today, during a war of petrol- and oil-driven machines, the advantage possessed by the Allies, who have not only huge oil resources of their own but may draw on the resources of the whole world, must become ever more apparent.

If it be true to say that civilization could not continue without oil, it is still more true to say that without oil, war as it is waged in the twentieth century would be quite impossible. Aeroplanes, tanks, armoured cars, mechanical transport, ships of war—all are dependent on the oils extracted from the bowels of the earth. In 1938 the world production of crude petroleum was over 270,000,000 metric tons.

Nature has greatly favoured the democratic powers in the distribution of petroleum. By far the greatest producer is the United States, which is responsible for some 60 per cent of the world's present supplies. In 1938 Germany and Austria produced only 615,000 tons, Italy 140,000 tons (127,000 from Albania), Poland (507,000) and Japan 356,000. Compare with these figures the production of the U.S.A. of over 164,000,000 tons, and even of Canada, which in 1938 produced 940,000 tons.

Next largest producer to the U.S.A. is the U.S.S.R. In 1913 Russia's extraction of petroleum was over 9,000,000 tons; from 1920 to 1925 it oscillated between 3,000,000 and 8,000,000 tons, and since then has shown a steady increase, mounting in 1938 to about 29,000,000 tons. At present the Russian refineries are capable of dealing with the output, but many of them are out of date. Moreover, the industry produces only sufficient

to satisfy the country's own requirements, as is shown by the fact that between 1932 and 1938 Russian exports of mineral oils fell from just over 6,000,000 tons to 600,000 tons. Russia might increase her petroleum exports by intensifying her production, and this would seem feasible enough seeing that she has vast deposits of oils still unexploited. But it would take time, and it would necessitate a thorough overhaul of her present very defective transport organization.

Only a very little short of Russia's production is that of Venezuela, which in 1938 produced just under 28,000,000 tons; as recently as 1935 her production was under 3,000,000 tons. There are indications that oil might be tapped right along the Andes to the south of Argentina.

Britain's Huge Oil Base in Iran

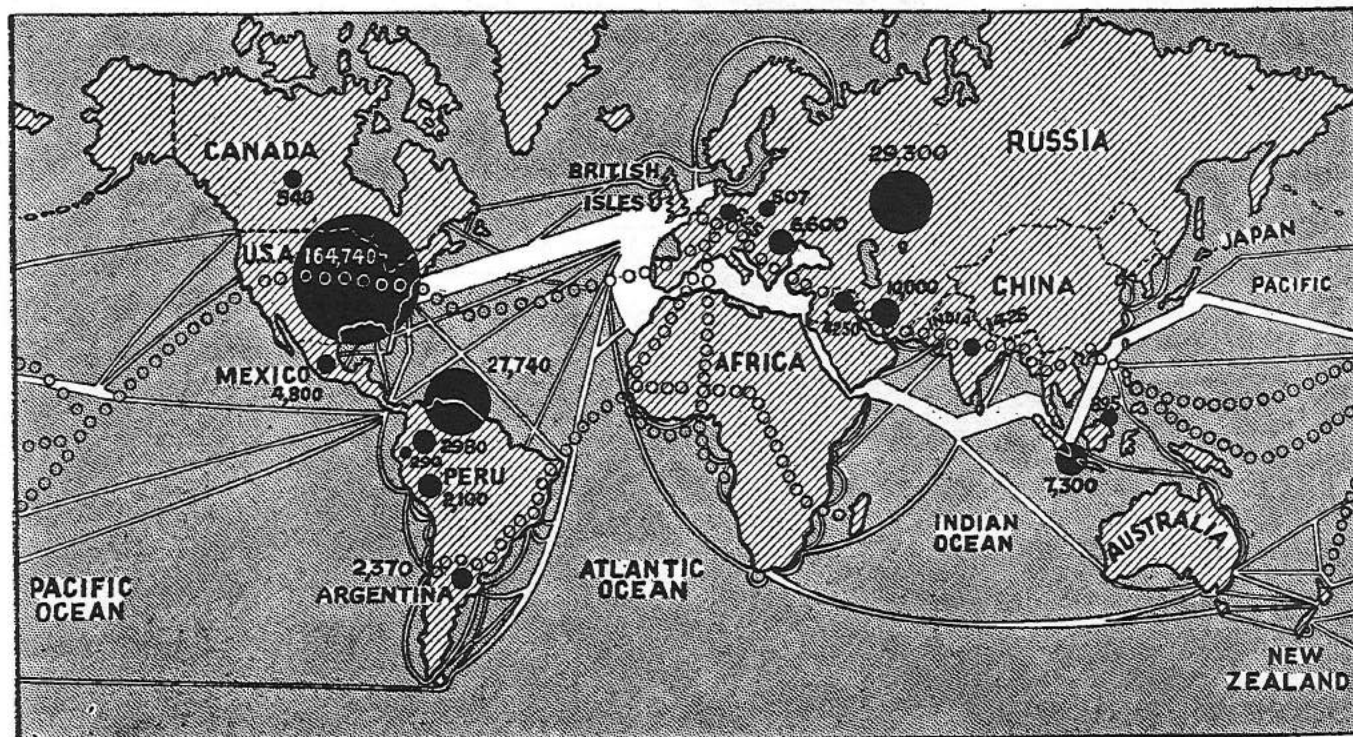
Next on the list is Iran, where in 1938 the production of crude petroleum was over 10,000,000 tons. Its exploitation is in the hands of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, which possesses at Abadan one of the three largest oil refineries in the world. Its storage capacity is nearly a million tons. Abadan is the refuelling centre of the British Navy in the East.

Of the other producer-countries the most important are the Netherlands Indies, which produced over 7,000,000 tons in 1938; Rumania (6,600,000 tons), Mexico (4,800,000 tons), Irak (4,250,000

tons), the British West Indian island of Trinidad (2,470,000 tons), Argentina (2,370,000 tons), Peru (2,100,000 tons) and British Burma (1,060,000 tons).

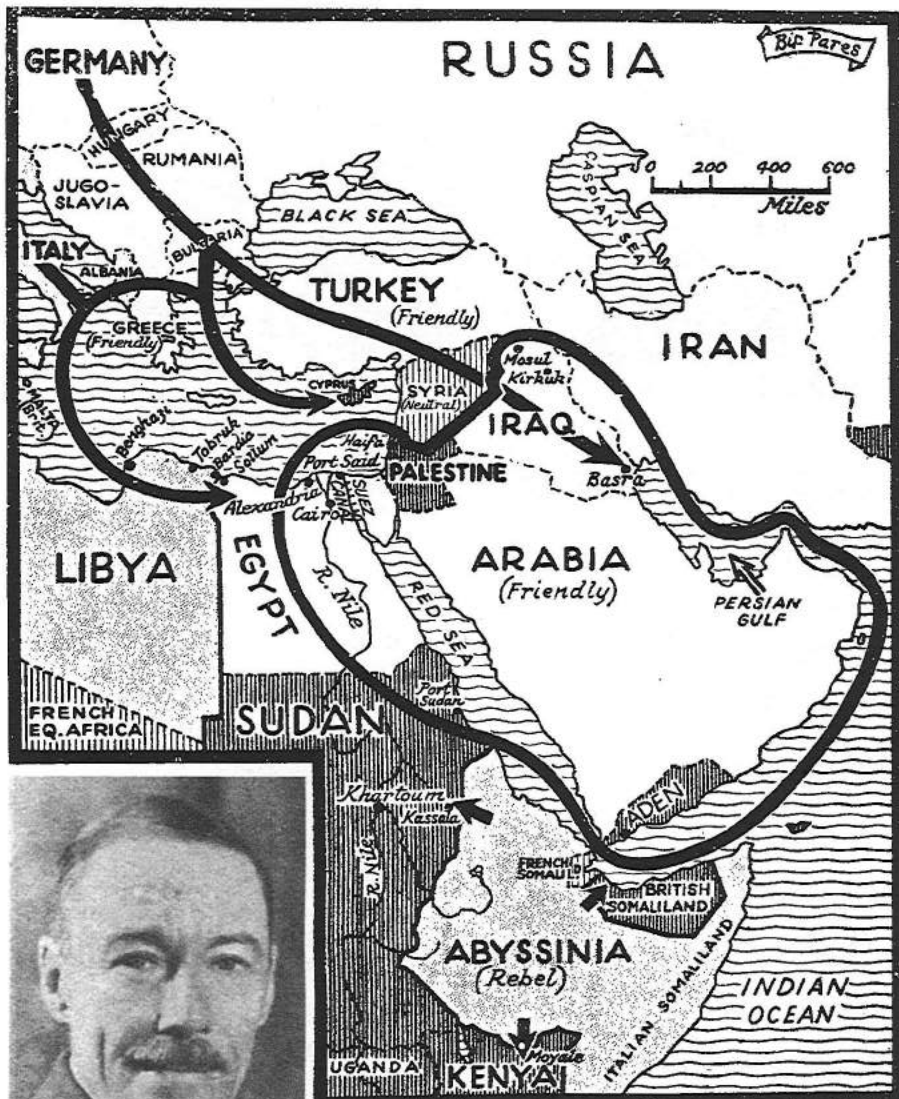
At the present time interest centres on Germany's hopes of obtaining large quantities of petroleum from Russia and Rumania. During 1938 the Reich imported nearly 5,000,000 tons of petroleum, motor fuel and lubricating oils, but in time of war her requirements must be far greater. As just stated, Rumania's production in 1938 was under 7,000,000 tons, and it would seem to be hardly likely that Russia could set aside for export 5,000,000 to 10,000,000 tons of petroleum annually. Even if she could produce it, how could it be delivered to Germany, seeing that all the existing Soviet pipe-lines have their outlets either on the Black Sea or the Caspian? Rail would be the only means available.

It is true that Germany has made immense efforts to assure her self-sufficiency in the matter of petroleum supplies by seeking oil beneath her soil and by the synthetic preparation of motor fuels. With regard to the former, soundings have so far been unsatisfactory, and it seems that the maximum production cannot exceed 700,000 tons even if Austria be included. As to synthetic fuels, the Reich does not seem capable of producing more than 3,000,000 tons annually of petrol and gas oil.



In this sketch map are indicated the principal oil-producing centres of the world and the routes by which petroleum is conveyed to the principal areas of consumption. The black disks give some indication by their comparative sizes of the petroleum deposits. The broad and narrow white lines mark the main commercial traffic routes. The chains of circles mark the main lines of distribution of petroleum products by oil tankers, pipe lines, rail and other methods.

Vast Indeed are the Two Dictators' Designs



How vast are the ambitions of the Axis schemes will be clear from this map, in which the top set of arrows indicate planned drives, while the "cello" encloses the area that Britain must surely hold. Left, Lt-Gen. Sir Philip Neame, V.C., who took over the command of the British Forces in Palestine and Transjordan early in August, 1940. Photo, "Daily Mirror"

But between the dream and its accomplishment lies—what? First the Navy of Britain and the British Commonwealth, which is far superior to the navies of Germany and Italy combined. Moreover, it is the Navy which, since the Dutch wars of the seventeenth century, has never lost a battle. For two hundred years and more Britain's warships have controlled the Mediterranean—not to mention the Seven Seas; and still today, despite all Mussolini's boasts about "Mare Nostrum," the British flag braves the breeze within sight of Italy's heavily-defended shores.

On land the forces which may be ranged to meet the legions of the Dictators are far smaller than those which would have taken the field prior to France's collapse. But Britain's army in the Near East, outnumbered though it may be by the Italians, is far superior in fighting spirit. The Anzacs are in Egypt—and the men who smashed the Kaiser's finest regiments on the Western Front 25 years ago are little likely to fear the worst that the Italians can do. They have British regulars at their side, men trained to war through the arduous years of peace; Indian troops, too, warriors of races which for centuries made war their pastime, their very life. Before Mussolini's soldiers can reach the banks of the Canal they must cross some five or six hundred miles, much of it desert, entirely waterless; and they must march along one narrow road within sight of the sea, within range the whole way of the guns of Britain's ships.

Then there are Britain's allies and the possible allies of tomorrow. There is Turkey, which never forgets that the Italian programme of expansion includes the whole of her Mediterranean coasts; there is Greece, which is also fearful of Mussolini's designs; there are Iraq and Iran, neither likely to sacrifice their independence without a blow; there are Egypt and the Sudan, and ranged on the southern frontier of Italian East Africa are the planes and battalions which South Africa has sent to the war. Then, finally, there is Russia—that vast enigma which hovers on Hitler's flank.

had to envisage a war on two fronts, and having envisaged it they shrank from it in alarm. Now, however, that Tunis, like Metropolitan France, is out of the war, Mussolini's 250,000 men in Libya are set free from that hampering fear of an attack in the rear and may now perhaps march on Egypt—that prize which has fascinated the gaze of conquerors through all the ages—and from the Nile to the Canal is but a step.

This seized, Britain's communications between the Mediterranean and India, the Cape and Australia, would be cut in their most vital spot and from Suez the Italian legions might expect to continue their career of conquest through Palestine and on to Iraq and even Iran. Here, too, France may be said to have played into Mussolini's hands, for until recently a great French army stood to arms in Syria ready and eager to help Britain in the defence of the Near East.

But not only the Near East would be brought into the new war zone. While the German planes continued to dash themselves in a frenzy of onslaught on the defences of the British fortress, Spain's war-weary soldiers would be gingered and goaded into

an attack on Britain's stronghold of Gibraltar, so that with both Gibraltar and the British fleet might be caught in the Mediterranean trap. Italian columns might dash across the desert to the upper waters of the Nile in the Sudan. Khartoum would be threatened from Abyssinia; Port Said and Aden, Berbera and Sokotra, the islands of the Persian Gulf and the great oil refineries at Abadan, Basra where the great rivers of Mesopotamia meet—all would hear the guns. Still the imperial looters would not be satisfied. Alexander refreshed his tattered legions in the waters of the Indus; through all his most vigorous years India was to Napoleon a tantalizing dream. Where Alexander succeeded and Napoleon dreamed, might not Hitler dream and succeed?



A British R.N.A.F. surgeon in a hospital in the Near East is examining an Italian pilot-officer, one of the many brought down by the R.A.F. Photo, British Official: Crown Copyright

Eastward Ho! Stream the Banners of War

Perhaps it was to divert attention from the failure of the "Blitzkrieg" against Britain, perhaps it was in pursuance of some long-prepared plan; but certain it is that, following the Brenner meeting between Hitler and Mussolini on October 4, the Dictators acted as if they were about to embark on a campaign on the grand scale in the Near and Middle East.

WHEN Napoleon was balked in his long-cherished plan for the invasion of England, he turned away in a fit of furious disgust and flung himself and his armies across Europe to the south-east. Now Hitler has been balked in a very similar plan; and, like Napoleon, he, too, takes the route to the south-east. "Boney" waited for a favourable wind and Villeneuve; Hitler has been waiting for Goering to substantiate his boast that Germany has won supremacy in the air over the Channel and southern England. But the wind that Napoleon longed for never blew, and Villeneuve was caught by Nelson at Trafalgar; Goering has flung wave after wave of his fighters and bombers against Britain's defences, all to no avail. And in 1940 as in 1805 Britain commands the narrow seas—that slender ditch which throughout the centuries has served so well "in the office of a wall or as a moat defensive . . . against the envy of less happier lands."

Now all eyes are turned from "England bound in with the triumphant sea," to the opposite corner of Europe. In the Continent dominated by Hitler as it was dominated by Napoleon before him, millions of men are in a state of instant readiness for war. Fleets of ships have been mustered, every "invasion" harbour is crammed with troops, armadas of warplanes are ticking over. Hitler and his

arm of which shall reach out from Germany through the Balkans across the Dardanelles into Asia Minor, while the other, spreading from Italy along the northern shores of the Mediterranean, will meet its fellow somewhere in the middle of the Fertile Crescent—in Palestine, maybe. Both arms are already in operation. For weeks past Marshal Graziani and his Libyan levies have been concentrating and consolidating at Sidi Barrani, 60 miles inside the frontier of Egypt, while in the north German troops—they were called "tourists" to begin with and now they are "technicians" and "instructors"—are streaming through Hungary into Rumania, which in the course of a few weeks has been converted from an independent state into a truncated satellite of the German Reich. Encouraged by their easy success over Rumania, the Nazis hope that Greece, too, will suffer herself to be engorged. Yugoslavia? The Yugoslavs—so the Axis spokesmen aver—will be only too pleased to save their skins at the expense of sacrificing some of their Dalmatian ports



Turkey is the great question mark in the Near East. Germany hopes to intimidate her; the Turks speak of two million bayonets ready to defend their land. Above is a young Turkish bugler.

Photo, Keystone

to Italy. Bulgaria? The Bulgars have just won back Southern Dobrudja with Germany's support: they are asking now for the return by Greece of Dedeagatch, on the Aegean, which they held from 1913 to 1918, and Edirne—Adrianople as it used to be called—from Turkey. Only on Hitler's sufferance can these demands be satisfied; Bulgaria, then, should surely open her gates to the German legions en route to the Black Sea. Turkey? Ah, here is a distinct snag in the carefully prepared scheme.

Not for many years has Turkey been the "sick man of Europe"; indeed, it is difficult to recognize in the Turkey of today the country which until a generation ago was a synonym for corruption, misgovernment, and crime in high places. There is all the difference in the world between the Turkey which Abdul the Damned ruled and the Turkey which Kemal Ataturk forged in the fires of disaster and defeat. Since 1453 the Turks have held Constantinople—Istanbul, to give it its present name—and with Constantinople those narrow straits, comprising the Bosphorus, the Sea of Marmara, and the Dardanelles, which separate Europe from Asia. Xerxes crossed them in B.C. 480 when on his way to teach the rebellious Greeks a lesson; the Crusaders went that way to fight the Saracens, and across the Straits the Turks entered Europe; in 1915 thousands of British and Dominion troops died on Gallipoli in a vain attempt to open the Dardanelles to the Allies. The Turkey we fought in the Great War was the Turkey of the bad old days, yet the Turks on the Peninsula held at bay the crack troops of Britain and France, and forced them to take to their ships again.

No one who served in Gallipoli will be under any delusions as to the quality of "Johnny Turk" as a fighting man, and if it comes to fighting, then the Turkish army of today, numerous, well equipped, and well officered, may be relied upon to give an excellent account of itself. The Germans may be hoping that the Turks can be cajoled into maintaining their present state of neutrality, or perhaps they may be intimidated.



The two Dictators at their Brenner meeting on October 4 almost certainly studied a map of the area shown here. Hitler's finger probably traced the course of the upper arm of the "pincers"—through Rumania to Bulgaria and the Black Sea, across the Dardanelles into Turkey and on to Palestine. Mussolini's stumpy finger no doubt traced a path along the Mediterranean into Egypt. So the Dictators plan the fall of the British Empire.

Courtesy, "Daily Mail"

victory-flushed Nazis, Mussolini and his not-so-enthusiastic Fascists, are about to embark on a new venture. They have heard the call of the East: a call charged not with exotic beauty but with something far more tangible, far more real—booty. Already they dream of laying their greedy hands on the well-tilled fields of Egypt, the orange groves of Palestine, the pastures of Syria; already they finger the mineral wealth of Asiatic Turkey and dabble their hands in the oily slime that makes Mosul and Iran so desirable a prize.

We know the outlines of their plan of campaign. It is to take the form of a vast pair of pincers, one

In Syria the French are Still in Possession

Syria is one of the French territories that Mussolini hopes to secure by reason of his "victory," but as yet there seems to be small likelihood of his doing so. Not only is the British Navy in the way, but the French garrison—not to mention the Syrians themselves—are in no hurry to accept Italian domination.

BEFORE the Great War Syria was subject to the Sultan at Constantinople. In 1920, however, it was mandated to France by the League of Nations, and the mandate still holds, since the Franco-Syrian Treaty of 1936, providing for the abolition of the mandate and the recognition of Syria as a sovereign independent state, has not been ratified by the French parliament or by the League.

Shaped like a giant wedge between Turkey on the one hand and Palestine, Transjordan and Iraq on the other, Syria has an area of not quite 60,000 square miles. Fronting the

seeds yield a valuable oil. Fruits of all kinds are also grown, and olive groves, vineyards and fig gardens are many. Cotton production is on the increase, and Latakia tobacco is famous; millions of sheep are pastured on the mountain slopes, and in the desert areas the camel is the beast-of-all-work of the tribesmen. In the Lebanon mountains iron has been worked from time immemorial, and there are traces of petroleum deposits.

Politically, Syria is divided into four territories: the Syrian Republic, the Lebanese Republic, the Government of Latakia, and the Government of Jebel Druze. Far the

the Lebanon mountains and the sea, is much smaller (3,800 square miles, and a population of 850,000). Its chief town is Beirut, which has long ranked as one of the most important ports in the Levant. To the north is Latakia (2,800 square miles; inhabited by some 300,000 Alaouites), with the town of Latakia as its capital.

The fourth territory, Jebel Druze (2,400 sq. m.), lies in the extreme south of Syria, adjoining Transjordan; its government has its seat at Es Suweidh. Its inhabitants, the Druses, are fanatical Moslem tribesmen, formidable fighters who not so long ago—in 1925 to be precise—rose in open rebellion against the French, who had recently come into their country. Fierce fighting extended even to the streets of Damascus, and for two days in October the ancient city was bombarded by the French guns. By the middle of 1926 the rebellion was over, but to this day the Druses have remained as an unreconciled element in the Syrian population.

Repercussions of Surrender

The French administration has its headquarters at Beirut, and the present High Commissioner is M. Gabriel Puaux, who took office at the beginning of 1939. Before France collapsed she maintained an army consisting of five divisions of rather more than 100,000 men in Syria, but General Mittelhauser's fine force was quick to be affected by the disillusionment and conflicting loyalties that ensued. At first General Mittelhauser, the French Commander-in-Chief in the Near East, declared that whatever happened in Metropolitan France he would go on fighting, but when General Weygand, his predecessor as C.-in-C., brought pressure to bear upon him, Mittelhauser submitted to Vichy.

This submission was welcomed by many of the 35,000 or 40,000 conscripts and reservists who were concerned only with returning home at the earliest possible date, but it was bitterly resented by the resident Syrian garrison force, of about 10,000 French regulars, and their resentment was shared by the great majority of the native troops—numbering, perhaps, 50,000 men—who took not the slightest interest in the French political quarrel but were prepared, good soldiers that they were, to follow their officers wherever they might lead. The disaffection was intensified by the arrival of the Italian Mission, dispatched to supervise the demobilization and disarmament decreed by the terms of the armistice. We do not know what the Italians required, but it is safe to assume that they wanted to lay their hands on the great stores of military supplies, the tanks and guns, lorries and aeroplanes, and also to be permitted to occupy the principal aerodromes. Whatever they asked, they seem to have gone away disappointed; M. Puaux and General Fougère, who replaced Mittelhauser as C.-in-C. last July, received the Italian generals with typical Gallic courtesy and expressed their willingness to cooperate with them in every way consistent with their loyalty to Marshal Pétain's government at Vichy. But it is significant that as the weeks pass more



The white area on the map above shows Syria, the mandated French territory which is a key position in the Middle East. Alexandretta, or the Hatay, is an autonomous state under Turkish protection. Courtesy of "News Chronicle"

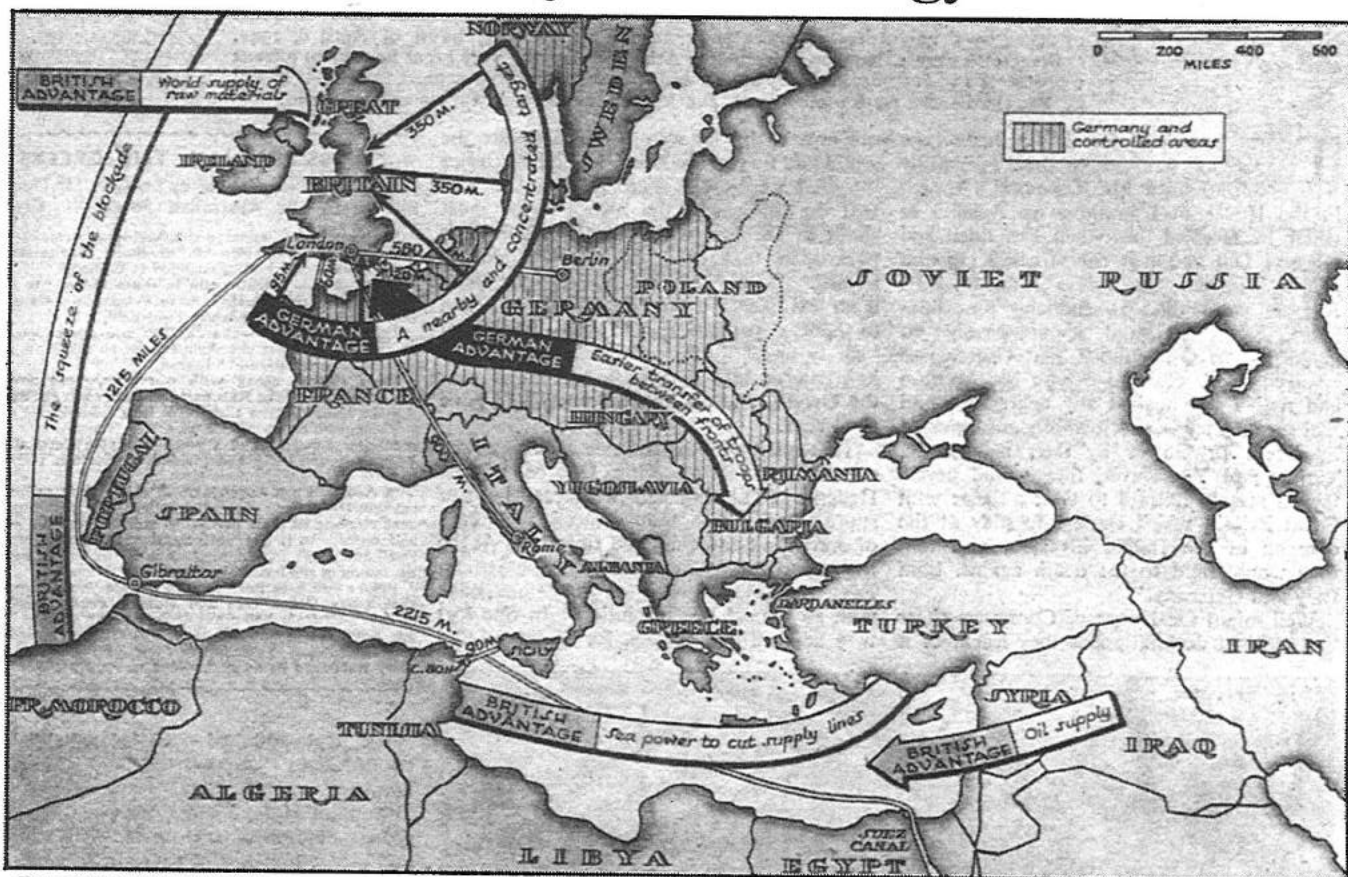
Mediterranean and overlooking the fertile strip of coastal territory are the parallel mountain ranges of Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon; beyond these, the table-land gradually merges into desert, crossed only by caravan roads and one or two motor tracks, and by the oil pipe-line, completed in 1934, which runs from Haditha on the Euphrates, through Palmyra and Homs, to the port of Tripoli on the Mediterranean.

Varied as are its surface features, Syria's population is even more diverse. Of its rather more than three and a half millions, the majority are Arabic-speaking Moslems, but there are also innumerable Turks, Turkomans, Kurds and Circassians, Armenians, Persians and Jews, Bedouins in the desert, and a few Europeans. About half a million are Christians belonging to different churches; indeed, in Syria there is an almost bewildering variety of patriarchs, archbishops and bishops. Most of the people are farmers on a small scale, growing wheat and barley, maize and sesame, whose

largest of these is the first or Syria proper, whose 49,000 square miles take up practically the whole of the country with the exception of the coastal belt. Its capital is Damascus, historically the oldest of all living cities and one which still retains a predominant oriental atmosphere. Its bazaars are famous throughout the East; and through its streets move caravans with tobacco from Baghdad and silk carpets from Persia, dark-hued Arabs in their camel-hair tarbooshes, pilgrims on the road to Mecca, and bearded Syrian merchants in coats of lamb's wool. As one of the greatest cities of the world of Islam Damascus may boast of its 250 mosques, but there are large Jewish and Christian quarters, and its most famous street is the one called Straight, down which tottered the newly-blinded Paul 1,900 years ago. Damascus' population may number some 230,000, but Aleppo, a great commercial centre in the northern part of the republic, is considerably larger, with perhaps 300,000 people.

The Lebanese Republic, which lies between

Britain v. Germany: the Strategy of the War



THE CAMPAIGN OF 1941 is being fought over a vast battlefield stretching from the Atlantic to the Black Sea, from the North Atlantic to the Suez Canal. How advantageous in some respects is Germany's position will be apparent from this map; but it shows, too, the strength that Britain derives from her sea power.
From "The New York Times Magazine"

A Note on Strategy

FROM the Pyrenees to North Cape, from the English Channel to the Black Sea, Hitler's legions march with none to say them nay. Not even Napoleon at the height of his greatness ruled over so many countries, chained so many peoples to his war machine. The swastika flag waves over regions into which the Roman eagles never penetrated. Never was Europe so "united" as today, when, with the exception of only two or three comparatively minor states, the whole family of continental countries makes up Hitler's empire.

Great have been the victories won by the generals and the soldiers of the man who was a company runner on the Western Front in the last war. Great victories and many, but still the war is not over. Just beyond the rim of Hitler's Europe sail the ships of Britain's Navy. If the land is Germany's the sea is still what it has been for centuries—Britain's. As in Napoleon's day so in this, the mighty struggle is one between a whale and an elephant.

Germany's Supremacy on Land

The elephant's strength is based on what are called the interior lines. He occupies the inside of the circle, and it is an easy matter for him to transfer his troops and his trains from one sector to another. His communications are magnificent, consisting as they do of the network of railways and roads with which generations of enterprise have equipped the continent. He has enormous populations—his own and the races he has enslaved—on which to draw for his cannon fodder and his industrial serfs. Then for years he prepared for war, and he did not make the mistake of thinking that this new war would be fought on the same lines as that of 1914-1918; in other words, he thought not of trenches and

barbed wire and concrete, but of tanks and motor lorries, of dive bombers and troop-carrying 'planes, of spies and Fifth Columnists. It is not really surprising that with all these advantages, to which may be added the tradition of discipline of Europe's greatest militarist nation, the Germans should have proved able to crush all their foes within reach of their armoured columns.

Britain's Mastery of the Sea

Against this continent in arms Britain flings into the balance her Islands, her Commonwealth, her Mercantile Marine and incomparable Navy, the resources of a quarter of the globe, the products of the labour of one fifth of the human race. All that might tends to be concentrated in the waters that surround the Fuehrer's Reich. To the British Isles a great stream of ships brings food and raw materials without which our millions could not live, the war supplies without which we could not continue the fight. At the same time our fleets have swept from the seas Hitler's ships, and hold the Continent in the relentless grip of the blockade. No doubt there are many leaks in the blockade; in our impatience its operation seems all too slow. But there is not a home, not a factory, not a fort or camp in Hitler's Germany which is not the poorer because of our patrolling Navy.

Sea-power, then, is Britain's great advantage. Because of it she can feed her own people and (eventually, at least) make the Germans go hungry. Her fighting line can be supplied from America, democracy's inexhaustible arsenal. She can tap the world's oil supplies, whereas the Germans have to "go easy" on petrol, and if they want to replenish their stocks must make a drive against Iraq or the Russian oil fields in the Caucasus.

But the sea is no obstacle to the aeroplane, and Hitler's air power is still greater than

Britain's. Far out over the Atlantic rove his bombers, seeking whom they may devour of our merchant ships, and night after night there descend from the skies on our cities loads of death-dealing metal. True, Britain too has a great Air Force, one which is growing daily in numbers and might; but in the air war the Germans have the advantage of a concentrated target, whereas the British offensive has to be distributed over a vast area, many of the most vital spots being almost out of range of even our long-distance 'planes. Already there is discernible a shift of industry from the much-bombed Rhineland and Ruhr to Czechoslovakia and even to Poland; and as our air strength grows, as our bombers multiply and grow in range, more and more of Germany's factories will be transferred to the more distant parts of Nazi-controlled Europe. But in Britain no such transfer is possible; war workers, her civilian population, are in the front line in very deed. They must fight where they stand; they can do no other.

Whale or Elephant: Which?

This, then, is the strategical setting of the battle of 1941. Already the curtain has gone up on the terrific drama; already the issue is joined between the hordes of Hitler's slaves and the armies of free men put into the field by the British Commonwealth and its Allies. In the passes of Greece, on the sun-blistered desert of North Africa, the mechanized Attila is struggling furiously, with an utter disregard for human life, to pierce the ranks of those—oh! so few and none too well equipped—who alone stand between him and the domination of the world.

Before the year ends the issue will have been decided. Whale or elephant; which will win? By the time the leaves now forming in the spring sunshine have withered and fallen we shall know.

How Yugoslavia Upset Hitler's Time-Table

Yugoslavia's resistance against the Nazis was crushed in a campaign of 12 days, and the country was overrun by Hitler's hordes. Yet her stand was not in vain, as is made clear in this article, which takes its inspiration from a broadcast by General Simovitch, the Yugoslav Prime Minister, now in England, to his people on June 27, 1941.

WHEN last spring dawned the Balkans must have made a very satisfactory picture in Hitler's eyes. Rumania was in the occupation of German troops, and General Antonescu, the head of the Rumanian Government, was nothing more than the Fuehrer's puppet. Yugoslavia was on very friendly terms with the Reich, as was seen on March 25 when Premier Tsvetkovitch signed the Vienna Pact which bound his country to the Axis. Bulgaria was already a member of the Axis family, and, like Rumania, was filled with German troops; it was destined, indeed, by Hitler to be the jumping-off ground for his next act of aggression in Europe.

The German Army in the Balkans was under the command of Field-Marshal List. The plan of campaign was as brilliantly conceived as it was carefully prepared for. Its general shape has now been revealed by General Simovitch, former Chief of the Yugoslav Air Force, who on March 28 captained the coup d'état which resulted in the overthrow of Tsvetkovitch and his pro-Nazi friends and the establishment in his place of a pro-Ally Government under General Simovitch himself (see pages 362 and 386, Volume 4).

"There is some evidence based on the disposition of troops," said General Simovitch in his broadcast to the Yugoslav people, "that Germany intended to conquer Turkey in April, and to create there a base for a further attack first in a southern direction against Suez, and later to the north against Russia in the direction of the Caucasus, coordinating this latter move with a frontal attack from Rumania and Poland against the Ukraine and Central Russia."

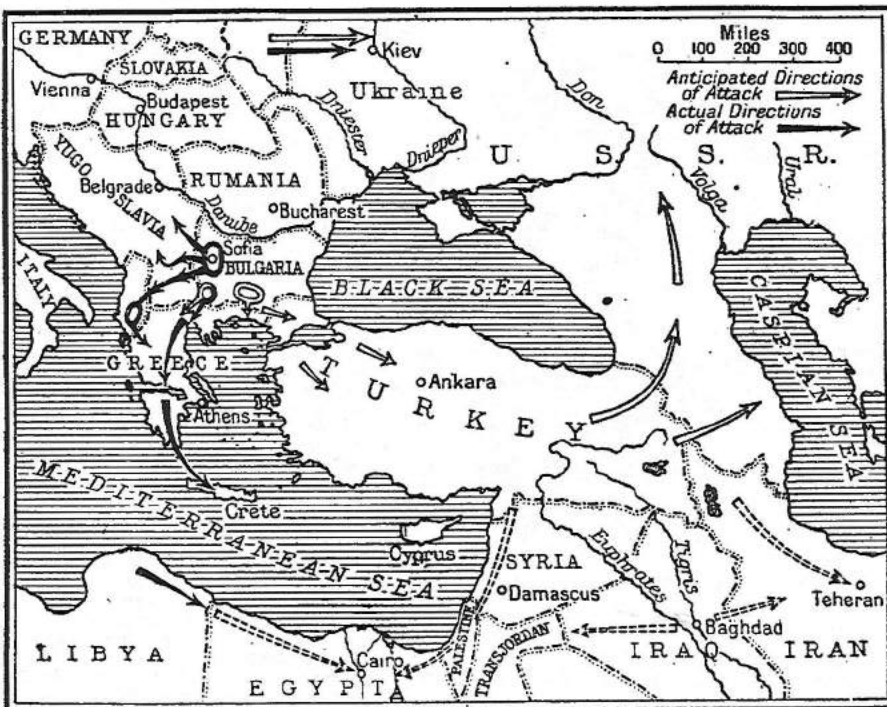
The ground had been well prepared. Turkey, so the Germans considered, would

not fight if she were attacked. Russia was still Germany's friend, and the time had not yet come to disillusion her. Syria was in the hands of Vichy France, and day by day was receiving more Axis agents who were preparing the ground for a large-scale invasion by Nazi air-borne troops. Then in Iraq pro-Nazi Raschid Ali had organized a rebellion timed for April 3, which, we may now presume, was the date when the Germans intended to be on the march through Turkey. This march was to start from Bulgaria, where List had his main army close to the Turkish frontier, opposite Adrianople.

north, and Germans and Bulgarians from the east. After 12 days organized resistance was at an end. But fighting went on in Greece until June 1, when the last of the British troops were withdrawn from Crete.

The ground might now seem to have been cleared for the prosecution of Hitler's plan, but much valuable time had been lost. The Iraq rising had been crushed, and on June 8 Syria was invaded by Wilson's army. The situation, in a word, had been transformed.

Another fortnight, and Hitler launched his attack on Russia. His new plan was but



HITLER'S EASTWARD PLAN, the time-table for which was upset by Yugoslavia's unexpected resistance, is illustrated in this map. According to Gen. Simovitch, Hitler had planned a double pincer movement: the northern arm was to advance through Turkey and the Ukraine, while the southern arm of the pincer was to take the form of an advance from Libya. Courtesy of "The Times"

Another German force was in the southwest of Bulgaria, well placed for an advance against Salonika to the south.

This, then, was in Hitler's mind. Already he must have seen in imagination his armies sweeping southwards into Greece (thus bypassing the great fortress of Adrianople), through European Turkey to the Straits, and then across them along the Anatolian coast or across the Black Sea in Rumanian and Bulgarian ships to the Caucasus. Information in the possession of General Simovitch leads us to suppose that the campaign was to be launched between March 15 and April 1, and was to be completed in from six weeks to two months.

But a hitch developed, and a very serious one. On the night of March 27-28 General Simovitch seized power in Belgrade, and List was quick to realize that now he had on his right flank not a friendly power but a definitely hostile one. Wasting no time, he switched his main army across Bulgaria and on April 6 invaded Yugoslavia and struck south against Salonika. The Yugoslavs, fighting with their traditional bravery but hopelessly outnumbered, were speedily compelled to capitulate, since they were invaded at one and the same time by Italians from the west, Hungarians and Germans from the

ghost of the old. Originally (so General Simovitch surmises, seemingly with good reason) Hitler had planned that the advance through the Ukraine should be timed to coincide with the one through Turkey in the direction of the Caucasus. At the same time another German army was to be sent across Turkey into Iran to invade Russia by way of the east side of the Caspian Sea. If this pincer movement had been carried out, then Russian resistance might well have been hamstrung. Nor was this all. These strokes were to be accompanied by an advance of General Rommel's army in Libya through Egypt to the Suez Canal, there to join up with another German army, which should march southward from Turkey, through Syria, Iraq and Palestine.

Such was the plan, but, as we have seen, there was a hitch. General Simovitch's action in overturning the pro-Nazi government in Yugoslavia upset Hitler's time-table. Several precious weeks had to be spent in crushing the resistance of the Yugoslavs and the Greeks, supported by our own Forces of the Empire. Yugoslavia, by her dramatic reversal of policy on May 28, saved her soul. She also did much to save the situation for the Allies in the Near East. That must not be forgotten.



M. Ninchitch, left, Foreign Minister of the Yugoslav Government now in Britain, and Gen. Simovitch, the Prime Minister and C-in-C. of the Yugoslav army. Photo, Associated Press

Britain and Russia Take Action Against Iran

Just as in April British troops were landed in Iraq to destroy the nest of Nazi intriguers, and in June invaded Syria to counter the menace deriving from the presence of Axis agents, so in August Britain—but this time acting in close conjunction with Soviet Russia—sent an army into Iran. For once Hitler was forestalled.

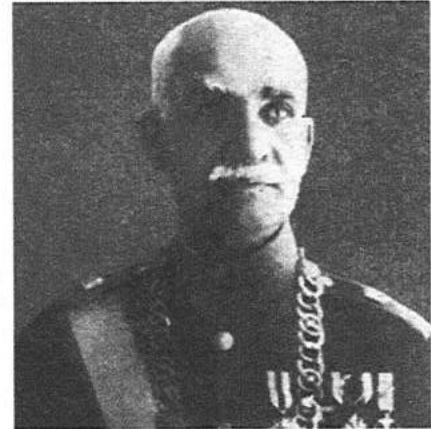
THE first news of the invasion of Iran was given by Moscow radio at 1 a.m. on August 26: "Soviet troops crossed the Iranian frontier early yesterday morning and are moving in the direction of Ardebil and Tabriz. They have covered twenty-eight miles and the advance continues."

The trouble which thus came to a head had long been simmering. For many months past Nazi influence in Iran had been all too obviously on the increase. Large numbers of German "tourists" were reported to be arriving in the country, and many of those Axis agents who, when Britain took action in Iraq, found it advisable to flee the country, made for Teheran—prominent among them being Herr Grobba, former German minister in Baghdad. Then there were also numbers of German technicians who had succeeded in occupying most of the key-positions in the Iranian railways, air-routes, and such important industries as spinning and sugar-production. The numbers of these German immigrants were estimated at from 500 to 5,000. Then the Iranian intelligentsia were reputed to be of Nazi sympathies since many of them had received their technical education in Germany, and had brought back with them German wives.

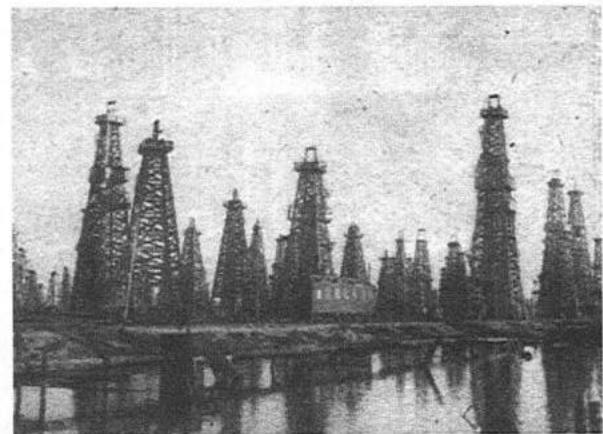
The presence of so many Germans in Iran was seen to constitute a direct menace not only to the British oil interests in the country—the interests on which the financial stability of Iran depends, indeed its continued existence as a modern state—but also to India and to the Russian oil fields in the Caucasus. This last menace became particularly marked following Hitler's onslaught on the Soviets.

So it was that representations were made to the Shah, Riza Khan Pahlevi, that extraordinary figure who has endeavoured to repeat in Persia the achievements of Mustapha Kemal in Turkey. He was asked to send the German "tourists" and technicians home, but the representations and the warnings which accompanied them went unheeded. A few Germans were indeed sent out of the country, but only a mere handful. At last the situation had grown so acute that it could be tolerated no longer, and at 4 a.m. on August 25, Sir Reader Bullard, the British minister in Teheran, and his Soviet colleague, Mr. Smirnof, called on the Iranian Prime Minister, Ali Mansur, and presented what the last-named described as "threatening memoranda," notifying him that the British and Soviet forces were already crossing the frontier.

Iran. At the same time they stressed that they had no intentions whatever against Iranian territorial integrity or national independence. The military measures taken were against the danger created by the activities of Germans in Iran, and as soon as this danger



RIZA KHAN PAHLEVI rose from a private soldier of the Persian Cossack Brigade to be dictator and Shah of Iran in 1925.



IRAN, formerly Persia, which was entered by the British and Soviet troops on August 25, thereby forestalling a Nazi coup d'état to take control of the country. The Russians marched through the Caucasus, the British advancing from the south. On the right, an oil field at Baku, chief centre of the Russian oil industry. Photos, Planet News; Map by courtesy of "News Chronicle"



GEN. SIR A. WAVELL (right), Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces in India, some of whom are operating in Iran. He is chatting with Sir Hugh Dow, Governor of Sind. Assoc. Press

Within a few hours the text of the Russian note was broadcast from Moscow, and it was found to contain the most circumstantial details of the German penetration of Iran. A number of Germans were mentioned by name, and they were accused of having organized "tourist" groups in Baku, and to be preparing a military coup d'état in Iran itself. The German Legation in Teheran was stated to have organized armed bands in certain frontier districts in Iran, sending them to Baku and to other particularly important Soviet centres with the object of sabotage on Soviet territory. German agents, the note went on, had munition dumps at their disposal at different places in Iran, particularly in the north; and under cover of hunting parties they had created near Teheran a military training course for their accomplices. "In their criminal activities these Germans grossly disregarded the elementary demand for respect of the territorial sovereignty of Iran by transforming Iranian territory into an arena for preparation for military invasion of the Soviet Union."

So the Soviet Union and Britain had found it necessary to take military action against

was averted the troops would be withdrawn.

The British troops invading Iran were part of General Wavell's command in India. The first communiqué describing their progress was issued from Simla on August 26.

It stated: "British and Indian troops entered Iran at three points early on Monday morning (August 25). Naval and air cooperation enabled the landing of a force at Abadan and a small detachment of Indian troops also secured Bandar Shapur (Persian Gulf), where there were two damaged German ships and three Italian ships only slightly damaged. Two further German ships which had been beached were captured with their crews. Steps were taken by air-borne troops to give protection to British families in the employ of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. British and Indian troops, including infantry and armoured units, advanced simultaneously into Iran from Khanaqin (Iraq). The oil installation at Naft-i-Shah and the small town of Qasr-i-Shirin were occupied without serious opposition. Leaflets were dropped by R.A.F. bombers on Teheran and other towns explaining the reasons for the operations and stressing that we have no quarrel with the Iranian people and no designs on their independence or territory."

Then on August 29th came the news that Teheran had asked for an armistice.

The Why and the How of the Syrian Campaign

In earlier pages we have given a week-to-week account of the war in Syria. Now we are able to print what may be described as the official story. For the first time the campaign is reviewed as a whole and—still more interesting—the units engaged in the fighting are named and their individual contributions to the victory acknowledged.

WE went into Syria on June 8 because the Germans had gone there first. During the troubles in Iraq German aircraft used the Syrian aerodromes as bases for action against our troops on the Euphrates, and German ground staffs, experts, agents and agitators arrived steadily by air. There was a very real possibility that they would be followed by troops in large numbers, and in this case our ally, Turkey, would have been isolated, and our own position in the Middle East jeopardized.

That threat was forestalled by our invasion of Syria. As soon as the Allied troops crossed the frontier there was a hasty exit of Axis personnel. Most of the German air staffs and officials were flown back to the Dodecanese, while others were evacuated by train through Turkey. Vichy France's protest that we had no excuse for our invasion since there were no Germans or Italians in Syria was distinctly naïve. They had been there; they might come back, and others with them; so the invasion proceeded, to make sure that they had gone for good.

The Vichy French had long recognized the probability of our advancing into Syria, and General Dentz had made his arrangements accordingly. He had under his command about 35,000 troops, comprising 20 battalions of Colonial and Foreign Legion infantry and 11 battalions of locally recruited *troupes spéciales*, Syrians, Circassians and White Russians. He had also a considerable force of artillery (upwards of 80 guns), 90 tanks, and a small air force, which during the operations was largely reinforced from North Africa. About 2,000 fresh troops also arrived by air during the campaign. The General retained detachments in the north, but his main defences had been organized on the line Kiswe (south of Damascus)

-Rasheiya-Al Wadi-Jezzin-Sidon. On the coast he had a second line on the river Damour.

General Wilson's army went into battle on June 8 in three columns. The first, or eastern, operating in the open country east of Mt. Hermon, with Damascus as its objective, was formed of the 5th Indian Brigade with one Field Regiment of the R.A., a squadron of the Royals, and elements of the Transjordan Frontier Force. On their right were the Free French under General Catroux, and beyond them again Colonel Collet's cavalry. The Indian Brigade with the Royals captured Dera, Sheik Meskin and Ezra on June 9; the Free French passed through them at Sheik Meskin and pushed on towards Kiswe, where they were held; Colonel Collet's force reached Kiswe on June 11, but the position was too strong for frontal attack.

In the central sector the second column, made up of the 25th Australian Brigade and the Royal Fusiliers, moved up the valley between Mt. Hermon and the Lebanon range in the direction of Kayot. The Fusiliers captured Quneitra on June 9, and the Australians, starting from the Metulla salient, took Merj Ayun on June 11 after heavy fighting on the frontier, and then advanced north to Nabatiyeh.

The third column moved along the coast, making for Beirut. It was composed of the 21st Australian Brigade with the

Cheshire Yeomanry (horsed) on their right flank. The Yeomanry brushed aside Vichy opposition at Ras Naqura (the frontier), and with part of the Australian brigade pushed inland through the hills towards the upper valley of the Litani, occupying Mazra'st ech Chouf and Mrousti, north of Jezzin. The rest of the 21st Brigade, although



AUSTRALIANS advancing into Syria. The 25th Australian Brigade moved up the valley between Mt. Hermon and the Lebanon range. Photo, British Official: Crown Copyright



SYRIA, showing the places involved along the coast and in the interior during the victorious campaign waged by British and Free French against the forces in the Levant of Vichy France. General Maitland Wilson's army went into battle on June 8, and hostilities were closed by the signing of the Armistice Convention on July 14.

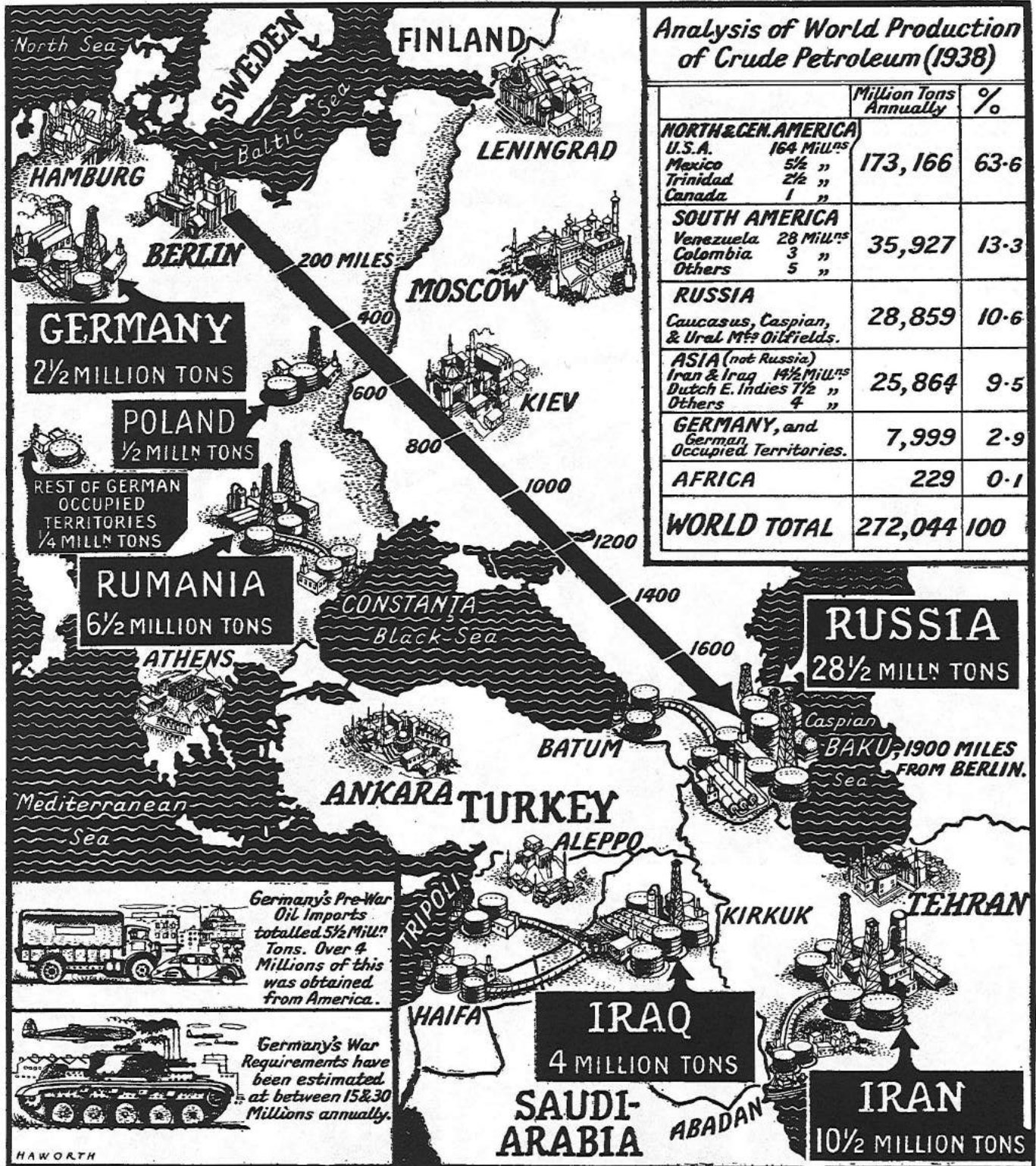
delayed by demolitions at Iskanderoun, captured Tyre on June 8 and advanced to the Litani river at Kimiye. Here the bridge had been blown up and stubborn resistance was offered by the enemy.

On the night of June 8-9 the Royal Navy landed a sea-borne detachment north of the Litani, in the face of heavy and well organized opposition, and on June 10 the Australians crossed the river and advanced five miles up the coast beyond its mouth.

Up to June 13, therefore, progress on all points was fairly good. Then Vichy resistance stiffened. They had used our attempts at parleys to withdraw their forward troops to the main lines of defence; they were probably encouraged by our failure to secure an immediate success at Damascus, where Kiswe was proving a formidable obstacle and a flanking movement by tanks had forced the Free French to withdraw; and they were certainly embittered by having the Free French in the field against them.

On June 15-16 they counter-attacked. On the east, taking advantage of their superiority in armoured fighting vehicles, they drove two mechanized squadrons of the Transjordan Frontier Force out of Ezra and recaptured the village. Quneitra was heavily attacked by their A.F.V.s and infantry, and the garrison of the Royal Fusiliers was compelled to surrender after exhausting its ammunition. In the centre, Merj Ayun was heavily bombarded, and on June 15 Vichy

From Berlin to Baku: Hitler's Thrust for Oil



Germany's oil situation is a matter of perpetual controversy, but here in this picture diagram we have illustrated some of the most important facts. Right, oil derricks at Baku, chief centre of the oilfields in the Caucasus whence Russia derives 90 per cent of her oil supplies.

Diagram specially drawn for THE WAR ILLUSTRATED by Haworth; Photo, Planet News

